

01: Guide To MCAT Physics

Key MCAT Terms

MCAT: The Medical College Admissions Test is a standardized exam required to gain admission to medical school.

MCAT Courses: The new four-sections MCAT requires seven college courses – general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physics, psychology and sociology.

Passage-Based Question: A question relating to information in an accompanying passage. The answer may or may not be in the passage.

Discrete Question: A question that has a topic independent of a passage or other questions with four possible answer options.

Test Sections: (1) Chemical and physical foundations (2) Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills (3) Biological and Biochemical Foundations (4) Psychological, Social and Biological foundations.

General Physics: MCAT requires students to take two semesters of college-level physics for pre-med.

Computer-based Test: MCAT is 100% to be taken on computer with on-screen timer and but no calculator provided.

MCAT Overview

Registration

- The MCAT is offered multiple times a year.
- Register here: <http://www.aamc.org/mcat/>
- Plan ahead six months before taking the exam.

Scoring

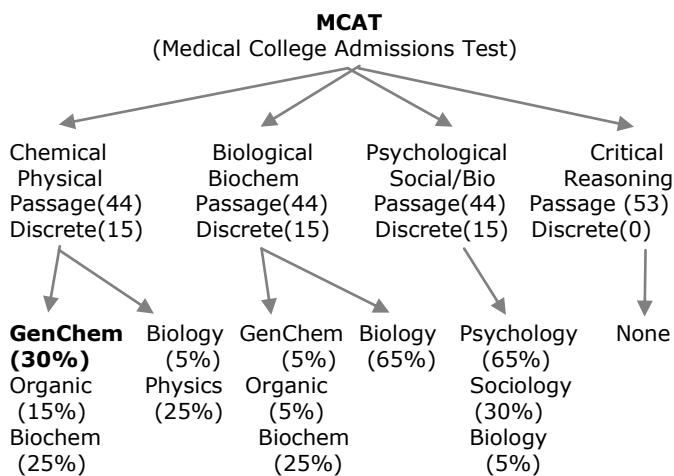
Four sectional scores and one total score with midpoint

- Chem/Phys Section: 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Critical/Reasoning: 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Bio/Biochem – 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Psy/Social - 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Composite Score: 472-528 (midpoint = 500)

Test Day Schedule (4 sections 10-min break each)

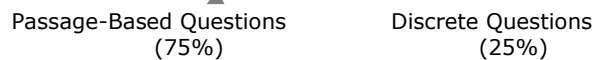
- Chem/Phys: 95 minutes, 59 questions.
- Critical/Reasoning: 90 minutes, 53 questions.
- Bio/Biochem: 95 minutes, 59 questions.
- Psy/Social: 95 minutes, 59 questions.

MCAT Contents



MCAT is a 100% computer-based test.
The new test is a longer test with total seat time 7.5 hours.

MCAT Science Questions



General Physics on the MCAT

Test Coverage

Physics questions are in one science section – physical and chemical foundations. The contents required in the new MCAT are from 2-semester general physics at the college level, typically algebra-based physics. No calculus is required for this test.

- Key Topics**
- Translational Motion
 - Force and Motion, Gravitation
 - Equilibrium and Momentum
 - Work and Energy
 - Waves and Periodic Motion
 - Sound
 - Fluids and Solids
 - Electrostatics and Electromagnetism
 - Electronic Circuit Elements
 - Light and Geometrical Optics
 - Atomic and Nuclear Structure
 - Basic Concepts and General Techniques

MCAT Test-Preparation Strategies

- Time Management**
- Adapt a more visual learning approach.
 - Study one hour one chapter at a time.
 - Set a study schedule and stick to it.
- Concept Mastery**
- Translate formulas into words to give them meaning.
 - Generalize concepts to save memorization and time.
 - Resolve any questions you have.
- Practice Problems**
- Solve problems in these tutorials.
 - Solve relevant problems in physics textbooks.
 - Solve problems in full-length practice exams.
 - Solve problems on self-made mock exams.
- Review**
- Make cheat sheets.
 - Use audio for learning-on-the-go.

MCAT Test-Taking Strategies

- Know The Test**
- Arrive early with the required ID.
 - Familiarize the MCAT time format ahead of time.
 - Memorize the instructions ahead of time.
- Plan Your Attack**
- Skim the section to budget time.
 - Set approximately a 1-minute time limit per question.
- Build Focus**
- Go with your first instinct answer.
 - If distracted, pull back to regain focus.
 - Set the time limit per question and move on.
- Zoom In On The Answer**
- Think of the answer first, and then scan the choices.
 - Beware the familiar and the absolute.
 - Deal with similar or opposite answer choices.
- Guess The Right Way**
- Never leave a question blank. Guess instead.
 - Eliminate incorrect answers to improve the odds.

How to Use This Cheat Sheet: These are the keys related this topic. Try to read through it carefully twice then recite it out on a blank sheet of paper. Review it again before the exams.

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