

**Applying for Medicine in
the UK**

Advice from a Cambridge medical student



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So you want to be a doctor?

A successful application to study Medicine requires dedication, self-awareness and a passion for science and helping others. Although it is hard work, all the efforts you make in your application to university really pay off in the end – a medical degree offers career opportunities that are unmatched by any other profession.

Competition for places in medical school is fierce and most of the applicants will have 4 A's at AS level and more! But don't let this put you off. If you work hard academically and also prepare well for your personal statement/interview you will be able to stand out from the crowd. What universities are really looking for is someone to prove they will be a good DOCTOR, not just a good student. Work experience, voluntary work and extra-curricular activities are all equally important to academic achievement. This pack is aimed to guide you through the application procedure and hopefully equip you with everything you need to gain a place!

Some general advice

- **Don't lie!** – to universities or to yourself. It doesn't matter if you haven't wanted to do Medicine all your life, or if you don't want to be a doctor because you have a burning desire to "help people". The most important quality of a doctor is honesty and, trust me, they will know if you're lying!

- Get as much **work experience** as possible – you can't have too much!
- Don't underestimate the power of the **personal statement** – seeing as most people applying will be pretty flawless academically, it's the personal statement that dictates whether you will get an interview or not. It also forms the basis of the interview, so the better prepared it is, the better prepared you will be for the questions they may ask you!
- Make sure you have a **realistic understanding** of what being a doctor entails. It is a stressful job and, contrary to what many people think, doctors are not well paid considering the amount of work they do! Nevertheless, Medicine can be an incredibly rewarding career and a medical degree gives you many opportunities. It's really important that you find out exactly why you want to do Medicine and be able to convey your passion in your personal statement and at interview.

Before applying

Why Medicine?

The first thing you should think about is WHY you want to do Medicine – this is essential for a successful application! Knowing why you want to enter this academically and emotionally challenging career is necessary to write a good personal statement, to come across well at interview AND also to be a good doctor! There are a million reasons why you might be drawn to a career as a doctor, and not all of them will apply to you. The most important thing is to be honest with yourself about why you want to do Medicine. Firstly, I think it's important to dispel a few myths about being a doctor...

Myths

- Don't be a doctor simply to be rich. Firstly, there are easier ways to earn money – starting a business, for example. Secondly, doctor's salaries are not as large as commonly believed. Most doctors in the UK work for the NHS, and their salaries are as follows:
 - Foundation Year 1 doctor: £22,412 per year
 - Foundation Year 2 doctor: £27,798 per year
 - Registrar (beginning to specialise): £29,705 per year, increasing to up to £70,126 per year as you become more specialised

- Consultant (fully specialised): between £74,504 and £100,446 per year, depending on the speciality.
- These salaries are based on a standard 40 hour week (i.e. 8 hours a day for 5 days a week). However, doctors almost always work more than this and will therefore get paid more.

- Medicine is **not glamorous** – you won't be saving lives every other day! Being a doctor is messy and, often, you will not be able to "cure" a patient – merely help them. Night shifts, being on call on weekends, telling patients and family bad news and cleaning poo and blood off yourself are all standard aspects of being a doctor!
- Realistically, you won't be able to open your own private healthcare surgery/clinic until you're a consultant. This will be roughly 10 years after you graduate from Medical school. Most doctors in the UK work for the NHS until they are fully specialised. Then they may decide to work in the private healthcare system too, which can supplement their NHS salaries.

