

UCAT

SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT SESSION 1



Purpose

- ✓ Situational Judgement tests are widely used in medicine to evaluate candidates' professionalism.
- ✓ UCAT Situational Judgement assesses attributes considered important in the study and practice of medicine, including empathy, adaptability, resilience, teamwork and integrity.

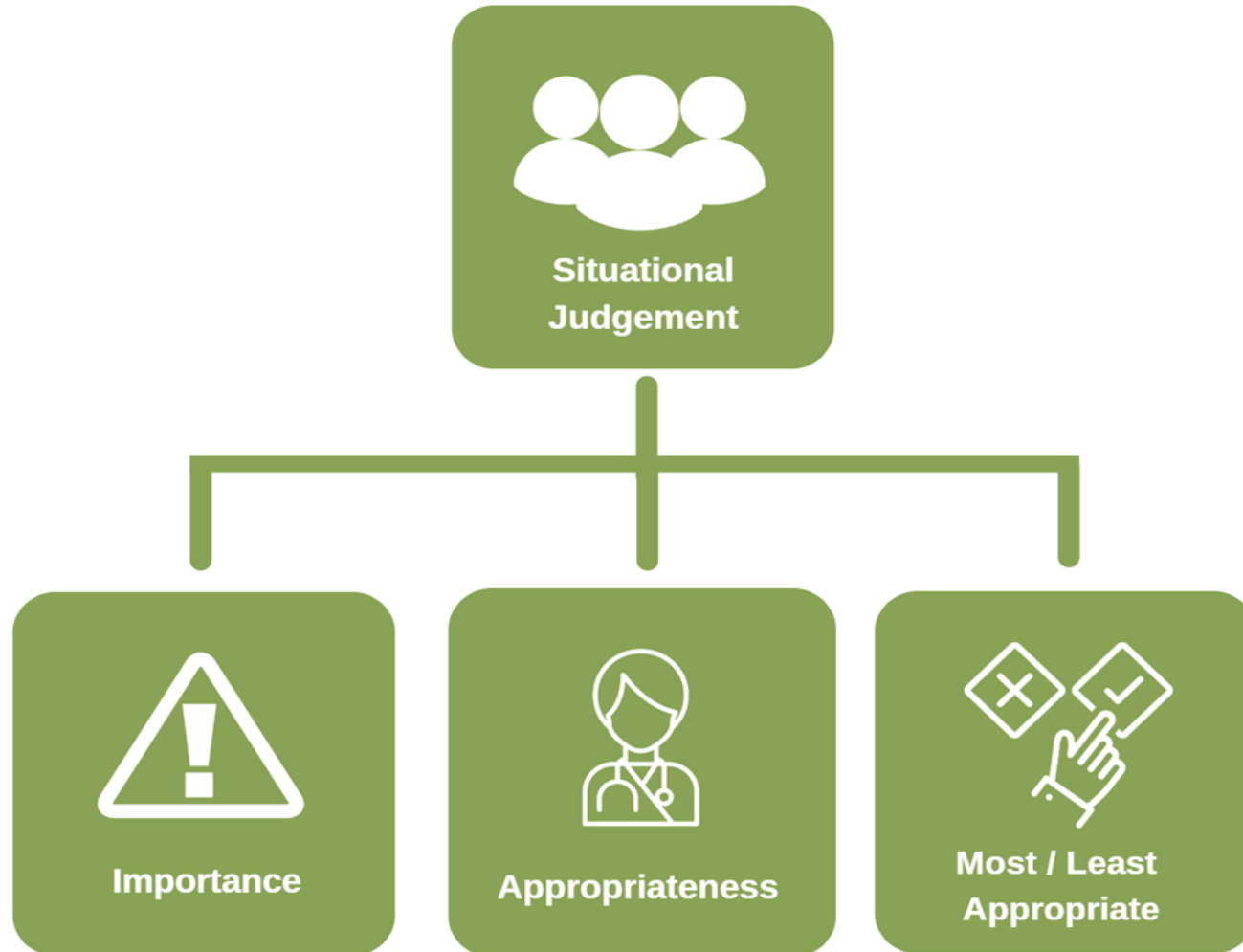


The Structure Of UCAT SJ



- ✓ In this subtest you are presented with 69 questions within 22 scenarios.
- ✓ Each scenario will be associated with between one and five UCAT questions.
- ✓ You have 26 minutes to answer all the questions, but most students do not find Situational Judgement as time pressured as other UCAT subtests. It is, however, often very difficult to judge which is the ‘correct’ answer.
- ✓ In UCAT Situational Judgement, you receive full marks if you choose the correct answer, and partial marks if you choose an option that is close to the correct answer.

