Abstract and Verbal Reasoning

25 minutes discussion
20 Minutes Q&A from students

Host: Mark Williams
Founder of Medical Projects

Panelist: Matthew Kingham
3rd Year Medical Student

YouTube Medical Projects

@medicalprojects

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Housekeeping and Introductions:

- This webinar will finish before 8pm

- We will send a recording and slides out within 48 hours
- Q&A section at the end
- Please use the Upvote system
- We will be using poll questions, get involved!

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About Me

- Grew up and went to school in North East London
- Currently studying medicine at King’s College London
- Took the UCAT (UKCAT) in August 2018

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What is the Abstract Reasoning Section?

- One section of the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)
- According to the UCAT consortium website, this section: “assesses your ability to identify patterns amongst abstract shapes where irrelevant and distracting material may lead to incorrect conclusions”
- There are **55 questions** in total, divided into 13 question sets, and you have **13 minutes** to complete this section
- Therefore 1 minute per question set

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What is the Abstract Reasoning section? (cont.)

- Like the other ‘cognitive subtests’, you will receive a score between 300-900 for this section

Cognitive Subtest	2020 (to 25 Oct)
Verbal Reasoning	570
Decision Making	625
Quantitative Reasoning	664
Abstract Reasoning	653

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UCAT Practice Questions

ABSTRACT REASONING INSTRUCTIONS

You will be presented with four different question types.

For type 1, you will be presented with two sets of shapes labelled “Set A” and “Set B”. You will be given a test shape and asked to decide whether the test shape belongs to Set A, Set B, or Neither.

For type 2, you will be presented with a series of shapes. You will be asked to select the next shape in the series.

For type 3, you will be presented with a statement, involving a group of shapes. You will be asked to determine which shape completes the statement.

For type 4, you will be presented with two sets of shapes labelled “Set A” and “Set B”. You will be asked to select which of the four response options belongs to Set A or Set B.

Click the **Next (N)** button to proceed.

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How to Prepare

- Like the whole of the UCAT, you **do not** need any prior medical knowledge in order to answer the questions well
- Use different resources, as familiarising yourself with a diverse range of question types will improve your technique
- UCAT masterclass here at Medical Projects!
- PRACTICE

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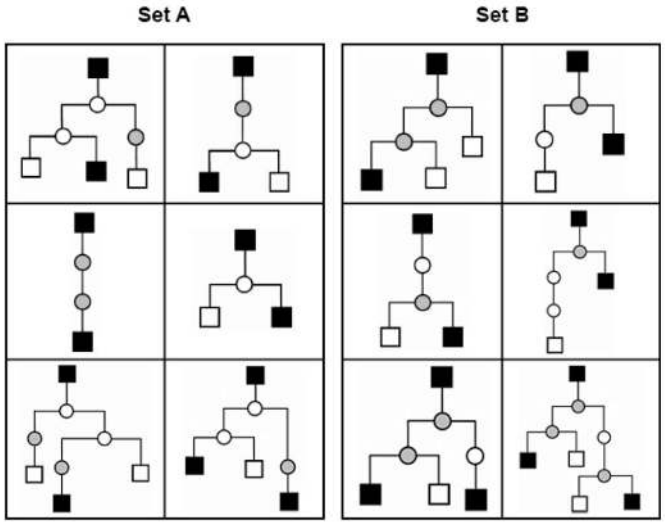
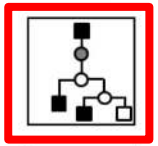
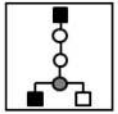
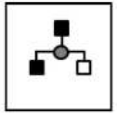
Question 1

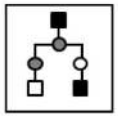


Which of the following test shapes belongs in Set A?

A. 

B. 

C. 

D. 

Question 1 Explanation

Set A: Starts from a black square. A line to a white circle splits into 2 – to a white shape and to a dark shape. A line to a shaded circle goes through to a single line followed by a white shape or a dark shape. The ends of the connected pattern are squares.

Set B: Starts from a black square. A line to a shaded circle splits into 2 – to a white shape and to a dark shape. A line to a white circle goes through to a single line followed by a white shape or a dark shape. The ends of the connected pattern are squares.

Correct response: A
Starts from a black square. A dark shape splits into a white shape which splits into two - a black square and a white shape. The white shape splits into two - a black square and a white square.