Possible reasons you may have to study Medicine

Here's a list of common reasons why people decide to study Medicine, some of which may apply to you:

- A strong interest in biology and/or sciences
- Wanting to go into a challenging profession
- Wanting to help others

- Wanting a profession that combines intellectual abilities and a strong element of communication
- Being interested by the variety of work involved, from prevention to treatment but also teaching, research etc.
- Enjoying close contact with people, and making a difference to their lives
- Wanting to work in an environment where there is a strong element of teamwork
- Enjoying constant learning

I think it's best to select three or four reasons why you want to do Medicine at maximum, rather than list many reasons which can sound impersonal and probably don't all actually apply to you. However, the main problem in personal statements and interviews is that the reasons above are likely to be mentioned by most people. If you simply list a few of them then your answer will be boring and resemble 1000 other answers. However, this does not mean that these reasons are not important and standing out does not mean you have to think of a reason no-one else has thought about. Instead, you should **identity your true reasons and develop them well**. You can do this by personally reflecting on each reason, drawing in on your experiences and thoughts. For example, you may be drawn to Medicine because it is challenging. But what in *particular* would you find challenging? Was there an example of a challenging situation in your work experience or voluntary work? Remember, you don't need to have had an interest in Medicine since you were born, and it doesn't matter

whether your mum or granddad was a doctor. Answering "Why Medicine?" in a truthful and reflective manner is key to your medical application.

Why not nursing, or any other healthcare profession?

This question, which may be presented to you at interview, is merely testing your motivation for Medicine in greater depth.

Common traps:

1. "Doctors can prescribe" – true, but so can nurses now!
2. "Doctors can make decisions" – are you saying nurses can't?
3. "Being a doctor is more interesting" – go and say that to a nurse!
4. "Doctors can make a real difference to patients: nurses merely follow orders" – doctors often find that nurses can achieve much more than they can in many cases because nurses spend more time with patients and are often better able to communicate and empathise.
5. "There are better career prospects for doctors" – nurses now have many new opportunities with the opening of nurse practitioners and nurse consultant posts, plus specialisation (e.g. midwifery, mental health).

How to approach the question:

1. **Do not criticise nurses.** A doctor's job would be impossible without the work of nurses and you will inevitably have to work with them.
2. A good answer to this question will **include reasoning and examples.** Some arguments that may be used include –
 - Doctors have the ultimate responsibility for the patient and they drive the decision-making process – although nurses greatly contribute to that process, the final decision rests with the doctor.
 - Although doctors and nurses can both be involved in research activities, doctors are more likely to take a lead in the research projects.
3. Somewhere in your answer, make sure you **praise the role of nurses** and mention how important they are in the care of patients. Being a doctor is not “better” than being a nurse – each role has different roles and responsibilities that are equally important.

Picking A levels

It is expected that applicants for medical school will have **Biology and Chemistry** AS levels of A/A* standard and will be carrying these subjects on for A level. Chemistry is particularly important and many universities will not consider applicants who are not doing Chemistry A level. I would also recommend doing a third science/maths A level as many colleges in Cambridge, for

example, only accept students with 3 science/maths A levels. However, it is not necessary to restrict yourself to sciences. UCL openly state that they prefer candidates with one **non-science** A level (such as History, Music, Economics or English) as they wish to produce well-rounded doctors. Furthermore, non-science subjects can aid in communication and essay-writing, both of which are particularly important in a medical degree and career. It is important that you pick the A levels you want to and what you think you would be best in (although I think both Biology and Chemistry are essential). Subjects such as Further Maths are impressive, but not necessary for Medicine. They certainly won't substitute for an impressive personal statement and work experience – don't create more work for yourself unless you really do enjoy maths! Furthermore, completing your AS and A levels in one year is not necessary for Medicine, especially if it compromises your grades. Whatever you decide to do, make sure you think carefully about the impact on your grades and what is and isn't necessary – but most importantly, do what you enjoy.

