

# BioMedical Admissions Test

Specimen Paper                      30 minutes

## SECTION 3                      Writing Task

### Instructions to Candidates

**Please read this page carefully, but do not open this question paper until you are told that you may do so.**

A separate answer sheet is provided for this section. Please check you have one.

Please first write your initials in the space provided at the top of the answer sheet. For example, Noora Louise Al-Musalam should enter her initials like this:

Candidate initials

N	L	A	M	
---	---	---	---	--

Please also write your BioMedical Admissions Test candidate number and centre number in the spaces provided. Please write very clearly.

This question paper contains a choice of three tasks, of which you must answer only **one**. It also provides space in which you may make any preliminary notes you wish, but **your answer must be written on the single page answer sheet.**

The tasks each provide an opportunity for you to show how well you can

- select, develop and organise ideas and
- communicate them effectively in writing.

Before you begin writing, take time to think carefully about what you need to say and the ways in which the organisation and layout of your response might help convey your message. Diagrams etc. may be used if they enhance communication.

Take care to show how well you can write and be concise, clear and accurate.

Dictionaries may NOT be used.

Remember that when you are told that you may begin you will have only 30 minutes to choose and complete your task, and that your complete response must be contained on the single page provided for your answer. The disciplines involved in this are regarded as key features of the task.

**Please wait to be told you may begin before turning this page.**

*This paper consists of 2 printed pages and 2 blank pages.*

**Use this space and the back page for notes *etc.* if you wish. Remember that your response must be written on the single page answer sheet provided.**

**YOU MUST ANSWER ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

- 1 A little learning is a dangerous thing.**  
(Alexander Pope)

Write a unified essay in which you address the following:

Explain what you think the author means by this statement.

Advance an argument against the statement above, i.e. in support of the proposition 'a little learning is *not* a dangerous thing'.

What do you think determines whether or not learning can be a dangerous thing?

- 2 It is ridiculous to treat the living body as a mechanism.**

Write a unified essay in which you address the following:

What does the above statement imply?

Give examples that illustrate why it might sometimes be sensible to treat the body as a mechanism and others that illustrate the opposite.

How might you resolve this apparent contradiction?

- 3 Our belief in any particular natural law cannot have a safer basis than our unsuccessful critical attempts to refute it.**  
(Karl Popper)

Write a unified essay in which you address the following:

What do you understand by the statement above?

Can you suggest examples where scientific experiment might not proceed by attempting to refute a hypothesis?

To what extent do you think the statement accurately reflects the nature of scientific method?

**BLANK PAGE**