Types of SJ Questions



Explanation of question types

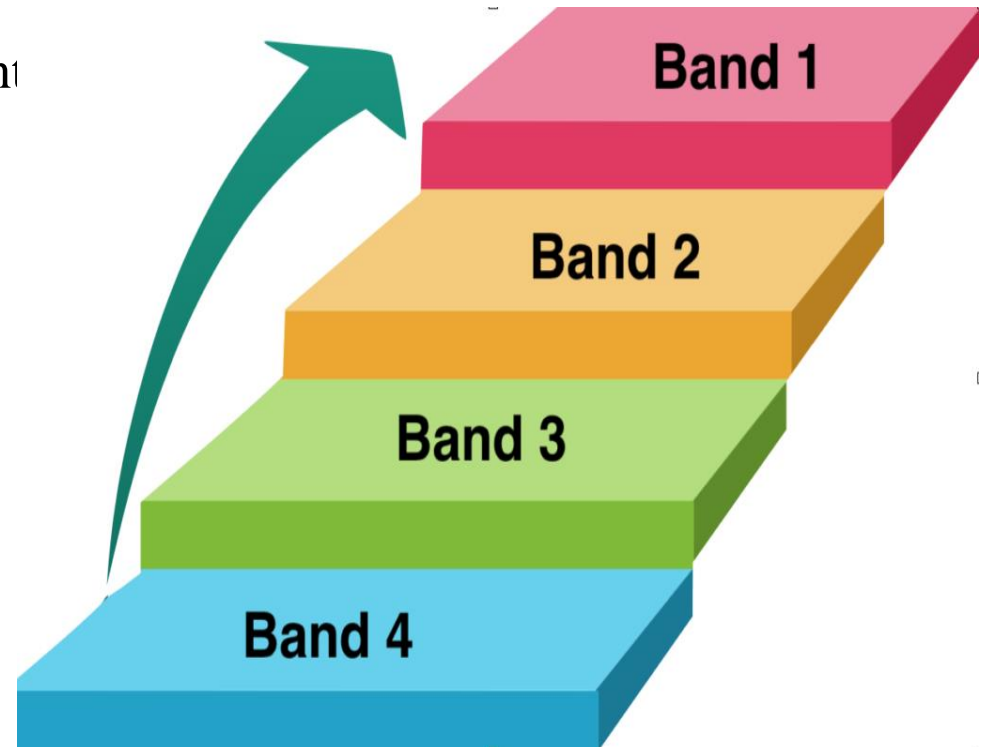
Importance questions:

- Less than half of the UCAT Situational Judgement subtest will be composed of Importance questions.
- you will be presented with a scenario, followed by a number of considerations. You need to rate the relative importance of each consideration in the context of the scenario, from ‘very important’ to ‘not important at all’.



Scoring

- *Previously, scores in the Situational Judgement Test of UCAT were provided in one of four bands, with band 1 being the highest:*
- Band 1: excellent performance, similar judgement to a panel of experts
- Band 2: good performance, showing appropriate judgement frequently
- Band 3: modest performance, showing appropriate judgement in some questions
- Band 4: low performance, judgement differing substantially from ideal responses



Strategies for UCAT SJ questions

You will need a solid understanding of the principles governing medical professionalism.

1. honesty and integrity
2. compassionate and patient-centred care
3. effective teamwork
4. patient autonomy
5. confidentiality
6. a commitment to safety and ongoing improvement.



