Types of Questions for Medical School

Motivation / interest / career choice

- Why Medicine / why not nursing / other medical specialisms?
- Tell us about yourself / work experience / interests etc
- Why this medical school? What do you know about this school?
- Why this method of training, e.g. PBL, integrated
- Why did you choose your first degree?

Looking at your skills and attributes

- ambition & motivation
- communication skills
- team playing ability
- management & leadership
- teaching skills
- interpersonal skills
- your strengths and attributes
- how you handle stress

Negative or incriminating questions

- main weaknesses
- what makes you angry
- concerns about studying medicine / being a doctor
- working with difficult people
- dealing with problem colleagues

Ethical questions and difficult scenarios

- liver transplant for an ex-alcoholic
• fertility treatments
• should the NHS treat patients with ‘self-inflicted’ diseases
• patients refusing treatment
• carrying out abortions
• blood transfusions for Jehovah’s Witnesses

Breadth of interest and personal insight
• Why do most doctors not wear white coats?
• What is the difference between medicine now and 100 years ago?
• Should the NHS fund alternative medicines?
• What does the term professionalism / holistic approach / patient care / empathy / mean to you?
• Knowledge of specialisms, other professions allied to medicine.

Recent developments / changes in the NHS
• What is wrong with the NHS?
• What is your understanding of the NHS and how it operates?
• What are your thoughts on the use of the private sector in the NHS?
• What do you know about MMC? What are your views on the training of doctors?
• Foundation hospitals, resourcing, training, government policy, redundancies etc.

Current issues
• What medical publications do you read?
• How do politics influence health care provision? Is it inevitable?
• What does the term ‘inequalities in health’ mean to you?
• What do you think are the chief difficulties faced by doctors in their work?
Does treatment work better in hospital or in the community?

**Tips for answering interview questions**

**Reflecting**

- What did you do / observe / see?
- Think most interesting / shocking / surprising / unexpected / worst / best etc..
- What did you learn from this?
- Why was it important? Important to you?
- How have you applied to your own practice?
- Have you tried this learning out?

**Giving Opinions**

- There is not a right answer
- Back up what you are saying with evidence or explanation
- Explain your thought process – show your working
- Assume no prior knowledge on their part – not all interviewers will be medics
- Show awareness and recognition of different viewpoints
- Don’t sit on the fence
- Take a common sense approach

**Useful Resources**

- Modernising Medical Careers [www.mmc.nhs.uk](http://www.mmc.nhs.uk)
- General Medical Council [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)
- British Medical Association [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)
- NHS [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) [www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk)
- British Medical Journal [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com)
- The Lancet [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com)
• www.medschoolonline.co.uk
• www.wanttobeadoctor.co.uk
• www.medical-student.co.uk
• www.studentbmj.com
• www.newmediamedicine.com/forum
• www.medschoolonline.co.uk
• www.admissionsforum.net
• www.thestudentroom.co.uk

Mike Wilson

24/02/10 (checked 14/10/13)