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Takeaway Points

- There are many different styles of abstract reasoning question and in order to do well you need to familiarise yourself with each type of question they can ask
- This can only be achieved through consistent practice
- Try not to waste too much time overthinking questions in the actual exam (as you can see from the practice question sometimes just ‘spotting it’ is more efficient than working out every rule possible)

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What is the Verbal Reasoning Section?

- A different section (‘cognitive subtest’) of the UCAT
- According to the UCAT consortium website, this section: “assesses your ability to read and think carefully about information presented in passages and to determine whether specific conclusions can be drawn from information presented”
- Eleven passages of text, each with four associated questions
- You have **21 minutes** to answer these **44 questions**

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What is the Verbal Reasoning Section? (cont.)

UCAT UNIVERSITY CLINICAL APTITUDE TEST

UCAT Practice Questions

VERBAL REASONING INSTRUCTIONS

You will be presented with passages to read, each associated with four questions.

Some questions assess critical reasoning skills, requiring candidates to make inferences and draw conclusions from information. You will need to read the passage of text carefully. You will then be presented with a question or incomplete statement and four response options. You are required to pick the best or most suitable response.

For other questions, your task is to read each passage of text carefully and then decide whether the statement provided follows logically. There are three answer options you can choose from:

True: On the basis of the information in the passage, the statement is true.
False: On the basis of the information in the passage, the statement is false.
Can't Tell: You cannot tell from the information in the passage whether the statement is true or false.

You will only be able to select one response.

Click the **Next (N)** button to proceed.

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Text

UK house prices appear to have defied economic gravity over the past year. The lockdowns triggered by the pandemic led to a 10% fall in GDP, the largest fall in 300 years, since the Great Frost of 1709. Yet the latest data shows house prices have grown at the fastest annual rate – 13.4% – in 17 years. Are we in the midst of another housing bubble?

An optimistic scenario is that the current boom is driven by the unusual circumstances of the pandemic rather than more systemic problems. Spending more time at home has led many homeowners to desire more space and a better environment. They have used the record buildup of household savings, amassed during the lockdowns and supported by the government's furlough scheme, to buy larger homes or move out of cities (property prices outside cities have increased by 14% compared with 7% within them).

The introduction of the stamp duty holiday by the government further ramped up the demand for such purchases. The phasing out of this subsidy at the end of June may help explain the most recent upturn in growth rates as people scramble to complete purchases. Once it ends, prices will probably flatten or fall for a few months; but it will be a soft landing as recent price rises reflect the ongoing structural changes to our working habits and desire for increased living space.

(Source: The Guardian, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/02/housing-bubble-birst-uk-gdp-house-prices-interest-rates-economy)

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Question 1

Price of the properties within cities has decreased since the start of the pandemic

A) True
B) False
C) Can't Tell

Question 2

GDP in the UK is at its lowest since the Great Frost of 1709

A) True
B) False
C) Can't Tell

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Question 3

Which of the following sentences is inferred from the text

A) Once the pandemic is finished the property prices will probably flatten or fall for a few months
B) The Great Frost is an economic landmark used as a ‘default situation’ when describing any economic situation
C) Stamp duty holiday was introduced to help people buy new homes
D) Stamp duty holiday will start phasing out in June

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Question 4

Which of the following is untrue based on the text

A) The price of properties outside cities has increased by less than 10%
B) Property prices have grown at an annual rate of 13.4%
C) The prices of properties within cities has increased by more than 5%
D) The difference between the increase of the house prices outside and within cities is 7%

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Takeaway Points

- Do not ‘over-read’, you need to get the salient information quickly from the passage
- Again, this can only be achieved through consistent practice
- Don’t waste too much time overthinking certain questions, they are not weighted evenly, and some will require more thought than others - if you are stuck, move on!

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CANDIDATE SCORE REPORT

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate Name:	[redacted]
Candidate ID:	[redacted]
Registration ID:	[redacted]
Testing Date:	[redacted]
Site Number:	[redacted]

UCAT SUBTEST SCORES

Verbal Reasoning	640
Decision Making	650
Quantitative Reasoning	630
Abstract Reasoning	670
Total Score	2590

Situational Judgement

Band 1 - Those in Band 1 demonstrated an excellent level of performance, showing similar judgement in most cases to the panel of experts.

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Thank you – any questions?

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