Tip 1

1. Identify the key issue(s) in the scenario

- When reading the UCAT Situational Judgement scenario, it is important to read actively, identifying the key issues raised. This will help you to judge the relative importance of considerations, or the appropriateness of various actions.
- For example, a consideration is likely to be ‘very important’ if it addresses a key issue raised in the scenario, and a response which does not address a key issue is likely to be inappropriate.



Tip 2

2. Understand important ethical principles

It is important to have a solid understanding of medical ethics and the principles of medical professionalism to succeed in the UCAT Situational Judgement test.

- Key principles for UCAT Situational Judgement include:
- Honesty and integrity
- Compassionate and patient-centred care
- Effective teamwork
- Patient autonomy



Tip 3

3. Recognize your limitations

- In medicine, it is essential that a student or doctor understands the limitations of their experience and seeks help when required. Therefore, pay close attention to the role that the character has in the UCAT Situational Judgement question.
- Is the character a medical student, junior doctor or senior doctor? This will influence the appropriateness of the action that a character takes. For example, medical students are generally not permitted to prescribe medication, deliver patient results or perform complex procedures.



Tip 4

4. Don't agonise

- Situational Judgement UCAT questions are easy to overthink if you consider them for too long. You can always make an argument that something is more or less important or appropriate, based on various factors. In reality, the answers to questions in UCAT Situational Judgement are decided upon by a group of 'Subject Matter Experts' (SMEs).
- Therefore, place more emphasis on choosing the correct 'side' of an answer, rather than agonising about the correct response. Remember that partial marks are awarded – for example, if the correct answer is 'Very important' and you chose 'Important', you would get partial marks.



Tip 5

5. Watch fatigue

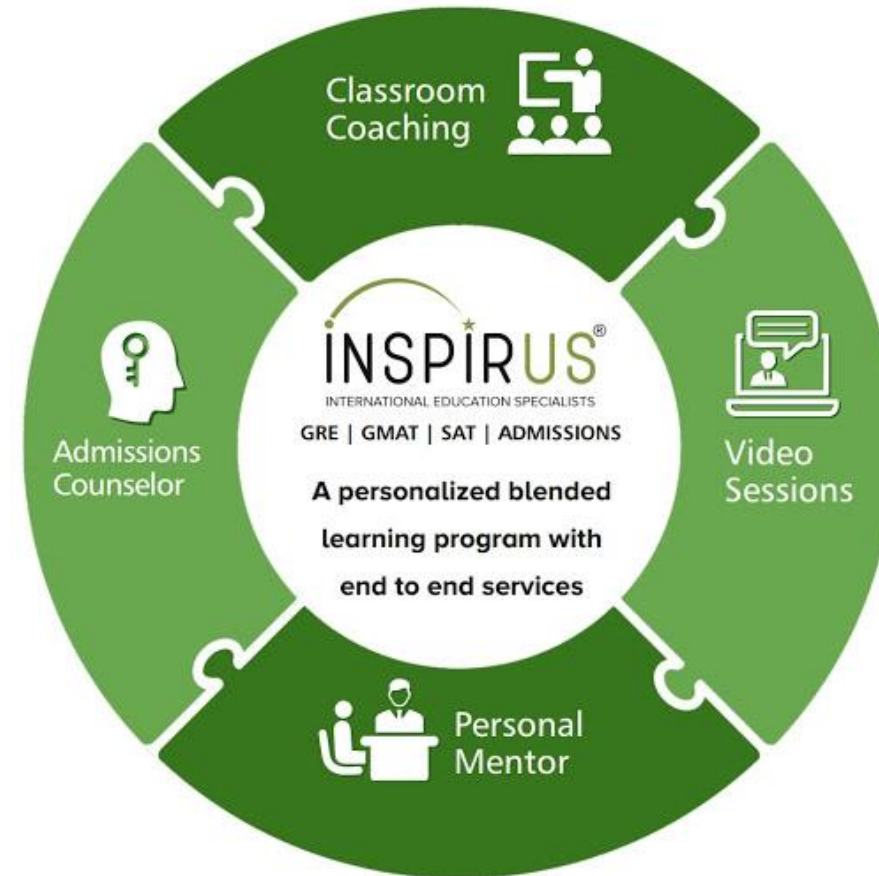
- By the start of the UCAT Situational Judgement test, you will already have answered over 150 UCAT questions, and you will have been concentrating extremely hard for an hour and a half. It is likely that you will be tired and you may have difficulty concentrating.



