



MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW GUIDE

Made by Melanin Medics

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Receiving interviews is a very daunting yet exciting time, you're one step closer to your dream. Interviews are part of the process of selecting the right students, they enable to demonstrate your interpersonal skills and other essential skills for Medicine and expand upon your application so preparation is essential to success! Interviews generally take place from November to late April. When you're invited for an interview bears no relation to how favourably your application is being considered. So we have decided to explain the different types of interviews, our top tips, key questions and what to do on the Big Day!

We know that things have been a bit different this year! But do not worry! Whilst your interview might be virtual, you still have a great opportunity to showcase why you would make a great medical student and future doctor!

We wish you all the best and hope that you find this guide helpful.

Best Wishes,

MELANIN MEDICS TEAM

Melanin Medics is the UK's largest intergenerational network for current and future African and Caribbean doctors. As a registered charity, Melanin Medics has been focused to implement positive solutions to overcome racial and socio-economic barriers in Medicine by promoting diversity in Medicine, widening aspirations & aiding career progression. They run a number of programmes, events, engagements, outreach, networking opportunities, workshops and mentorship. Melanin Medics currently serves over 700 African and Caribbean members within our networks of aspiring medics, medical students and doctors in the UK and in 2019 reached over 3000 young people.

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"The medical school interview is your opportunity to show that you have the necessary skills for the successful completion of a medical degree and the potential to perform as a great doctor"

TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

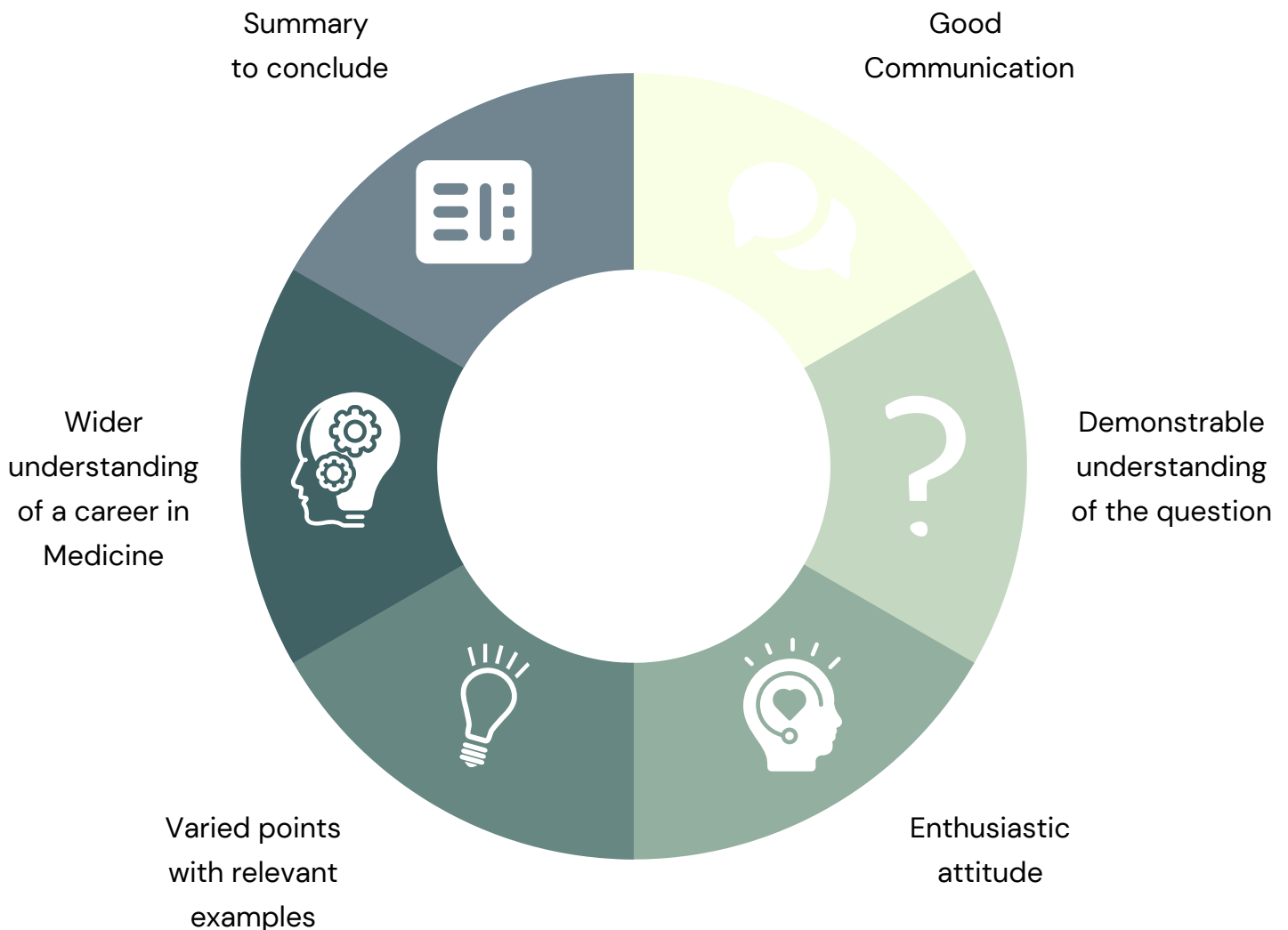
MMI

- series of short structured interview stations
- used to assess non-cognitive qualities including cultural sensitivity, maturity, teamwork, empathy, reliability and communication skills
- candidates receive a question/scenario and have a short period of time (typically two minutes) to prepare an answer prior to start of station
- either short exchange between candidate and interviewer or interviewer observes while the interaction takes place between an actor and the candidate
- candidate evaluated at each station

TRADITIONAL

- multiple interviewers, usually a clinician, academic or medical student
- more personalised questions asked
- conversational interactions
- each individual interviewer determining the mood and structure of the interview
- Some schools may have set goals for each interview; for example, each interview is given a certain set of character traits to evaluate and comment on, or may have a structured interview format where interviewers are given standardised questions with sample answers.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT ANSWER



HOW YOU ARE ASSESSED

PERFORMANCE & COMMUNICATION

During the course of the interview, you will be assessed on both interview performance and communication. When assessing interview performance, it is likely the medical school will consider things such as: the variety of points covered, the structure of your response, evidence of reflection and additional depth. When assessing communication, it is likely the medical school will consider things such as: whether the question has been properly understood, how you link your points together, your fluency and demonstrable enthusiasm. Your performance and communication might be graded using a scoring system such as: Poor, borderline, good and excellent. We have compared the difference between borderline and excellent below.

BORDERLINE PERFORMANCE

- Covered a few points in the mark scheme
- Little structure to the answer
- Attempted to answer the question but lacked focus

BORDERLINE COMMUNICATION

- Some progression of ideas, but structure not always clear;
- Questions are mostly understood and answered reasonably well, but with some repetition and hesitation
- Prompting necessary to elicit answers

EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE

- Covered all/most the points in the mark scheme or most of the points in the mark scheme
- Candidate offered additional ideas
- Focused and clear answer with an excellent structure
- Answered the question fully and gave a thoughtful response with confidence

EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION

- Ideas are logically developed & well presented
- High degree of fluency
- Extensive ability to summarise, & expand
- Questions answered fully & without hesitation



OUR TOP TIPS

BE YOURSELF



The medical school have already shown that they are interested in you by inviting you to the interview; they would like your personality to shine through. By not being yourself you're likely to mask what should be your strongest selling point: you! Be honest, authentic and most of all be yourself; no one can ever tell you you're doing it wrong. Be prepared to discuss your:

- academic background
- extracurricular activities
- work experience & voluntary work
- views on medical problems or ethical issues
- why you want to be a doctor/ study medicine

BE PREPARED



To give yourself the best possible chance of getting an offer, it is very important to prepare in advance. This doesn't mean you should prepare answers, learn them off by heart and be rigid in your responses. Be careful not to memorise answers to the point where they sound rehearsed and no longer genuine. However, you should have a clear idea of what you want to say in answer to the classic interview questions so that you are confident, ready and prepared when they are inevitably asked and an appropriate strategy for answering unfamiliar questions. You may find it useful to record yourself or practise in the mirror to identify certain mannerisms or body language.

KEY QUESTIONS TO DERIVE ROUGH ANSWERS TO

1. Why do you want to be a doctor?
2. What are the pros and cons of a career in medicine?
3. Why do you want to be a doctor and not a nurse, they both help people?
4. Should the NHS be free?
5. What would you do to improve the NHS?
6. What is the current structure of the NHS?
7. What is a doctors training pathway? .
8. Read through your personal statement and be clear in your mind how your various experiences equip you to study medicine.
9. Examples of leadership, examples of teamwork,
10. Why should they pick you?
11. What are your strengths and weaknesses?.
12. What will you contribute to the university?
13. Read around the history of the university, the structure of the medicine course- why do you want to attend that University specifically?

We have several more questions in our Question Bank. Check them out!