Work experience

Work experience – i.e. shadowing doctors and healthcare professionals – is essential. This is because universities want to be reassured that you understand what a career in medicine involves by having some first-hand experience. It's also important for you to get a taste into what medicine is like! I recommend sorting out work experience as soon as possible after starting your AS levels. The more work experience you can get, the better. Being a doctor

in Greece is likely to be very different to in the UK – however, many aspects will be exactly the same and will also enable to compare and contrast the Greek and British healthcare systems. I personally had three work experience placements with doctors and one with a research company called GlaxoSmithKline. In all my placements I saw some amazing things and I'm really glad I got a lot of experience before I applied for university. I would aim to get at least 1 work experience placement with a doctor. If you have any family or friends who are doctors, or anyone who knows a doctor, ask whether it would be possible for you to shadow them for 4 or 5 days (i.e. just observe what they do). If you are unable to find many doctors to shadow, it is also valuable to shadow nurses, midwives or other healthcare professionals as they all work with doctors and interviewers would be impressed with your knowledge of the healthcare system as a whole.

I would recommend keeping a diary of each work experience placement you have – you don't have to write much, but just to write a few things down is so useful when you come to your interviews a year later and have forgotten everything! Write down information about interesting or difficult patients you have met, unusual medical problems, examples of teamwork and leadership, and ethical dilemmas you may have come across. I've provided some sheets you can fill out in the appendix in the back of this pack as your work experience diaries.

Voluntary work

Voluntary work is more long-term than work experience (3 months – 2 years) and doesn't involve shadowing a doctor. Instead, it involves care for others or charitable work. Many universities consider it more important than work experience as it shows evidence of dedication to helping those in need. Many hospitals allow voluntary work – this mainly consists of chatting to patients on wards and helping with serving food and helping them walk around etc. You can also volunteer in a home for the elderly, by chatting to residents who may be lonely and would appreciate someone to talk to. Furthermore, you can volunteer for healthcare charities e.g. at orphanages or charity shops. Anything that demonstrates care for people is good! Volunteer work can also enable you to develop skills that are important for being a doctor. For example, I volunteered in a community centre for the elderly, where many of the people I met had hearing difficulties. This enabled me to develop my communication skills, as doctors often have to speak to elderly patients who may find it difficult to hear me.

Extra reading

It is good, especially if you are applying to particularly academic medical schools (such as Oxbridge or those in London), to show evidence of learning medical topics outside of your A level syllabus. There are some great books available about Medicine,

particularly about neuroscience and psychology, and also about what it is like to be a doctor. I would recommend the following:

For extra knowledge about Medicine

- **The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat** – Oliver Sacks (a book about unusual neurological cases and easy to read)
- **The Private Life of the Brain** – Susan Greenfield
- **Bad Science** – Ben Goldacre (a book about alternative therapies and 'popular' science...was highly recommended for us to read in Cambridge – very useful!)

For an understanding of Medicine as a career

- **Trust me, I'm a (Junior) Doctor** – Max Pemberton (great book about being a junior doctor)
- **In Stitches: the Highs and Lows of Life as an A&E Doctor** – Nick Edwards
- **NHS Plc** – Prof. Allyson Pollock (a book about the structure of the NHS – assumed knowledge at interview!)
- **So you want to be a brain surgeon?** – Chris Ward and Simon Eccles (a great book with information on all the different medical specialities)

For admissions tests

- **Passing the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and BMAT** – Taylor, Hutton and Hutton

- **Get into Medical School – 600 UKCAT Practice Questions** – Picard et al
- **Preparing for the BMAT (Official Guide)**
- **Get into Medical School – 400Qs for the BMAT** – Campbell and Picard

For interviews

- **Medical School Interviews** – Lee and Picard (an incredible book full of potential interview questions – one of the most useful and important books you could buy! Especially useful for ethical scenarios...see 'interviews' section)

I would recommend **finding a 'specialist topic'** – something medical that you are particularly interested in – and researching more about this topic in particular. I personally chose pain, because I have done some work experience with an anaesthetist and find pain very interesting. My friend chose Alzheimer's and learnt lots about it. By mentioning these particular topics in your personal statement, you can shape the interview as they will be likely to ask you something about it and then you can feel more prepared before they ask you.

Extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities are any activities you do that AREN'T academic. This can be anything really! Sports, music, chess, reading novels, drama... Anything you enjoy doing in your spare time you should continue doing during your A levels – to keep

you sane, and also to show that you are able to balance academic life with your hobbies. In addition, it is important for doctors to be **well-rounded** so that they can better emphasise with their patients – no one wants a robot for a doctor! – they want a real human who has their own interests. Furthermore, extra-curricular activities can develop important skills such as team-working, leadership, and communication skills. Sports teams and orchestras/music groups help demonstrate teamwork and leadership skills. Theatre and drama help develop communication skills. You can therefore mention these activities in your personal statement without diverting away from Medicine. If you can link your hobbies to skills required in being a doctor, you can show off your talents whilst still conveying your suitability for Medicine!

Applying

Choosing universities

Through UCAS, you can apply to a maximum of **four medical schools** – you cannot apply to five, as you can for other subjects, because competition for Medicine is so strong that they want you to leave one place for another subject – just in case you don't get into Medicine. I didn't bother to apply for a fifth university in another subject because I knew I wanted to do Medicine and, if I hadn't got in to any universities, I would have reapplied a year later. However, you can do whatever you like!

Research medical schools carefully (here's a good website - http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Where_to_Study_Medicine). Each one has different things to offer and you should pick the ones that suit you best. There are various factors that you must consider when picking your four universities:

- **BMAT/UKCAT** – These are two different admissions tests specific for Medicine. These are meant to allow universities to predict how well you will do with the medical course by testing other aspects of intelligence that you may not be able to demonstrate with your A levels. Universities that ask for the BMAT include Cambridge, Oxford, UCL, and Imperial College. More information about the BMAT can be found here - <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/BMAT>. The UKCAT

is required in almost all the medical schools in the UK. A list can be found here, along with information about how the universities use the UKCAT to assess their applicants - <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/UKCAT>. Unless you are extremely confident in the BMAT, I would not advise to apply to more than 2 BMAT universities, just in case something goes wrong in the BMAT. However, if you are really passionate about applying to Cambridge, UCL and Imperial, for example, then you can take the risk. I applied to these three universities and got places at all of them, even with my modest BMAT scores of 5.6, 5.3 and a reasonably low essay score (they've changed the scoring system for essays now so my mark would mean little to you!). This highlights the importance of other aspects of the application (such as work experience, voluntary work and extra-curricular activities, and also of research into the universities you apply to, which I did extensively!).

- **Location** – where you want to study is really important. The UK is a great place and it varies a lot depending on where you go. City or small town? Campus-based or town-based university? North or South? Make sure you do some research into the town your medical school is in. I personally would not recommend applying to more than one Scottish university as they tend to prefer Scottish candidates, so competition is fierce. NB: you can't apply to both Oxford and Cambridge.

- How **reputable** is the selection of universities you've picked? It's important to balance your application to include good and 'less good' universities. Every doctor I have talked to has told me that, unless you are keen on a career in research, which medical school you study at makes little difference to your life as a doctor. So don't worry too much – all the medical schools are good! However, some are more popular than others, and it is good to include some 'less popular' ones. To have an idea of where to apply, have a look at some league tables such as the Times Good University Guide (<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/gug/>) and the Guardian University guide (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/table/2012/may/21/university-league-table-2013>).
- **Medical course style** – different medical schools have different medical courses. Generally they can be divided into three types – traditional, and integrated (either systems-based or problem-based). Traditional courses (Oxford and Cambridge) have a two-part structure – the first two (or three, if you do an integrated degree – see below) years are 'pre-clinical' which involve learning the medical sciences in detail with little clinical experience. The next three years are 'clinical' and involve more hands-on training in hospitals. However, most medical schools have an integrated curriculum – integrating 'clinical' experience in hospitals with the 'pre-clinical' medical training.

