IS THE UCAT SIMILAR TO THE UMAT?

Some of the initial announcements about the UCAT indicated that the UCAT is similar to the UMAT. **This is true only in a very limited way**. Below is an overview of the similarities and differences for each question type.

UMAT Score 1

Beware of claims that UMAT Score 1 questions are similar to UCAT questions. While there are perhaps some broad comparisons, the actual question tasks are quite different:

- There are no questions about experiments on the UCAT; you are not expected to know anything about the scientific method, control groups, hypotheses, etc.

- One Decision Making question type (Logic Puzzles) is broadly comparable to the logic puzzles in the UMAT. However, in Decision Making, the Logic Puzzles are standalone questions and they are generally simpler than the logic puzzles in UMAT, which normally come in sets of four to six questions.

UMAT Score 2

UMAT Score 2 questions have **no equivalence in the UCAT**. Situational Judgement questions are fundamentally different since they require you to assess the appropriateness or importance of various responses or factors in the given scenarios. You make these assessments according to the principles of medical professionalism as indicated by the UK General Medical Council. This is quite a different task and approach than the items in UMAT Score 2, which are usually about the emotions or motivations of characters in passages from novels and plays. In Situational Judgement, all the characters will be doctors, dentists, nurses, patients, medical/dental students, or others involved in a clinical context.

Section by Section Differences

One UCAT question type (Abstract Type 2) is **virtually identical** to a UMAT question type (Score 3 – Next in the Series). You are presented with the first four steps in a sequence, then you must select the fifth step from the answer choices. The only difference is that this question type includes four answer choices in the UCAT. Note that the other Abstract Reasoning question types are not similar to UMAT Score 3.

Most **logical reasoning questions in the UMAT** require you to find the correct inference – that is, the answer that must be true based on the initial text/passage/data. Inference questions are common in many standardised tests, so it is not surprising that there are some questions in the UCAT that follow the same principle. However, they work quite differently than UMAT inference questions, which normally have four answer choices following an initial text.

Most **Verbal Reasoning questions** have four answer choices; most of these will require you to select the answer that matches the passage. Sometimes the correct answer is a synonym/paraphrase of language in the passage; other times, the correct answer will combine two details to form a new statement that must be true – thus, the correct answer could be an inference. However, these passages are much longer than the usual UMAT texts; passages can cover a broad range of topics, including history, art, literature, science,

technology and current events. You must not use outside knowledge to answer the questions – only the information contained in the passage.

Inference questions are one of six **Decision Making question** types; however, each Inference question will include five statements (following the initial text/data); you must answer Yes or No, depending on whether each statement follows (or does not follow) from the initial text/data. Thus, the basic principle is the same – a statement that must be true follows – the format is quite different.

Quantitative Reasoning questions are fundamentally different from UMAT Score 1 questions. While some of these UMAT items involve calculations, they are normally framed as inference questions – thus, in most cases, the correct answer is a statement (involving some figures from the data), rather than a simple number. In Quantitative questions, you will have to do two or three calculations to answer most questions; you will often need to use a three-part formula (e.g. speed formula; percentage change formula) to solve; you may need to set up algebraically and isolate a variable before solving. These items are more 'maths-heavy' than UMAT Score 1 items – you will need to use the on-screen calculator.