THINK ETHICALLY



Four Pillars of Medical Ethics:

- **Autonomy** — Does it show respect for the patient and their right to make decisions?
- **Non-maleficence** — Does it harm the patient?
- **Justice** — Are there consequences in the wider community? What does the law state?
- **Beneficence** — Does it benefit the patient? Is it in the best interest of the patient?

STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWERS



STARR: It is necessary to use a clear structure when articulating your answers efficiently. This prevents you from rambling and ensures you cover the most important points.

- **Situation:** One brief line outlining the example
- **Task:** What was involved?
- **Action:** How you approached and performed the task
- **Result:** What was the outcome/achievement?
- **Reflection:** What did you learn and how will you apply it?

Rule of 3: When asked open ended questions, make three clear, decisive points and conclude if necessary. These points should act as cues that you can expand upon providing sufficient examples in your answers.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH HEALTH NEWS



For interviews, knowledge really is power. As you read more, you will become smarter which not only makes you more confident, but also makes you better prepared to answer any question. When you do read, read books and articles that provide relevant information in an efficient way. Here are the categories you should focus on:

- **NHS Hot Topics:** Stay in touch with current events, especially politics that may pertain to health care. Examples of useful sources include: British Medical Journal (BMJ), Student BMJ, New Scientist, The Guardian. Topics include: COVID-19, Health inequalities, Vaccinations, Organ Donation, Social Media use and Brexit.
- **Scientific advances:** Reading about medical topics will probably be the most directly relevant to your interview process. Read to learn about ethics, new research and technologies, policies, life as a doctor, and medical/scientific thinking.
- **Healthcare bodies:** It is important to understand that Healthcare bodies differ around the UK, e.g. NHS Wales differs to NHS England and NHS Scotland and so certain issues pertain to certain healthcare bodies while some remain unaffected.
- **Personal Interest:** Read any books or articles that you find interesting. It can be about anything as long as you find joy in reading them and you will be more passionate when speaking about them.

READ GMC TOMORROWS DOCTORS



This will help give you a clearer understanding of a doctors role in different capacities as a scholar, practitioner and professional. Yes this a lot to read but it is worth it in the long run, this will also help you identify key buzzwords when identifying the different characteristics of a doctor; try and find examples to back up how you possess these attributes. Do you meet other competencies as stipulated by the GMC in "Tomorrow' Doctors"? Are you empathetic, do you have initiative and resilience, can you communicate, are you able to problem solve, can you work in a team, do you have integrity and have you got an effective learning style?

USE PERSONAL EXAMPLES/ EXPERIENCES



Write out 3-5 "most significant" attributes that qualify you for medical school. These are the words, sentences, or impressions that you want the interviewer to remember. Write out the stories that support each of these ideas and anticipate the questions that will allow you to discuss them. Your experiences are what make you unique.



CONSIDER BOTH ARGUMENTS & DRAW BALANCED CONCLUSION

When presented with multiple arguments, think about different perspectives and do not be narrow minded in your approach. Differential diagnosis forms a large part of Medicine so think about this when answering and consider several influencing factors. There is no correct answer as long as you can back up your point of view.



BE MINDFUL OF YOUR BODY LANGUAGE

Your body language can impact the way the interviewer perceives you. It can go a long way in reflecting confidence. Stand up straight, have a firm handshake, and make eye contact when introducing yourself – it can make a big difference. Smiling goes hand in hand with good body language, but remember that medicine is in essence a service industry; people want a friendly doctor. Similarly an interviewer will come away with a better impression if you can smile and make eye contact while talking to them. Just don't force a fake smile and stare at the interviewer for 30 minutes straight, find a nice balance!

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ANSWER THE ACTUAL QUESTION

Some candidates are so keen to say something, that they're determined to say it, whether or not it's anything to do with the question they were asked. Not answering your medical school interview questions won't score particularly highly. The best way to ensure you answer the question is by concluding your answer with the question as the ending statement. E.g. Why do you want to become a doctor? – I'd like to be a doctor because

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RESEARCH THE PROSPECTIVE UNIVERSITY, COURSE AND CITY

Don't think just about the academic course, consider university life as well as the city itself. Try to get inside information that you cannot find on the school's website. Talking to a current medical student who attends that school would be a good idea. It's a good idea to look over the course structure, content and teaching style of the medical schools you applied to

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KNOW YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT/ BMAT ESSAY

You must know your personal statement extremely well before you attend your interview. Remember what you said and why you said it as your interview is the final part of your application story. Therefore, if you cannot recall the previous parts of your story, your interview may be disconnected from the rest of your application. For example, if you give a reason why you want to be a doctor in your personal statement but give a completely different reason on your interview, that might be a red flag. If you sat the BMAT exam, go over the key points from your BMAT essay as this can often form a point of discussion within the interview. Reflect on the changes that you might have made as well as the question.

