What is the BMAT?

- The BMAT is a pre-interview admissions test for Medicine at the following universities:
  - Brighton and Sussex Medical School
  - University of Cambridge*
  - Imperial College London
  - University of Leeds’ School of Medicine
  - University College London
  - University of Oxford Medical School
  - Royal Veterinary College*
  - Lancaster University

  *BMAT required for veterinary medicine applicants.

- **It is a 2 hour, pen-and-paper test divided into three sections.**
  - Section 1: 35 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes.
  - Section 2: 27 multiple choice questions in 30 minutes.
  - Section 3: 1 written essay question in 30 minutes.
Section 1

Aptitude and skills

- Time: 1 Hour
- This section assesses the ability to problem solve, analyse data, understand arguments, and infer correct information.
- There are 35 multiple choice questions. Each question is given a score between 1-9 points.
Section 1 Practice Question:

Methods of financing health services in advanced industrial countries have little effect, statistically speaking, on the health of the population. There are countries which spend six times as much per head on health care as Britain, and countries which spend only half as much: their populations end up with more or less the same life expectancy. Therefore arguments about levels of financing Britain’s National Health Service are largely irrelevant to the health of the population.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

A. The cost of Britain’s health service is disproportionate to its effectiveness.
B. Spending is the most effective way of improving a health service.
C. Advanced industrial countries have failed to improve the health of their inhabitants.
D. Governments have a responsibility to organise efficient health care services.
E. Life expectancy is a reliable measure of the health of the population.
Section 2

Scientific knowledge and applications

- Time: 30 Minutes
- This section assesses your ability to apply scientific knowledge from school. (Scientific knowledge drawn upon are up to and include the National Curriculum for England Key Stage 4). You should focus on GCSE Science as opposed to AS.
- Students who did not take GCSE should refer to this Admissions Test Specification, page 4 onwards to check which topics to revise: http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/images/47829-bmat-test-specification.pdf
- There are 27 multiple choice questions. Each question is given a score between 1-9 points.
Section 2 Practice Question:

Some statements about neon are given below.

1. It is a halogen.
2. It is a colourless gas at room temperature.
3. It has a lower density than air.
4. It gives out a bright red light when electric current passes through it.
5. It doesn’t form covalent or ionic bonds.
6. It is easily broken apart at room temperature.

Which of the statements are correct about neon?

A 1, 2 and 4
B 2, 3 and 4
C 4, 5 and 6
D 1, 4 and 6
E 2, 4 and 5
F 3, 4 and 5
Section 3

Writing Task

- Time: 30 minutes
- This section is meant to demonstrate your ability to communicate well in writing, your skills in organising ideas and writing succinctly and coherently.
- There will be a short statement and you may have to
  - Explain or discuss the implications of the statement;
  - Suggest a counter statement or argument;
  - Or suggest a method for a resolution
- There is a choice of four questions and you must answer one on one sheet of A4. The essay is given a score between 1-5 points for content, and between A-E for quality of English.
Section 3

“A smart mother often makes a better diagnosis than a poor doctor.”

August Bier, German surgeon, 1861-1949

Write an essay in which you address the following points: In what circumstances would you advise someone to rely on his or her mother for a diagnosis, rather than a doctor? What are the advantages of relying on a doctor? By what criteria could someone assess the reliability of a doctor’s diagnosis, and what should someone do if his or her doctor falls short of these standards?
General Information and Advice

✓ Complete **practice papers** under **timed** conditions. This will help you to calm your nerves and familiarise yourself with the format of the paper.

✓ Make sure you are revising the right things. Please follow this [link](#) for more information to ensure you are **revising the right content**.

✓ Practise writing essays on a side of A4. It is good to be aware of how long it will take you to write this amount for section 3, you will then have more of an idea about how much time you can spend on thinking about the question and planning your answer.

✓ Always ensure that you are **answering the question in front of you**. Do not shape it into something that suits you.

✓ Make sure you **answer all aspects of the questions** in section 3. It is very likely that if you do this and write in good English you should score highly.

✓ Speak to others who you may know that have taken the BMAT (maybe your mentor) to see if they have any advice for you.
Useful Websites

- You can search for practice papers online and are likely to find a number of resources. Below are some links to useful websites where you can access practice papers.

- [http://www.kaptest.co.uk/courses/uk-university/bmat/practice-questions/scientific-knowledge-application](http://www.kaptest.co.uk/courses/uk-university/bmat/practice-questions/scientific-knowledge-application)

- [https://www.medify.co.uk/bmat](https://www.medify.co.uk/bmat)

- [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lapt/bmat.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lapt/bmat.htm)