Essential Preparation for

UMAT

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST

Series Four



BOOK 2
UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE

SAMPLE

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Introduction to UMAT and the Trial Test Papers

Students can gain access into medical training in Australia in one of three ways:

- Through post-graduate entry following the completion of an undergraduate degree. This degree should be in science or science related subjects and the student will need to achieve a high Grade Point Average (GPA).

- Through direct entry based on Year 12 results

- Through performance on the UMAT test and interview (done by each participating university, depending on UMAT results)

The purpose of the UMAT entry test is to assist in the selection of candidates who display the requisite thinking skills and abilities for successful medical training. The test is a 3-hour test completed under exam conditions. There are 134 questions based around three different types of thinking and reasoning:

1. Logical reasoning and problem-solving (48 questions)
2. Understanding people skills (44 questions)
3. Non-verbal reasoning (42 questions)

The follow-up interview performed by participating universities can be quite demanding and can take up to an hour, before a panel of up to three interviewers. Thus preparation and the development of appropriate interview skills and techniques should be practiced, in addition to undertaking test-training.

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UMAT Understanding People Questions

There are 44 practice questions here

Students should aim to take about 55 minutes to complete them. There are practice answer sheets at the end of this book. Try not to mark the pages, as you will be able to repeat the questions and test yourself several times.

Instructions to candidates

These questions assess the ability of students to understand and reason about people. Questions are based on scenario, dialogue, observations or other text representing specific interpersonal situations.

The questions will assess your ability to identify, understand, and where necessary infer the thoughts, feelings and behaviour and/or intentions of the people represented in the situations.

Interpersonal Understanding is an ability considered important for anyone intending to work as a medical or health professional. Increasingly, patients, health professionals and the community are recognising that to treat people effectively, doctors and health workers need a high level of personal interaction skills and ability. Questions are generally based on texts or scenarios that feature personal reflections or interpersonal situations. Some passages may involve interactions between health professionals and patients, but they are not confined to health settings. No specialised knowledge is expected. The questions test a candidate's ability to identify, understand and, where necessary, infer the thoughts, feelings, behaviour and/or intentions of the people represented in the situations.

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Question 1

When prompted, Annie who is about to complete Year 12, will say she would like to be a highly paid lawyer working for a global law firm. Her school assessment grades are above average. Most of her time Annie will set aside study in favour of browsing online shopping, posting selfies on Instagram or reading celebrity news.

Annie's statement regarding law can be characterised as:

A) Incoherent
B) Aspirational
C) Arrogant
D) Deluded

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Read the extract below to complete Questions 2 and 3.

The following is a recount from a man called Pete who works for an accounting firm.

I hate it when I receive an email from the boss saying he wants to see me. He never says what it is about. I always imagine the worst. I will be in trouble. I might lose my job. How would I support my family if I had no income? Would I get another job quickly? What if I didn't find work? These questions fill my head when I am called to a meeting with the boss.

Any decent manager would know that employees always fear the worst when called into a meeting with the boss. In this last instance, when I asked what for he replied, "*you will see when you get here*".

Why didn't he say, "*We had a complaint from a client. You have nothing to worry about, but I want to understand what happened and hear your perspective*".

Would that be so hard to do?

When I was promoted to team leader I understood that good employees always fear getting in trouble for doing something wrong. So I always tell then there is nothing to worry about and also tell them what I need to chat with them about.

I wish all managers did this. It would make workplaces less stressful.

Question 2

What is the main feeling that Pete would have when he enters the meeting with his boss?

A) Concern
B) Trepidation
C) Reassurance
D) Fear

Question 3

Why does Pete tell his staff members the reason for any meetings he has with them?

A) So staff members can prepare for what they know will happen next
B) To be seen as a good guy who is different from upper management
C) To help himself feel better when managing the difficulty of counselling staff
D) To provide reassurance and parameters around what they may expect

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Use the recount below to answer Questions 4 – 6.

Since Aceh was granted autonomy in 2001 my life has been increasingly difficult. The province is becoming more and more run by religious clerics and the laws are making me choke.

I was born as a boy but always identified as a girl. I am Achek. Through my schooling I always played the girls, did their hair, sat with them at lunch. I felt better being with them than with boys.

When I turned 15 I told my parents I wanted to change to become the woman I knew I was destined to be. My father told me I was crazy. My mother, though confused at first, supported me and said she always would.

My father would often beat my mother, and shortly after I told my parents, he left the family and moved to Jakarta. My mother wept after he went – I don't know why.

Two years ago I became a hairdresser. I had grown my hair long - all the way down my back. I loved my job and it felt natural for me to be in this world of hairdressing to women.

A few months ago, the police came into our salon. They grabbed me by my hair and took me, and some of my trans friends, to the local police station.

They cut our hair short.

They told me to shout until I had a voice like a man.

They kept us in the police station for 5 days "re-educating" us into what being a man means. They said we were not natural. That what we are is against religious teaching in Aceh. They took our clothes and told us to wear men's clothing. They said, our minds were polluted and we were mentally weak.

They said if we go back to hairdressing we will all be re-arrested.

I want to move to Jakarta or Bali, but my mother's home is here, and so is mine. What should I do?

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Question 4

How would Achek and her friends feel having their hair cut?

