Knowledge of the medical school

- What interests you about the curriculum here?
- When you read the [Medical School] prospectus, what appealed to you about the course?
- What do you know about the course at [Medical School]? Why do you think it will suit you personally?
- Tell us what attracts you most and least about [Medical School].
- What do you know about PBL? Why do you want to come to a PBL medical school?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of a PBL course?
- I expect you have thought about problem-based learning. Why do you think a PBL course will suit you personally?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of coming to a new medical school?
- This course will require a good deal of independent study, how have you managed this approach to learning in the past?
- What previous experiences have you had of learning in a small group setting?

Motivation for medicine

- What do you want to achieve in medicine?
- What have you read or experienced in order to prepare you for medicine?
- Why do you believe you have the ability to undertake the study and work involved?
- Why do you want to be a doctor, rather than another profession that is caring or intellectually challenging?
- Why study medicine rather than any other health care profession? How do you think medicine differs from other health professions?
- What do you think being a doctor entails, apart from treating patients?
- What branch of medicine do you think would interest you? Why?
- When you think about becoming a doctor, what do you look forward to most and least?
- What one question would you ask if you were interviewing others to study medicine? What would you most like us to ask you in this interview?
- What aspect of healthcare attracts you to medicine?
- If you were to become a doctor, how would you wish your patients to describe you and why?
- What steps have you taken to try to find out whether you really do want to become a doctor?
- What things do you think might make people inclined to drop out of medical training?
- Tell us about any life experiences that you think may help or hinder you in a career in medicine?
- How would you dissuade someone from going into Medicine?
- How old are you when you become a consultant?

Depth and breadth of interest

- Do you read any medical publications?
- Tell us about Hippocrates.
- Tell me about a significant recent advance in medicine or science? Why has this interested you?
- What do you consider to be important advances in medicine over the last 50 / 100 years?
- Can you tell us about any significant medical stories in the media at the moment?
- Tell us about something in the history of medicine that interests you.
- If a benefactor offered you a huge amount of money to set up a Medical Research Institute and invited you to become its director, what research area would you choose to look at, and why?
- Tell us about a book or a film that has influenced you as a person or made you think, and why?
- Tell me about someone who has been a major influence on you as a person / in your life?
- What do you think was the greatest public health advance of the twentieth century?
- Can you describe an interesting place you have been to (not necessarily medical) and explain why?
- Do you think putting a man on the moon was money well spent? If yes - why? If no - how would you have spent that money?
Tell me about a non-academic project or piece of organisation that you were involved in.

If you had to have a gap year, and could go anywhere in the world or do anything, what would you chose to do, and why?

How do you think the rise in IT has influenced / will influence the practice of medicine?

Team work
- When you think about yourself working as a doctor, who do you think will be the most important people in the team you will be working with?
- Who are the important members of a multi-disciplinary healthcare team? Why? How will you help the team to develop?
- In a work, sport, school or other setting, can you tell us about the most important contributions you made to a team?
- Can you think of a team situation where your communication skills have been vital? Tell us about the situation and your contribution.
- Tell us about a group activity you have organised. What went well and what went badly? What did you learn from it?
- Tell us about a team situation you have experienced. What did you learn about yourself and about successful team-working?
- Are you a leader or a follower?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in a team? Do teams need leaders?
- What do you think of nurses expanding their roles and undertaking tasks previously done by doctors?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of nurses replacing doctors as the first contact person in primary care?