Systems-based learning involves learning about the body according to its different systems (e.g. circulatory system). Problem-based learning is found in most medical courses to some degree, but some universities use it as their main teaching method (e.g. Manchester). Do some research into PBL and into whether it suits you. It's quite unusual but you may find it to be exactly how you like to learn! Also, some medical schools carry out full body dissection, whereas others learn through interactive simulations of the body. Have a think about what you would prefer and find out which universities encourage anatomical dissection.

Personal statement

The personal statement is arguably the most important part of your medical school application. Universities use the personal statement to choose whether they will invite you for interview, as most applicants will have straight As and A*s at GCSE and A level. The personal statement is your opportunity to really show all the EXTRA things you've learnt and to demonstrate your passion for Medicine. I think the best way to structure your personal statement is as follows:

- Introductory paragraph – outlining reasons why you want to study Medicine (whilst demonstrating a realistic understanding of what a doctor is like)
- Work experience and voluntary work – how this encouraged your desire to study Medicine, what you learnt

- Academic – perhaps mentioning reasons for choosing your A level subjects, extra reading, 'specialist subject' (e.g. Alzheimer's), achievements.
- Extra-curricular – describe your hobbies, but emphasise the skills they helped you develop and how this is useful for Medicine e.g. teamwork in a sports team or music group, leadership in school politics, communication in drama.
- Conclusion – link to introductory paragraph.

Tips for personal statement:

- Don't simply list achievements or hobbies – comment on everything you say and make it relevant to Medicine and being a doctor. This is quite difficult but worthwhile.
- Try and have a **powerful first line** – one which is memorable. I decided to outline the three reasons why I wanted to do Medicine in my first line, and then subsequently elaborate them in the first paragraph. My first line was something like this – "It is an intense love of life, a desire to further my understanding of the human body and a fascination with humanity and its diversity that drives me to pursue a career in Medicine." After much self-analysis, I had decided that the real reason I wanted to study Medicine was because of my own love of being alive and healthy – I saw (and still see!) being a doctor as a way to help improve the quality of life of others, enabling them

to enjoy their lives as much as I enjoy mine. So that's why I began with that in my personal statement!

- Give **drafts** of your personal statement to as many people as possible – your teachers, family members, doctors. The more opinions you get on your personal statement, the better! But make sure that you don't take on board ALL the comments you receive for your personal statement. Only take the advice that you truly believe will enhance your personal statement, and make sure it doesn't turn into someone else's work! Definitely don't let someone make changes to it without checking them – this is YOUR personal statement and it should reflect your personal thoughts and achievements written by you alone. No-one else will be able to write as honestly and passionately about Medicine as you will be able to – and that is what universities want to see.
- Try not to sound **arrogant** in your personal statement. It is good to be confident about your achievements but not to list them in an overly-confident way! The best way to do this is to reflect on each achievement or hobby you have, as I said above, because making it relevant to Medicine means you won't sound like you're showing off.
- There are certain things which, if found in your personal statement, will **guarantee rejections** from medical schools. Don't say that you don't like working in teams – teamwork is essential for being a doctor. Don't convey any dislike for the elderly, for children, or for ill people in general! –

compassion is also an essential quality of a doctor. Try to be as careful as you can in your personal statement to not write anything that may cause offence. One of the four principles of clinical practice is "justice" – so any conveyed prejudices of any kind will not be appreciated! Use gender-neutral pronouns ("he/she" or "(s)he" rather than "he"), especially if referring to doctors – in fact, over 50% of medical students are now female, so it would be more accurate to describe a doctor as "she" rather than "he"! Don't convey any judgement against obese people, smokers, drug addicts or different races/sexualities...the job of a doctor is to treat people equally and to not judge, so convey kindness to all in your personal statement!