WORK ON TIME MANAGEMENT

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Limit your answers to about 2 minutes. Check it out on a stopwatch. Your answers are giving the interviewer a feel for who you are, so you want to engage them, help them see the interesting things that have gotten you to this interview for medical school and that takes some time. Also assess the interviewer's body language. Are they right there with you, leaning forward, looking for more

LISTEN CAREFULLY AND TAKE YOUR TIME



Prompts are often given in the question so make sure you listen to the question thoroughly as this can guide the direction of your answer. Never dive straight into a question you're not sure about. Take a moment to come up with a well thought out answer rather than to waffle for a while. To show you're actually thinking and not just panicking, look up above the interviewer's head and pause for a while. When you have your answer re-establish eye contact and shoot.

OUR TOP TIPS OVERVIEW

- Be yourself
- Be prepared
- Think ethically
- Stay up to date with health news
- Structure your answers
- Read GMC Tomorrows doctors
- Use personal examples/ experiences
- Consider both arguments & draw balanced conclusion
- Be mindful of your body language
- Answer the actual question
- Research the prospective university, course and city
- Know your personal statement
- Work on time management
- Listen carefully and take your time

HOW TO APPROACH THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF QUESTIONS

MOTIVATION QUESTIONS



Know your Why!

HAVE A CLEAR STRUCTURE

Have 3-4 keywords that you can elaborate on e.g. leadership, advancements, caring, diversity. Avoid an answer with too many points as it begins to sound long winded and rehearsed.

REFER TO WORK EXPERIENCE/VOLUNTEERING

Talk about what you have seen, this is a personal experience. Only use examples were appropriate and link it back to the question

SHOW RESPECT FOR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS

Acknowledge that all healthcare professions are important in providing high quality patient however differ in their roles.

SHOW YOU HAVE REFLECTED ON YOUR CHOICE

Show that you recognise that there may be some challenges involved with a career in Medicine but the positives outweigh these.

ETHICAL QUESTIONS



4 Pillars of Medical Ethics

Autonomy
Beneficence
Non-maleficence
Justice

USE THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK

Use these as a framework for your response. Show that you know what each one means and how it may be considered in the particular scenario.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Doctor-patient confidentiality is very important however confidentiality may be broken if the patient is at risk or in danger or may potentially be putting others at risk.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR ROLE

Most times what you can do as a medical student is limited, act within your means or refer to more senior colleagues/ governing bodies.

LEGALITY

Consider the GMC guidelines concerning this topic or refer to what the law may state about the incident e.g. Gillick Competency

COMMUNICATION QUESTIONS



Don't forget non-verbal communication: open posture, eye contact, nodding – even virtually!

FIND OUT WHAT THEY KNOW

At the beginning, check their understanding – ask them what they know about the topic. Patients may have misconceptions or have seen something on the internet.

CHUNK AND CHECK

Present the information in “chunks” and after regular intervals, ask them if they understand everything you’ve said so far and ask them if they have any questions.

BE HONEST

If you don’t know or are unsure of anything, do not lie or make it up. Admit that you’re not sure but will find out and give them the information later

AVOID JARGON

Communicate in an easy to understand way. You need to explain it in lay terms, in a clear, concise manner. E.g 'mechanisms' instead of antibodies

EMPATHY QUESTIONS



Introduce yourself
Find out their name
Ask how they are

PREPARE THEM

Prepare him for the bad news "unfortunately the surgery didn't go as planned", "I have something to tell you".

GIVE THEM TIME

Try not to interrupt the patient, even if they are very angry or upset. Give the patient some time to absorb the information and express their emotions.

APOLOGISE & SHOW SUPPORT

- 'This must be very hard you'
- 'We will do everything we can'
- Let them express their emotions (i.e. DON'T tell them to calm down)
- Direct them to other services

ASK THEM IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Try and let them guide the conversation and be honest with your responses. Remain calm and try and find out what they're particularly concerned about.

NHS HOT TOPIC QUESTIONS



RELEVANT 2020 TOPICS

COVID-19

Vaccinations

Brexit and the NHS (privatisation)

Health Inequalities

STRUCTURE

Structure your answer, don't waffle and fail to make any points. If you need to, take a few seconds at the beginning to form your argument. Where appropriate, talk about any ethical issues involved

SHOW LOGICAL REASONING

Always present both sides of the argument – even if you have an opinion, it is better to talk through the argument on both sides

LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE

Who may be affected?
How would it impact the patient and care provided.
What impact would it have on the system, on family members and on medical professionals.

NOT SURE?

If you don't know something, don't lie or make it up. It's better to say nothing at all than to say something that's untrue.

