HPAT – Ireland
Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

September 2013 Information Session
OUTLINE

• History
• Why is HPAT – Ireland used?
• What is HPAT – Ireland?
• Test structure
• How is it developed?
• Important dates
• How do you register?
• How do you prepare for the test?
• On the day of the test
• Test taking strategy
• HPAT – Ireland results
HISTORY

• Developed by ACER for the Irish Medical Schools

• First introduced in 2009

• Used by the following universities for selection into their medical programmes:
  – National University of Ireland Galway
  – Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
  – Trinity College Dublin
  – University College Cork
  – University College Dublin
WHY IS HPAT – Ireland USED?

• It complements academic achievement measures

• It focuses on individual aptitude not socio-economic background

• It provides information on capacity to reason in unfamiliar areas

• It provides data that is consistent across jurisdictions

• It helps to discriminate for competitive entry courses
WHAT IS HPAT – Ireland?

• Cognitive test

• 2 ½ hours

• Multiple choice questions

• Designed to assess general attributes and abilities gained through prior experience and learning which are important for the study in the medical and health professional programs
Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

STRUCTURE

• Divided into 3 sections

• Section 1: Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving
  – 44 questions to be completed in 65 minutes

• Section 2: Interpersonal Understanding
  – 36 questions to be completed in 45 minutes

• Section 3: Non-verbal Reasoning
  – 30 questions to be completed in 40 minutes
SECTION 1

• Materials are drawn from a wide variety of general sources and are based on a brief text or piece of information presented graphically.

• Assesses your ability to comprehend, draw logical conclusions, reach solutions by identifying relevant facts, evaluate information, pinpoint additional or missing information, and generate and test plausible hypotheses.

• Questions are in multiple choice format with 4 alternatives.
SECTION 2

• Questions are based on a scenario, dialogue or other text representing specific interpersonal situations

• Assesses your ability to understand and think about people and in particular to identify, infer the thoughts, feelings, behaviour and/or intentions of the people represented in the situations

• Questions are in multiple choice format with 4 alternatives
SECTION 3

• Questions are based on patterns or sequences of shapes

• Assesses your ability to reason in the abstract and solve problems in non-verbal contexts

• Questions are in multiple choice format with 5 alternatives
HOW IS THE TEST DEVELOPED?

- Designed by test writers expert in their subject areas
- Reviewed by panels of expert writers
- Trialled in the live test
- Analysed and reviewed before inclusion in the test
- Reviewed yearly by an independent auditor appointed
Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

HOW DO YOU PREPARE?

• Familiarise yourself with the type of questions
• Read widely and critically
• Use the Practice Tests as a trial
Botanists studied a rainforest in Nicaragua that had been ravaged by Hurricane Joan in 1988. They found that in the following ten years the number of tree species had increased by at least 200%, and up to 300%, in eight storm-affected plots. Other plots not affected by the hurricane showed little if any such increase.

From this information, it can be concluded that

A - Incorrect: ‘Long-term survival’ of a tropical rainforest is in no way defined or quantified. Any assumption that an increase in the number of species equates to or leads to long-term survival is not warranted.

B - Correct: It is implied that the hurricane destroyed the dominant trees, and it is clear that tree diversity has subsequently increased. The lack of changes in the 'control' plots adds support to the conclusion. It is not necessary to have knowledge of ecological dominance processes to arrive at this conclusion.

C - Incorrect: The two key phrases – 'overall life' and 'levelled to the ground' – are not defined or quantified. And it is reasonable to assume that 'overall life' is more than tree species diversity, and that 'levelled to the ground' may imply something other than the effects of a hurricane.

D - Incorrect: ‘Productivity’ is not defined or quantified. It may be reasonable to assume that in this context it refers to an increase in biomass, but this cannot be equated to the only measure provided – tree diversity.
in the following passage, an adolescent boy talks about living with a physical disability.

As I have been physically disabled all my life, I have managed to cope with the purely practical problems arising with a minimum of fuss. I felt no loss, because I had no feelings of ‘normality’ to compare with. One of my physical problems is that I am short, about 127 centimetres tall. I was constantly mistaken by strangers for a little kid. It’s a real pain for a 16-year-old boy to be handed a kid’s menu every time he enters a restaurant. It is even worse when mere coherent speech is greeted with awe.