Interviews

The part of my medical application I was most nervous about was the interviews! I had 5 interviews in total (2 at Cambridge) and was terrified in all of them! But don't worry too much about being nervous – conveying some nerves, I think, shows the interviewers that you really care about Medicine. I've put some sheets at the back of this pack (in the Appendix) that you can fill out to help you prepare for interview. Here's a good website which should help you know what to expect at interview at each medical school (http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/What_you_should_expect_at_a_medical_school_interview). Here's what I think you should do to prepare for interviews (NB: this applies to most medical interviews in the UK – however, one of the interviews at

Oxbridge is likely to be more scientific...see the 'Oxbridge' section for more details)...

1. Carefully read your **personal statement** and write down every question you think they could possibly ask you about it as you go through – medical schools usually use the personal statement as a guide for asking questions at interview so it's good to prepare questions they may ask you about it. It will also make you feel less nervous if you prepare this well.
2. In all of my five interviews, I was presented with an ethical dilemma and asked to explain my thought processes around it. **Learning ethics** is really important for the interview. The book I recommended above for interview presentation has loads of ethical scenarios in that are often used for interviews e.g. whether the NHS should fund treatments for self-inflicted diseases, blood transfusions in patients who are Jehovah's witnesses, consent in children, confidentiality, abortion, euthanasia, limited resources. Whilst studying clinical ethics, try to establish your opinions, keeping in mind what is legal and illegal for doctors in the UK. "Duties of a Doctor", published by the General Medical Council (GMC), may help you with this – and mentioning that you have read this will impress your interviews. The important thing, when presented with an ethical question at interview, is not to give your opinion

straight away but to explain your thoughts about the scenario.

3. Learn about **the structure of the NHS** and the role of the healthcare professionals within it (which you will be working with eventually!) – see Appendix.
4. Make notes on the extra reading you've done for your '**specialist subject**' – see Appendix.
5. Re-read your **work experience diaries** and link to potential ethical questions.
6. PRACTICE INTERVIEWING. Ask your teachers for **mock interviews**, preferably requesting they use the interviews book I recommended above. Especially practice the questions I've included in the Appendix. The more you practice, the less nervous you will feel for the real thing.
7. Practice **reading out loud**, slowly and clearly. Don't rush answers – pause to think of your answer (which should be well structured and not rambling) and speak very clearly. Good communication is essential for a doctor and the interviewers will be looking to see that you can communicate effectively. Maintain eye contact with the person who asked you the question and make sure your body language is engaging, not nervous (i.e. not crossing arms or legs, no twitching or leg banging... I find it useful to hold my hands in my lap so that they can't see I'm shaking!). But don't worry too much about these things...try to behave as naturally as possible, like you are talking to a colleague!

8. For about 3 weeks before your interview, read the health section of **British newspapers** online (BBC Health News is a good site) and make notes on important headlines e.g. government bills, new research. It is important to demonstrate at interview that you have an awareness of what is going on in the world medically!

Oxbridge

Cambridge and Oxford (known collectively as “Oxbridge”) are two of the most prestigious universities in the UK, consistently ranked in the top 5 medical schools. However, that does not necessarily mean that Oxbridge is for you. After spending 3 years at Cambridge, I’ve concluded that I may have been happier at another university, and probably no worse off academically.

Oxbridge has very traditional medical courses, where you spend 3 years intensely learning science with very little clinical experience. **If you love science and working (VERY) hard, then Oxbridge may be the place for you.** If you primarily want to do Medicine because you want to interact with people, perhaps a course with more clinical experience in the first three years may suit you better.

As I mentioned above, Oxbridge usually do **two interviews** – one more medical and the other more scientific. The science interview could be on anything related to medical sciences or your A levels – however, if you’ve mentioned a ‘specialist subject’ in your personal statement, the interview may ask you academic questions on that. Don’t worry too much on learning ridiculous

amounts of science – concentrate on a few specialist areas and learn a lot about them. Here’s a website which may help - <http://www.medicshandbook.com/>. However, it is hard to prepare for this sort of interview. What is important to note is that they are not testing your memory, so learning lots of facts will only take you so far. Instead, they are trying to see how you **THINK** about science and how you approach academic problems. Therefore, in the interview, it is important that you **THINK OUT LOUD**. Explain your thoughts surrounding a problem. It doesn’t necessarily matter whether you get the answer right – what is more important is that you demonstrate the way you think.