WORK EXPERIENCE QUESTIONS



GIVE A CLEAR EXAMPLE

Always have a few examples from your work experience that you have reflected on so you can confidently discuss them

WHAT DID YOU LEARN

What impact did this have on the situation, Acknowledge the challenges and the highlights. Why was it useful to see? What skills were in action?

HOW WILL YOU IMPLEMENT THIS IN THE FUTURE

With your work experience, always try and relate it back to your career as a doctor and why this has further motivated you.

RELATE IT BACK TO MEDICINE

Don't just list your work experience, Reflect on the core aspects of Medicine e.g. communication, care, empathy, listening, teamwork

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO ASK THE INTERVIEWER (PANEL)

This is the final impression you will make on the interviewers. Take the opportunity to learn more about faculty, research opportunities, access to internships, or anything that else that is important to you when considering a medical school program. Avoid asking questions that you can answer yourself if you research. Don't ask questions for the sake of it. If you can't think of any questions just say that everything's been covered in the open day.

1. What is your favourite or least favourite thing about this school?
2. Why did you choose to work at this school?
3. Can you tell me more about ... program?
4. How do you think I should decide on which medical school I should attend?
5. Do you have any advice for me?
6. What is your favourite or least favourite thing about being a doctor? (if your interviewer is a doctor)
7. What are your thoughts about ... issue? (You could ask this question if ... issue was already discussed during the interview)

TIPS FOR THE DAY OF YOUR INTERVIEW

ON THE DAY



**"PROPER PREPARATION
PREVENTS
POOR PERFORMANCE"**

- Make sure you have read the relevant emails the night before
- Arrive early/ log in 2-3 minutes earlier
- Take the opportunity to talk to other applicants and current students around
- Re-read your personal statement before
- Make a good first impression – smile, be confident, sit up straight and relax
- Take some time to think about your answer first before responding
- If you have struggled to understand a particular question, be calm and ask the interviewer to rephrase it for you
- Thank the interviewers for their time

PREPARATION



TAKE CARE OF LOGISTICS

You should be in your best mental and physical condition during your interview, so be conscious of your health. Consider necessary expenses and arrangements that need to be made e.g. transport, journey time, accommodation, school notification etc. If your interview is virtual, make sure you are in a quiet environment, good wifi and have a suitable background. Check that your mic and video are working prior to the day. If you have any technical difficulties, let them know. This also means you should get enough rest before the interview, schedule travel that gives you sufficient time to mentally and physically prepare, and eat and drink properly.

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR BODY LANGUAGE

Your body language can impact the way the interviewer perceives you. It can go a long way in reflecting confidence. Stand up straight, have a firm handshake, and make eye contact when introducing yourself – it can make a big difference. Smiling goes hand in hand with good body language, but remember that medicine is in essence a service industry; people want a friendly doctor. Similarly an interviewer will come away with a better impression if you can smile and make eye contact while talking to them. Just don't force a fake smile and stare at the interviewer for 30 minutes straight, find a nice balance!

PREPARATION



APPEARANCE

Look the part and you will be the part! It is important to be smartly dressed and well-presented. Doctors are in constant contact with members of the public and appearance is important. For girls, a knee length dress or skirt with a blazer/ cardigan, tights and smart shoes or a smart shirt and trousers and loafers are suitable choices of outfits. For guys, a full dark suit, shirt, tie and smart shoes (e.g. brogues) is an ideal choice. Others: trimmed facial hair, minimal body piercings visible (stud earrings). This is important, even virtually!

ONLINE INTERVIEWS

Normally, during interview season you would be required to travel to the location of the university to have your interview. Interviews typically either follow a MMI or traditional format, which usually involves several applicants being in the same room(s) throughout the day.

However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, you should expect most if not all interviews to be conducted virtually. Since interviews will be done at home, it is important to be aware of how the changes will affect you.

Most universities will be conducting their interviews via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, it is very important to familiarise yourself with both programs if required in order to minimise technological issues from your side on the day of the interview. A link will be sent to your email address in advance, so make sure to flag the email so you don't lose it or accidentally delete it. For up-to-date information regarding this, it is important to keep looking out for correspondence with the university regularly.

The questions will most likely be the same, whether online or in-person but here are some tips to do well despite the changes:

ONLINE INTERVIEWS

PRACTISE!

That is the best way to feel prepared for an interview. The only difference is that you will most likely be practicing for an online interview. You can still practice with friends or family, and even do this via video call to immerse yourself into the experience. You can record yourself responding to practice questions too, which will allow you to see where you need to improve.

DECIDE ON AND PREPARE YOUR ENVIRONMENT IN ADVANCE!