3. For the writer, the main problem with his disability is

A. the embarrassment of being so short.
B. never knowing what it is to be ‘normal’.
C. dealing with other people’s preconceptions.
D. coping with the practical problems caused by his condition.

A – Incorrect: The way the writer describes his height and its resulting problems is forthright and open, giving no suggestion that it embarrasses him. Similarly, whilst his words suggest that he feels inconvenienced, annoyed and patronised, they do not suggest that he feels embarrassed. Furthermore, the fact that he visits restaurants and converses with strangers suggests a degree of confidence; not the behaviour of someone who is embarrassed.

B – Incorrect: The idea of being ‘normal’ is not a major issue for the writer because, he has never known anything but his own situation – his own ‘normality’. This prevents him from wishing he was something other than what he is.

C – Correct: The writer’s main problems stem from other people’s biased or ignorant perceptions, rather than from any negative self-perception. His biggest and most difficult problem involves dealing with the demeaning actions of people who assume, because of his small stature, that he is a child.

D – Incorrect: The writer tells us that he has always ‘managed to cope’ with the practical issues arising from his disability.
EXAMPLES – SECTION 3

1 – Answer = E: The figures show a sequence of four shades (black, dark grey, light grey, white) each of which appears in each of the four positions, except for A and D which are identical. Being identical A and D are likely to be the start and finish of the sequence – a useful clue. A sequence can be determined in which the shades move upwards (or, equivalently, downwards) one position at a time, giving ABEDC (or equivalently DCEBA). E is therefore the answer.

2 – Answer = D: The horizontal bar in the first figure rotates anticlockwise by 45° in each successive figure. The vertical bar never moves. The answer must therefore show the vertical bar, and that the original horizontal bar has moved 45° anticlockwise from its (vertical) position in the previous figure. The small rectangles can be viewed as alternating between a total of four or two in each picture, or disappearing when crossed by a black bar. Either way, D is the answer. The incorrect options vary the presence/absence and orientation of the different elements.
3 – **Answer = B**: The small dog remains in the same position and orientation in each segment of the picture and therefore is expected unchanged in the missing segment. The large dog also remains in the same position in each segment, but flips between adjacent segments, so that its legs point either in to or out of the centre of the figure. As the legs of the large dog in the segments on either side of the missing segment are both facing out, the answer must include a large dog whose legs face in. **B** is the answer. The other options vary the orientation of the different elements.
TEST TAKING STRATEGY

• Work steadily through the test

• Do not spend too much time on any one question

• If you think you know the answer mark it even if you are unsure, you can go back to it if you have time at the end of the section

• Attempt as many questions as possible, no marks are deducted for an incorrect answer

• Only work on one section at a time

• Do any rough work in the test booklet
IMPORTANT DATES (2013-14)

• Registrations open early Nov and close at 5.15pm GMT on 20 Jan

• Late registrations accepted until 5.15pm GMT on 1 Feb

• Your Admission Ticket is released 2 weeks before the test

• HPAT – Ireland is held on Saturday 1 March

• Results are released in late April for mature candidates and late June for non-mature candidates
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REGISTRATIONS

• Submitted online only, no paper forms!

• Access to a computer

• Valid email address – preferably not yahoo, gmail or hotmail

Note: all correspondence from us will be via email

• Practice Test with worked solutions included with your registration
The admissions test selected by the Irish Medical Schools is called HPAT – Ireland (Health Professions Admission Test-Ireland). The test measures a candidate’s logical reasoning and problem solving skills as well as non-verbal reasoning and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intentions of people.
Australian Council for Educational Research

Welcome to ACER

If you do not have an ACER account, please [sign up here](#).

You will need to create an account to:

- register for a test;
- purchase practice materials;
- apply for a scholarship.

If you already have an account, please [log in here](#).

If you have created an account but not received an email with your account activation link, please [log in](#) to resend your account activation link.
Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

REGISTRATIONS – HOW TO...

Create New Account

Register / Apply for * – Please select –
Select the test you wish to register for now

Given Name *
Please provide your correct given name exactly as it appears on your official identification.