Application to Oxbridge is a little different to other universities. You can find out more on their websites, but I’ll briefly summarise here. Instead of applying to the university, **you apply to a college** within the university, or you have an open application where they assign a college to you (depending on which college has lower admissions to Medicine than others). I personally think it’s best to really research the different colleges well to see which suits you and, if you really want to get in, look at the statistics for entry to medicine and pick a college that has less applicants per place. This is because I believe that a college will prefer to take you if they see that you have picked their college rather than done an open application. I’m not too sure about Oxford, but for Cambridge, there are some colleges which are known to be less popular than others. These are the girls colleges (Newnham and Murray Edwards) and colleges outside the city centre (Girton, Churchill,

Robinson, Selwyn). Some colleges (e.g. Homerton) do not take applicants for Medicine. Some colleges (e.g. Wolfson) are only for graduates, so it's probably best not to apply to those!

Appendix

Why Medicine?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Work Experience diary

Work Experience 1:

What did I see?

What did I learn?

Interesting patients

Work Experience 2:

What did I see?

What did I learn?

Interesting patients

Work Experience 3:

What did I see?

What did I learn?

Interesting patients

Skills developed during extra-curricular activities

-

-

-

-

Notes on specialist subject

Specialist subject:

Notes:

Notes on extra reading

-

-

-

-

Plan of personal statement

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Paragraph 3:

Paragraph 4:

Paragraph 5:

Possible interview questions from personal statement

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Paragraph 3:

Paragraph 4:

Paragraph 5:

Ethics

Find out more about...

...Beauchamp and Childress' Four Principles (particularly focussing on potential clashes between them)

...Jehovah's Witnesses and blood transfusions

...Gillick competence

...Incapacitated patients and consent (advance directive)

...Self-inflicted diseases and NHS resource distribution

...Issues surrounding abortion

...Medical paternalism (not considered good ethical practice)

...Issues surrounding euthanasia

...Global resource allocation

...Issues surrounding HIV and other STIs

Other ethics notes:

...Issues surrounding surrogacy

...The Hippocratic Oath (and whether it is still relevant today)

...Confidentiality

The British Healthcare System

Notes on the structure of the NHS: NB: How is it different to Private healthcare?

What do these healthcare professionals do? –

- Consultant:
- Registrar:
- Junior doctor:
- General Practitioner (GP)
- Adult nurse:
- Mental health nurse:
- Child nurse:
- Midwife:
- Nurse practitioner:
- Nurse consultant:
- Physiotherapist:
- Radiographer:
- Dietician:
- Chiropodist:
- Paramedic:

What do these specialities involve? –

- Anaesthesia
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- General Practice

- Genetics
- Geriatrics
- Gynaecology
- Haematology
- Hepatology
- Immunology
- Infectious and Tropical Diseases
- Intensive Care
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Obstetrics
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthopaedics
- Palliative Medicine
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Rheumatology
- Urology

Common interview questions – notes

Why Medicine?

Why this university? – NB: the most important thing you comment on here is the COURSE STYLE AND STRUCTURE

1.

2.

3.

4.

What does a doctor do apart from treating patients?

What are the pros and cons of being a doctor?

Pros:

Cons:

What are your main strengths and weaknesses?

Strengths:

Weaknesses (NB: make sure to mention how, with time and experience, these will improve!);

What are good qualities in a doctor? NB: Make sure to mention compassion/empathy as one quality!

1.

2.

3.

4.

Give me an example where you have shown leadership/teamwork skills.

Leadership:

Teamwork:

How do you manage your time?

Why should we offer you a place here?

Describe yourself. NB: remember to make this relevant to
Medicine!

Tell me about your work experience.