Because your interview will likely be online, you need to figure out where specifically you want to take your interview in. Which part of the house has the best connectivity? This is important as you want to minimise as much technical issues as possible? Do you tend to have a noisy household? Pick the quietest room in the house, or let your family know well in advance that you are having an interview to avoid interruptions. Pick an area where you feel comfortable in so you can answer the questions to the best to your ability.

DON'T MEMORISE ANSWERS!

You may have practised a common interview question and know how to answer it perfectly, but what happens if they answer a similar question but tweak it slightly? You could be marked down for not answering the question fully. It is preferable to know about a couple of topics and practice how to answer them thinking on your feet. On another note, do not have notes during your interview! It will seem unprofessional to be looking away from the interviewer constantly to look down at your notes, or try and figure out what to say. It will only serve to distract you, so no notes!

ONLINE INTERVIEWS

BODY LANGUAGE!

This is important in normal interviews and even more important during online interviews. Look into your webcam rather than at the interviewer to keep good eye contact. Make sure that you are keeping a decent distance between you and your computer. You do not want to be right in front of the camera, so practice how you want to sit in advance. Using hand gestures can be beneficial too, to show how you're engaged with the topic, so don't be afraid to incorporate them too.

DRESS AS YOU WOULD FOR A REGULAR INTERVIEW

An interview is a formal setting, and it is important to dress appropriately, no matter the environment. Smart casual is usually the dress code, so a dressy shirt/blouse and smart bottoms is a safe bet. If you are not sure of what to wear, think about what you would wear to sixth form or if you were on placement.

TAKE NOTE OF HOW THE INTERVIEW WILL BE STRUCTURED!

Different universities will execute the online interviews differently so it is important to know how it will be done. If it is an MMI interview, ensure you are aware of how that will be carried out. You want to be as well prepared for the interview as possible, and not knowing the set-up may make you feel flustered or confused, so read those emails properly and don't be afraid to ask the university questions about the process if you are unsure about anything.

QUESTION BANK

DISCLAIMER

As Melanin Medics we thought it would be a good idea to have a central source of potential questions which we have gathered questions from several sources on the internet (credited at the end of this post). There are a lot of questions below and we do not expect you to go through every single one and develop in depth answers for each but rather we recommend you derive a strategy to approach unexpected questions in a coherent, clear manner as well as get a feel of potential questions that may be asked. They are organised categorically so if you feel a particular area is your weak point, practise answering several questions in that category. We are more than happy to add to these questions as well as answer any queries you may have and make sure you have checked out our 'Preparing for Medical School Interviews' blog post.

BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

- Tell us about yourself.
- Take us through your personal statement.
- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- What do you want to achieve in medicine?
- What qualities do you think make a good doctor?
- What have you read or experienced in order to prepare you for medicine?
- Why do you believe you have the ability to undertake the study and work involved?
- Why do you want to be a doctor, rather than another profession that is caring or intellectually challenging?
- What do you think being a doctor entails, apart from treating patients?
- What branch of medicine do you think would interest you? Why?
- When you think about becoming a doctor, what do you look forward to most and least?
- What qualities do you think patients appreciate in a doctor?
- What qualities do you think colleagues appreciate in a doctor?
- What impact do you hope to make in the field of medicine?
- Why study medicine rather than any other health care profession? How do you think medicine differs from other health professions?
- What aspect of healthcare attracts you to medicine?
- Why do you want to be a doctor? If you were to become a doctor, how would you wish your patients to describe you and why?
- What steps have you taken to try to find out whether you really do want to become a doctor?
- What things do you think might make people inclined to drop out of medical training?
- There are many different ways of helping people. Why do you want to study medicine, rather than working in any other health or social care professions?
- Can you tell us about any particular life experiences that you think may help or hinder you in a career in medicine?
- If you were not offered a place to study Medicine, what would you do?
- What do you think you will find most difficult about a career in medicine?

EMPATHY

- Give an example of a situation where you have supported a friend in a difficult social circumstance. What issues did they face and how did you help them
- What does the word empathy mean to you. How do you differentiate empathy from sympathy?
- Is it right for doctors to 'feel for their patients'?
- What thoughts and feelings might someone offered alcohol to celebrate after receiving a liver transplant?
- A person with learning disabilities is regularly being teased by their neighbours. How might that affect them?
- What do you guess an overweight person might feel and think after being told their arthritis is due to their weight?
- A friend has asked your advice on how to tell her parents that she intends to drop out of university and go off travelling. How do you respond?
- A friend tells you he feels bad because his family has always cheated to obtain extra benefits. How would you respond?

KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

- What interests you about the curriculum at [Medical School]? What previous experiences have you had of learning in a small group setting?
- When you read the [Medical School] prospectus, what appealed to you or interested you in the course here?
- Tell us what attracts you most and least about [Medical School].
- What do you know about the course at [Medical School]? Why do you think it will suit you personally?
- What do you know about PBL? Why do you want to come to a PBL medical school?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of a PBL course?
- I expect you have thought about problem-based learning. Why do you think a PBL course will suit you personally? Tell us about 2 other aspects of the programme that will also suit you.
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of coming to a new medical school?
- This course will require a good deal of independent study, how have you managed this approach to learning in the past?
- Why do you think problem based learning will suit you personally?
- How does this PBL school differ from the others?
- What previous experiences have you had of learning in a small group setting?
- What ways of learning work best for you? How does this fit with this medical school?
- What will you do if you are not accepted to medical school this year? Have you an alternative career plan?
- Are you aware of the main method of teaching at this Medical School? What do you think are the advantages of this style of teaching?
- Do you think cadaveric dissection is important for medical students?
- This university offers a wide range of extra-curricular societies reflecting the diversity of students and courses we have here. If you were a student here, which societies would you be interested in joining?
- What would you do if you fell behind on this course?

DEPTH & BREADTH OF INTEREST

- Do you read any medical publications?
- Can you tell me about a significant recent advance in medicine or science? Why has this interested you?
- What do you consider to be important advances in medicine over the last 50 / 100 years?
- Have you heard about any public health campaigns recently? What is your opinion on the role of public health campaigns in medicine?
- Can you tell us about any significant medical stories in the media at the moment?
- Tell us about something in the history of medicine that interests you.
- Have you seen a film or read a book recently that has made you think, and why?
- What do you think is the most important medical discovery in the last 100 – 200 years, and why?
- If a benefactor offered you a huge amount of money to set up a Medical Research Institute and invited you to become its director, what research area would you choose to look at, and why?
- How do you think the rise in information technology has influenced / will influence the practice of medicine?
- If you could invite 3 people, alive or dead, to dinner, who would they be?
- Do you think/why is research important?
- What are the benefits of research?
- What limitations are there of medical research?
- Can you give an example of how medical research has been beneficial?
- Have you thought about what you would like to specialise in?

PERSONAL INSIGHT

- How do you think you will cope with criticism from colleagues or other health professionals?
- Is there such a thing as positive criticism?
- Give us an example of something about which you used to hold strong opinions, but have had to change your mind. What made you change? What do you think now?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you realise afterwards that what you said or did was wrong? What did you do about it? What should you have done?
- What are your outside interests and hobbies? How do these compliment you as a person? Which do you think you will continue at university?
- Tell us two personal qualities you have which would make you a good doctor, and two personal shortcomings which you think you would like to overcome as you become doctor?
- Medical training is long and being a doctor can be stressful. Some doctors who qualify never practice. What makes you think you will stick to it?
- What relevance to medicine are the 'A' levels (apart from biology and chemistry) that you have been studying?
- What skills do you think are needed in order to communicate with your patients; how do you think they are best acquired?
- Can you learn communication skills?
- How have you developed your communication skills?
- What challenges do you think a career in medicine will bring you?
- What do you think you will be the positive aspects and the negative aspects of being a doctor? How will you handle these?

ETHICS

- Is it better to give health care or aid to impoverished countries?
- Why can't doctors give a guarantee that a medical or surgical procedure will be successful?
- Should doctors have a role in contact sports such as boxing?
- Do you think doctors should ever go on strike?
- Do you think we should find out more about patients' views of their doctors, their illness or their treatments? How would you set about this?
- What do you think are the major sorts of problems facing a person with a long-term health problem, such as difficulty breathing?
- What are the differences between length of life and quality of life?
- Is there a moral case against drug companies becoming as large and powerful as the market allows them to be?
- What are the arguments for and against the decriminalisation of drugs such as cocaine?
- Should alternative or complimentary medicine be funded by the NHS, and why?
- Should the NHS be involved in non-essential surgery?
- Should the NHS fund the treatment of self-inflicted diseases?
- With the growing problems of overpopulation should the NHS fund IVF treatment?
- How do you think doctors should treat injury or illness due to self-harm, smoking or excess alcohol consumption?
- Would you prescribe the oral contraceptive pill to a 14-year old girl who is sleeping with her boyfriend?