A) It is gross invasion of privacy so they would feel weak
B) They would feel violated
C) They would feel very angry
D) They would feel betrayed by their own police

Question 5

Why did Achek's mother cry after her husband, who would regularly beat her, leave?

A) She loved him and did not want him to leave
B) She felt mixed because she loved him but hated being beaten up
C) She felt relieved because the threat was gone
D) She felt angry and frustrated because he escaped facing justice

Question 6

What two words best sum up the situation facing Achek?

A) Degrading and uncertain
B) Humiliating and disconcerting
C) Helpless and difficult
D) Life-changing and renewing

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To answer Questions 7 – 9 refer to the incident and interactions detailed below.

In response to shouting and the sound of breaking glass from the flat on the back of the block, Felicity, Sarah's mother, walks to the door where she is met by Sarah, who is crying. The following then occurs.

Felicity: *What's happening? Why is Kris shouting and throwing stuff around?*

Sarah: *Mum…. He just angry. I will calm him down…*

Felicity: *It isn't right. I feel scared. I grew up in a situation of violence. It must stop…*

Sarah: *Mum….leave it to me… Please do not get involved…*

Felicity: *You deserve better Sweetheart… You give him everything. You deserve a partner who doesn't scare you…*

Sarah: *He bought me a T-shirt a few days ago….*

Felicity sighs and returns to the main house.

[Two hours later, and the sound of breaking glass occurs, followed by Kris shouting, "*I will f**king burn this f**king place down*"]

Felicity runs to the flat where Sarah runs into her, her nose bleeding and a scratch on her arm.

Felicity: *I am calling the police. This is too much.*

Sarah: *Mum – no. Leave it to me. I must have upset him real bad.*

Felicity: *You are not to blame - this has gone too far.*

[A wall inside the flat is punched and Kris shouts that he will break all of Sarah's furniture and glassware]

Felicity: (Dials 000 and shouts): *This has to stop*!

Kris comes outside, one fist bleeding.

Felicity: (Shouting at Kris) *I am calling the police!*

Sarah (to Kris): *I told her to stop. She's called the cops*.

Kris: *You better not have told her. You better not….*

A few minutes later the sound of sirens can be heard. Felicity comes to the flat, where Kris is leaving, holding car keys. He gets into his car and drives off at speed.

Sarah: *You shouldn't have called them, Mum. I could have made him stop.*

The police enter the block, and seek to interview Sarah, but she refuses to speak. They take out an AVO against Kris on behalf of Sarah. Later Felicity texts Sarah asking if she is okay. Sarah replies, "*Leave me alone. You ruined everything. I don't want to talk to you*".

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Question 7

How can Sarah's role be characterised?

A) She is complicit in encouraging the violence against her
B) She is angry at her mother for not stopping Kris in a different manner
C) She is more protective of Kris than she is to herself
D) She is scared that Kris will become even more violent

Question 8

What would Felicity want to happen next?

A) She would want both Kris and Sarah to apologise to her
B) For Kris to get counselling and for Sarah to apologise
C) For Sarah to take up self-defence classes and Kris to leave
D) For Kris to get counselling and apologise to Sarah

Question 9

What does Kris's action of driving away, and Sarah's action of refusing to answer police questions, indicate about both of them?

A) They are both immature people who need to grow up and take responsibility
B) Kris is irresponsible and they are both afraid of authority
C) Sarah thinks she is above the law and Kris thinks he can evade the law
D) Kris is immature and irresponsible while Sarah is reluctant to hurt him

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Fully worked solutions

Question 1

A

It is not correct to say the statement is aspirational as Annie's conduct does not indicate she aspires to achieve her stated aim, hence B is incorrect. Annie may be arrogant, but there is nothing to suggest this is so. Nor is Annie deluded as it is possible that with effort she may go on and fulfil her stated desire. Annie is incoherent as what she is doing is inconsistent (not coherent) with her stated goal.

Question 2

B

Whilst the word 'concern' sounds correct it is too general and does to describe the strength of feeling imbued in Pete. Reassurance is irrelevant – as that is what he was seeking and fear is again far too general to be accurate. Trepidation is a feeling of uncertainty when a future is unknown. Hence B is best.

Question 3

D

Pete does not reassure staff in order to prepare then for 'what they know will happen', as that has not yet been decided. He does not seem to want to be seen to be good or different - rather he wants to save staff from unnecessary stress and help them to manage their own thinking without fearing the worst. Accordingly, all of A, B and C can be discounted. D is the most accurate summary of Pete's intentions.

Question 4

B

The cutting of Achek's hair, and that of her friends would have been humiliating and degrading and a total assault on their self-esteem. It was an invasion of their sense of self and their privacy was breached (but this is not a feeling). They would be angry (a secondary emotion) – after the event - the event itself would make them feel violated – a primary emotion (as a breach of their boundaries). They may feel betrayed by those who should protect them but this would be a lesser feeling than the feeling of violation, hence B is correct.

Question 5

B

Often when a person's abuser leaves, there is a mixture of relief and sadness. The relief arises from feeling safer (free from violence), but there is also loss of someone who is known and, as her husband, may well have been loved. The only answer that correctly captures this depth and extent of feeling is B.

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