UCAT

SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT

***importance questions**



SJ 2 Practice | Scenario 2 – Personal Statement

Two medical students in their first year, David and Sapna, are discussing the hard work they invested to gain entry into medical school. David mentions that he was fortunate that his uncle was a consultant in cardiology in a reputable hospital who also sat on interview panels; indeed, though David had not actually done any work experience, his uncle dictated to him a paragraph on work experience which would “push all the right buttons for the admission tutors”. David is currently ranked in the top ten students of his class and is considered to be a very bright student who is always very honest.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Sapna** when deciding whether she should report the matter to a supervisor?

2.1 That David is now a top-ranking student.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

2.2 That David's uncle's career may suffer if she discloses this information to anyone.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

2.3 That this seems to be an isolated incident as David is now considered to be very honest.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

2.4 That many other students in the school probably obtained some kind of help with their personal statement and may have lied or exaggerated a few things on it.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all



SJ 6 Practice | Scenario 6 – Career Development

Dan and Thomas are two junior doctors working on a psychiatric ward. Dan enjoys the work but Thomas finds the attachment disappointing. Thomas keeps disappearing when there are jobs to do which are seen as boring and Dan has just found out that Thomas attends theatre sessions instead of helping him. Though patient safety is not being affected by his disappearances, this is placing extra pressure on Dan, who is feeling increasingly frustrated. Dan confronts Thomas, who tells him that he wants to become a surgeon and that, although it will be over a year before he can apply for a surgical rotation, he takes every opportunity to attend surgical sessions in theatre whenever the surgeon can make space for a medical student.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for Dan when deciding how to respond to the situation?

6.1 That only a small part of the work they are doing in psychiatry is likely to be useful to Thomas in his future career as a surgeon.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

6.2 That Thomas has not cleared his absences with a senior doctor.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

6.3 That Thomas may fail his psychiatry attachment if his absences are reported by someone else.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

6.4 That Thomas may be able to compensate for his absences by taking on more work at a later stage.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all



SJ 7 Practice | Scenario 7 – Venting Off

Rob is a well-established nurse within the elderly care department and has a reputation for frankness and a no-nonsense approach which many of his patients tend to like. Sandra is a medical student who just started her attachment in the elderly care department a couple of days ago. As she walks past a bed where a patient, Mrs Peacock, lies, Sandra overhears Mrs Peacock tell Rob with a frustrated voice that she has asked to see a doctor instead of a nurse many times and that none of them ever seem to come and see her. Rob replies that he has asked Dr Jones, a junior doctor in the unit, to speak to her many times, but that Dr Jones has a reputation for being a bit lazy, and he will see what he can do.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Sandra** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

7.1 That the patient may lose trust in Dr Jones as a result of Rob's allegations.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

7.2 That Dr Jones's attachment will finish in two days' time, after which he will be working in a different hospital.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

7.3 That Sandra may be regarded as a difficult colleague if she reports the conversation to her supervisor.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

7.4 That Mrs Peacock seems to know Rob well and might lie to defend him if asked to confirm the details of the conversation.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all



SJ 8 Practice | Scenario 8 – Gift from Patient

Jonas is a junior doctor training to become a GP. He is currently doing an 18-month attachment in a GP practice, during which he sees many patients without supervision. One of his patients, Mr Skinner, is particularly grateful to Jonas about the support he gave him during a difficult period in his life and offers Jonas a small box of supermarket chocolates. Jonas is in two minds as to whether he should accept the box.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Jonas** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

8.1 That the gift is of small value.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

8.2 That the patient is a regular in the practice and the gift is linked to a particular situation.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

8.3 That refusing to accept the gift may upset the patient.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

8.4 That other doctors seem to accept gifts from patients all the time.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