WORK EXPERIENCE

- What experiences have given you insight into the world of medicine? What have you learnt from these?
- What aspect of your work experience did you find the most challenging, and why?
- In your work experience, what skills have you learnt that you can apply to medicine?
- Can you give me an example of how you coped with a conflict with a colleague or friend; what strategy did you use and why?
- Reflect on what you have seen of hospitals or a health care environment. What would you most like to organise differently, and why?
- What aspect of your work experience would you recommend to a friend thinking about medicine, and why?
- What impressed you most about the doctors in your work experience?
- Can you think of a situation where good communication has saved the day and give a reason why?
- Thinking of your work experience, can you tell me about a difficult situation you have dealt with and what you learned from it?
- Have you visited any friends or family in hospital, or had work experience in a hospital? From these experiences, what did you see that you would like to change?
- Can you tell me the key things you learned from your work experience, in caring or other settings?
- What have you done on work experience/ in employment previously? What would you change about what you saw, if you could, and how would you set about this?
- What do you think would be the advantages, and difficulties, for a person with a major physical disability (e.g. blindness) wishing to become a doctor?

ROLE OF MEDICINE IN SOCIETY

- What is wrong with the NHS?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the NHS?
- Should the NHS be privatised?
- What are your views on euthanasia?
- Should the NHS fund fertility treatment for people over 40?
- What are the ethical issues concerned with abortion?
- What problems are there in the NHS other than the lack of funding?
- What relevance has the Hippocrates oath to modern-day medicine?
- What would you prefer in a doctor? Bad communication skills with good clinical skills or good communication skills with bad clinical skills? Why?
- Would you argue that medicine is a science or an art, and why?
- How do politics influence health care provision? Is it inevitable?
- Why do you think we hear so much about doctors and the NHS in the media today?
- Do you think doctors should set a good example to their patients in their own lives? How or why might this be difficult?
- In what ways do you think doctors can promote good health, other than direct treatment of illness?
- Do you think doctors and the NHS get a bad press, and if so, why?
- From what you have read and found out, where do you see the health service going?
- What are the arguments for and against non-essential surgery being available on the NHS?
- What does the current government see as the national priorities in health care? Do you agree with these?

TEAMWORK

- Thinking about your membership of a team (in a work, sport, school or other setting), can you tell us about the most important contributions you made to the team?
- Can you think of a team situation where your communication skills have been vital? Tell us about the situation and your contribution.
- Tell us about a group activity you have organised. What went well and what went badly? What did you learn from it?
- Tell us about a team situation you have experienced. What did you learn about yourself and about successful team-working?
- When you think about yourself working as a doctor, who do you think will be the most important people in the team you will be working with?
- Who are the important members of a multi-disciplinary healthcare team? Why?
- Are you a leader or a follower?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in a team? Do teams need leaders?
- Modern day health care is very much a team effort. Please tell us a role that you have played in a team, and what you think you contributed.
- What do you think of nurses developing extended roles and undertaking tasks previously done by doctors?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of nurses replacing doctors as the first contact person in primary care?
- When you are a doctor you will be working in a team. Who do you see as the key members of your team, and why? How will you help the team to develop?
- What do you think is the role of humour in team working. Give an example.

CREATIVITY/ INNOVATION

- Imagine a world in 200 years' time where doctors no longer exist. In what ways do you think they could be replaced?
- You are holding a party on a medical theme. How would you make it memorable?
- Describe as many uses as you can for a mobile phone charger.
- How many different ways can you improve the process of selecting students for this medical school?
- Imagine you had 6 months with enough money and nothing you had to do. Tell us the most imaginative (and no-medical) way you'd spend the time.
- Your house catches fire in the night. You are told you can pick only one object to take with you when escaping. What would it be and why?
- Can you think of something fun you'd like to invent?
- Fashion has changed hugely over the past 400 years. What do you think we'll be wearing in 200 years from now?
- How many footballs can you put inside a London bus?

EXTRA- CURRICULAR

- What do you do to relax?
- How will any hobbies or interests you have help you in a career in medicine?
- Who do you admire and why?
- What was the last book you read? Would you recommend it?
- Describe a situation you have been in which was stressful.
- How do you deal with stress?
- Have you taken on any extracurricular projects that demonstrate your interest in Medicine?

HELPFUL LINKS

SOURCES:

<https://www.medical-interviews.co.uk/topic/interview-questions-medical-school-interviews>

<https://www.themedicportal.com/e-learning/interview/>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/med-school-advice/medical-school-interview-questions>

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/attachment.php?attachmentid=192433&d=1357932026>

<https://multipleminiinterview.com/mmi-questions/>

<https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/medical-interview>

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2735/guidance-for-candidates-taking-online-interviews.pdf>

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/news/new-website-for-interview-preparation>

<http://www.msccandidatepreparation.co.uk/>

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/medical-school-interview/>