Family Name *
Please provide your correct family name exactly as it appears on your official identification.

Other Names
Please provide your other names exactly as they appear on your official identification.

Date of Birth *
DD-MM-YYYY
Please provide your date of birth in the format DD-MM-YYYY.

Gender *
- Male
- Female

Email Address *
Please make sure you enter a valid email address. You will use it to log in.

Password *
Must be at least 8 characters long.

Password (Again) *
Please enter your password again.

[Create Account] [Cancel]
Your ACER account has been created

Thank you for registering to ACER.

Given name  Joe
Family name  Blogg
Username  hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au

Please click here to activate your account, or copy and paste this link into your browser:
http://registration.acer.edu.au/accounts/190330/activate:9422416ab8613749d619e3995fbcf8c50b4bf39377b7b2eb0e9144a3d291a82e

Australian Council for Educational Research

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Welcome, Joe Blogg

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Registrations will close at 5.15pm GMT on Saturday 1 February 2014.

Online Registration

Welcome to the HPAT – Ireland Online Registration facility. If you have any problems with this facility please contact the HPAT – Ireland Office by emailing hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au

Registering for HPAT – Ireland online is a 5 step process:

Step 1: Personal details

Enter your personal details. Please check them carefully before proceeding.

Step 2: Additional information

Complete the education and test centre sections. Then complete the payment section.

Step 3: Confirmation

Check and confirm your details. You can edit your details if required. Check the declaration to agree to the full terms and conditions as laid out in the HPAT – Ireland 2014 Information Booklet.

Step 4: Payment through Verisign Payment Gateway

Proceed to the secure payment screen and follow the instructions. After you have paid, you may wish to print the Tax Invoice/Receipt for your records. A copy will also be emailed to the address you have provided.

Step 5: Confirmation email

A message will be sent to your email address, containing your registration details. Please inform the HPAT – Ireland Office as soon as possible of any errors contained in that email, by replying to that message.
# Registrations – How To...

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TEST CENTRES

• Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo, Waterford

• Ad hoc requests for test centres cannot be granted

• The test is held on the same day at all test centres
ON THE DAY OF THE TEST

You will need:
• Your Admission Ticket

• Appropriate identification

You can have:
• Pencil, eraser and pencil sharpener

• Bottle of water
IDENTIFICATION

The only acceptable forms of ID are:

• A valid passport
• A valid photo-bearing driver’s licence or learner’s permit
• A certified letter of identification

NOT ACCEPTED

• Garda cards, student cards, photocopies of documents or expired documents are not acceptable
• Candidates without appropriate ID and/or Admission Ticket are denied access to the test centre
IDENTIFICATION

The only acceptable forms of ID are:

• A valid passport
• A valid **photo-bearing** driver’s licence
• A certified letter of identification

NOT ACCEPTED

• Garda cards, student cards, photocopies of documents are not acceptable
• Candidates without appropriate ID and/or Admission Ticket are denied access to the test centre
MISCONDUCT

• Giving of false or misleading information
• Impersonation
• Attempting to remove a test book, answer sheet or notes from the test centre
• Failure to follow supervisor’s instructions on the day of the test
• Giving or receiving assistance during the test
• Copying another candidate’s work
• Creating a disturbance
• Using prohibited items
• Writing or marking the test paper or answer sheet after the instruction is given to stop writing
• Using or passing information about the test to third parties
RESULTS

• You will receive 4 scores, one for each section plus an overall score.

• The overall score is a weighted aggregate of the three section scores and is calculated according to the following formula:
  \[ \text{Section 1 (40\%)} + \text{Section 2 (40\%)} + \text{Section 3 (20\%)} = \text{Overall} \]

• Each section score is on a scale of 0 to 100.

• Scores are valid for 1 year.
GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICINE

• 4 year programmes offered at the following universities:
  – University College Cork
  – University College Dublin
  – University of Limerick
  – Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

• Entry requirements include:
  – 2.1 Honours Bachelor Degree - NFQ Level 8
  – GAMSAT (held in late March each year)

• For more information see www.gamsat.acer.edu.au/gamsat-ireland
HPAT – Ireland
Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

CONTACT DETAILS
hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au
http://hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au