8.5 That Jonas does not actually like chocolate.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all



SJ 15 Practice | Scenario 15 – Staying Late

Amy is a junior doctor currently working on a busy elderly care ward. Her shifts are normally meant to finish at 6 pm but every few days she has no choice but to finish at 8 pm just to complete a wide range of routine tasks. This has been going on for a couple of months and Amy is now finding it hard to get up in the morning and she starts the day being tired. She also has no social life to speak of. Her elderly care attachment is due to last another four months.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Amy** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

15.1 That her consultant might give her a bad reference if she does not complete all her tasks.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

15.2 That her contract states that her shift finishes at 6 pm.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

15.3 That she may make a mistake if she is constantly tired.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

15.4 That not resting appropriately may impact on her wellbeing.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

15.5 That her friends will get annoyed with her if she doesn't see them regularly.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |



SJ 16 Practice | Scenario 16 – Infection Control

John is working as a junior doctor on a ward. A few years ago, the hospital introduced an infection control policy stating that all members of staff with direct patient contact should wear only short-sleeved shirts or should roll their long sleeves up above the elbow. All staff starting a new post within the Trust are informed of that policy by the Infection Control Team as part of their mandatory induction process. John is on a 9 am to 5 pm shift with Lauren. At 10 am, John notices that Lauren, a fellow junior doctor, has her long sleeves down. This is the second time John has witnessed it in a week and, having raised the matter directly with Lauren the first time, John is now pondering whether he should raise the matter with the consultant.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **John** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

16.1 That patients don't seem to mind.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

16.2 That Lauren was unwell on that particular induction day and never received that information.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

16.3 That Lauren may pass on an infection from one patient to another.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

16.4 That Lauren has a scar on her forearm which she wants to hide.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

16.5 That some senior colleagues often forget to roll up their sleeves.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |



SJ 22 Practice | Scenario 22 – Conflict of Opinion

Rosie is a junior doctor on a medical rotation. One of the patients on her ward is being reviewed by the consultant. The consultant sets out a management plan which involves Rosie and other junior doctors carrying out a number of investigations and performing a number of tasks. Once the consultant has left, one of the senior trainees tells Rosie that he thinks the consultant got it wrong and that she and the others should implement a different management plan. There is no urgency in implementing either plan.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Rosie** when deciding which plan to implement?

22.1 That the consultant has been a consultant for over 20 years.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

22.2 That, should there be a problem, she can claim she was simply following orders because she is a very junior doctor.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

22.3 That the other junior doctors agree with the senior trainee's plan.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

22.4 That the senior trainee is the one signing off some of her procedures and assessments for her training portfolio.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

22.5 That both proposed management plans will not cause any harm or inconvenience to the patient if they are not fruitful.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all



SJ 24 Practice | Scenario 24 – Drug Error

Alison, a medical student, is shadowing Mark, a junior doctor. Alison looks at a set of a patient's drug charts, which shows that Mark has prescribed a dose of penicillin for that patient. The dose is due to be administered in one hour's time. Alison remembers from a previous discussion that the patient is allergic to penicillin and that the consultant had made the allergy very clear to the whole team by placing a special warning sticker in the patient's notes. She raises her concerns with Mark who replies: "You are right. I will cancel the prescription. Make sure you don't tell anyone about this."

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Alison** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

24.1 That Mark is usually very reliable and makes few mistakes.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

24.2 That, when Mark has made mistakes in the past, he has always owned up to them freely.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

24.3 That the mistake was caught in time and the patient was safe.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

24.4 That the nurse who would administer the penicillin would have double-checked and would have likely spotted the error.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

24.5 That the patient is unaware of the incident.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |



SJ 25 Practice | Scenario 25 – Tube Station Incident

Jack, a medical student, has finished a busy day. He is feeling tired and is looking forward to going out with his partner for a relaxing meal. To go home he has to catch a tube for a journey that lasts 30 minutes. The Tube station is situated 300 metres from the hospital. As he is waiting on the platform, Jack sees that a man has collapsed several metres away from him. Jack has received some basic life-saving training but has never had to apply his knowledge to a real patient before. He needs to decide whether to intervene or not.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Jack** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

25.1 That the patient is very close to the hospital.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

25.2 That, when looking around, Jack recognises a lot of medics and nurses who are more qualified than he is.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

25.3 A fellow passenger has already called 999 and an ambulance is on its way.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

