

**BioMedical Admissions Test****4500/03a**

Wednesday

5 November 2008

Morning

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	
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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.**

**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 When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot ... your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind.**

*Lord Kelvin, 1824-1907*

Explain what you think Lord Kelvin means. In particular discuss the extent to which Lord Kelvin's remark applies to biology and medicine, with specific examples of topics that do or do not require to be treated quantitatively.

- 2 Life has a natural end, and doctors and others caring for a patient need to recognise that the point may come in the progression of a patient's condition where death is drawing near.**

*UK General Medical Council, Good Practice*

Explain what you think this statement means and why it is of relevance to good medical practice. What are the risks and consequences of doctors and others caring for patients not recognising the point where death is drawing near? Give a reasoned answer.

- 3 Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition.**

*Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, 1776*

Explain what you think this statement means. What do you think Smith is referring to when he talks about enthusiasm and superstition, and to what extent is science an antidote to these?

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