25.4 That his partner will be upset if he is late for the dinner.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

25.5 That the Tube station staff are trained in basic life-saving and have relevant equipment such as defibrillators.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |



SJ 26 Practice | Scenario 26 – Relative Enquiry

Asif is a junior doctor on a busy hospital ward. He is due to go home in 30 minutes but still has two patients to review, each of whom could take up to 20 minutes, as well as 30 minutes' worth of paperwork. His colleague Ronan is a junior doctor of equal rank covering the same ward. Ronan has completed the bulk of his work and is currently looking at his personal emails before finishing his shift. Asif is approached by a junior nurse who says that the relative of one of the ward patients is on the phone, and wants to speak to someone. Both Asif and Ronan are familiar with the patient in question.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Asif** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

26.1 That Ronan is currently engaged in non-work related activities.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

26.2 That the vast majority of calls from relatives are for a simple update that nurses can usually give with full competence.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

26.3 That the patient whose relatives are calling is constantly complaining about mental matters.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

26.4 That the paperwork he is doing can wait until the next morning.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

26.5 That the nurse thinks the relatives were calm, seemed to want only a general update and did not ask specifically for a doctor.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |



SJ 35 Practice | Scenario 35 – Internet Medicine

Amanda is a 35-year-old professional working in a high-powered City job. She has been suffering migraines for a long time, for which she has seen many medical specialists over the years. Despite all the tests undertaken and drugs prescribed to her, the migraines are still occurring and can sometimes be debilitating. She has gone back to her GP to discuss whether anything else can be done. She has done a lot of research on the internet and tells the GP that she has found a plant-based remedy on an American website with a lot of testimonials from clients who see this remedy as “some sort of miracle”. The remedy costs only £1 per tablet; she would have to take one a day and the website claims there are no side effects.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Amanda’s GP** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

35.1 That the patient is enamoured with the positive testimonials.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

35.2 That Amanda is very educated.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

35.3 That the ingredients of the remedy are not named.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

35.4 That Amanda may buy the remedy even if he recommends against taking it.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

35.5 That there seem to be no side effects.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |



SJ 36 Practice | Scenario 36 – Educated Patient

Luis is a GP trainee. A patient, Mr Andrews, has pityriasis versicolor: a common, unsightly but harmless condition that causes small patches of skin to become discoloured. Long ago, he received treatment in the form of shampoos but none of them made much difference; as a result, he stopped seeing doctors for it and decided to simply put up with it. Luis advises Mr Andrews that new antifungal shampoos can be effective but Mr Andrews refuses to use them as they have never worked for him in the past. He says he has read on the internet that some anti-dandruff shampoos available on prescription might work and he would like Luis to prescribe them. Luis is not aware that anti-dandruff shampoos would be helpful.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Luis** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

36.1 That he has never come across this as a treatment during his training.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

36.2 That the patient's experience of antifungal shampoos is old.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

36.3 That the anti-dandruff shampoos have no side effects and there is no harm in Mr Andrews trying them.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

36.4 That Luis can seek advice from a senior colleague nearby.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all

36.5 That the anti-dandruff shampoos mentioned by the patient can actually be obtained without prescription.

A – Very important
B – Important

C – Of minor importance
D – Not important at all



SJ 37 Practice | Scenario 37 – Speeding

Rob is a medical student shadowing Frank, a junior GP, during a morning filled with routine home visits. The patients are spread over a wide rural area and, often, Rob sees Frank driving well over the speed limit in order to get to the house calls at their scheduled times; this is worrying him. He has already warned Frank several times that his driving is dangerous, to no avail, and is considering raising the issue with his supervisor.

How important to take into account are the following considerations for **Rob** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

37.1 That the junior GP is an experienced driver.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

37.2 That Rob may get a negative report if he speaks up.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

37.3 That the junior GP is endangering other road users.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

37.4 That it is Frank’s word against Rob’s.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

37.5 That some patients may become slightly anxious if the GP is late.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |

37.6 That emergency vehicles are allowed to go over the speed limit.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Very important | C – Of minor importance |
| B – Important | D – Not important at all |





Thank you