Personal Insight
- What ways of working and studying have you developed that you think will assist you through medical school? What will you need to improve?
- How do you think you will cope with criticism from colleagues or patients?
- Give us an example of something about which you used to hold strong opinions, but have had to change your mind. What made you change? What do you think now?
- Have you been in a situation where you realised afterwards what you said or did was wrong? What did you do about it? What should you have done?
- How do you think you will avoid problems of keeping up to date during a long career?
- What are your outside interests and hobbies? How do these compliment you as a person? Which do you think you will continue at university?
- Tell us two personal qualities you have which would make you a good doctor, and two personal shortcomings which you think you would like to overcome as you become doctor?
- Medical training is long and being a doctor can be stressful. Some doctors who qualify never practice. What makes you think you will stick to it?
- What do you think will be the most difficult things you might encounter during your training? How will you deal with them?
- What relevance to medicine are the ‘A’ levels (apart from biology and chemistry) that you have studied?
- What skills do you think are needed in order to communicate with your patients; how do you think they are best acquired?
- Can you learn communication skills?
- How have you developed your communication skills?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of nurses replacing doctors as the first contact person in primary care?
- What attributes are necessary in a good doctor? Which do you have, and which do you need to develop further?
- Can you tell us about an interesting experience, and what you learned from it about yourself?
- Thinking about yourself: what characteristics do you think you would most need to change in the course of becoming a good doctor?
- If you could change two things about yourself, what would they be and why?
- What do you think are your priorities in your own personal development?
- What qualities do other people value in you?
- How do you think other people would describe you?
- Understanding of the role of medicine in society
- What is wrong with the NHS?
- What problems are there in the NHS other than the lack of funding?
- What relevance has Hippocrates oath to modern-day medicine?
- What would you prefer in a doctor? Bad communication skills with good clinical skills or good communication skills with bad clinical skills?
- Is medicine a science or an art? Why?
- How do politics influence health care provision?
- Why do you think we hear so much about doctors and the NHS in the media today?
- Do you think doctors should set a good example to their patients in their own lives? How or why might this be difficult?
- In what ways do you think doctors can promote good health, other than direct treatment of illness?
- Do you think doctors and the NHS get a bad press, and if so, why?
- From what you have read and found out, where do you see the health service going?
- What are the arguments for and against non-essential surgery being available on the NHS?
- What does the current government see as the national priorities in health care? Do you agree?
- How should the NHS achieve a balance between promoting good health and treating ill health?
- What do you think are the similarities and differences between being a doctor today and being a doctor 50 years ago?
- Should doctors have a role in regulating contact sports, such as boxing?
- Do you think doctors should ever strike?
- Do you think patient’s treatments should be limited by the NHS budget or do they have the right to new therapies no matter what the cost?
- What does ‘inequalities in health’ mean to you?
- Do you think medicine should be more about changing behaviour to prevent disease or treating existing disease?
- What do you think is the purpose of the health service in the 21st century?
- What do you think are the chief difficulties faced by doctors in their work?
- Why is life expectancy in the north of England, on average, 5 years less than in the south? Should this be a matter for government intervention?
- What are the arguments for and against people paying for health care as and when they need it?
- What do you understand by the term ‘holistic’ medicine? Does it fall within the remit of the NHS?
- How accurately do you think the media (particularly television) tend to portray the role of the doctor?
- Do you think the bulk of medical treatment takes place in hospital or in the community? What makes you think this?
- What do you think is the greatest threat to the health of the British population today?
- Imagine you are on committee able to recommend only one of two new surgical treatments to be made available through the NHS. The treatments are: an artificial heart for babies born with heart defects, or a permanent replacement hip for people with severe arthritis. Both treatments are permanent, ie never need repeating, and are of equal cost. On what grounds would you make your arguments?
- Ten years ago most doctors in hospitals wore white coats; now few do. Why do you think this is? What are the arguments for and against white coats?
- Animals that are suffering are ‘put down’. Should human suffering be treated in the same way?
- Do you think more doctors or more nurses would be of greatest benefit to the nation’s health?
- What are the arguments for and against banning the sale of tobacco?
- In the UK at present 60% of medical students are female. Do you think we should have equal quotas for medical school places for males and females? What do you think will be the consequences of having more female doctors than male doctors?
- What issues would you consider in deciding to discontinue a patient’s life-sustaining treatment?
- Medicine will bring you into contact with a range of people from different cultures; what experience have you had of different types of people?

**Work Experience**

- What experiences have given you insight into the world of medicine? What have you learnt from these?
- What aspect of your work experience did you find the most challenging, and why?
- In your work experience, what skills have you learnt that you can apply to medicine?
- Can you give me an example of how you coped with a conflict with a colleague or friend; what strategy did you use and why?
- Reflect on what you have seen of hospitals or a health care environment. What would you most like to change, and why?
- What aspect of your work experience would you recommend to a friend thinking about medicine?
- What impressed you most about the doctors in your work experience?
- Can you describe a situation where good communication has saved the day?
- Thinking of your work experience, can you tell me about a difficult situation you have dealt with and what you learned from it?
- Can you tell me the key things you learned from your work experience, in caring or other settings?
- What would be the advantages and difficulties for a person with a major physical disability (e.g. blindness) wishing to become a doctor?
- Tell me about a project, or work experience, that you have organised, and what you learned from it?

**Tolerance of ambiguity**

- What do you think are the major issues facing a person with a long-term health problem, such as difficulty breathing?
• Is it better to give health care or aid to impoverished countries? What do you think about the activities of Medecins sans Frontieres?

• Do you think we should find out more about patients’ views of their doctors, their illness or their treatments? How would you set about this?

• Why do you think we cannot give a guarantee that a medical or surgical procedure will be successful?

• What are the differences between length of life and quality of life?

• Should alternative or complimentary medicine be funded by the NHS, and why?

• How do you think doctors should treat injury or illness due to self-harm, smoking or excess alcohol consumption?

• Female infertility treatment is expensive, has a low success rate and is even less successful in smokers. To whom do you think it should be available?

• Would you prescribe the oral contraceptive pill to a 14-year old girl who is sleeping with her boyfriend?

• What is your feeling about euthanasia?

• Would you perform abortions as a doctor? Under what conditions?

• Is it right that Viagra should only be available to certain groups of men?

• What do you think about the use of animals for testing new drugs?

• How do you respond and what do you feel when you see a beggar in the street?

• You have one liver available for transplant, but two patients with equal medical need. One is an ex-alcoholic mother with two young children, the other a 13 year old with an inborn liver abnormality. How would you decide to whom it should be given?

• You have one dialysis machine to share between three patients with equal medical need. One is a 17-year-old drug addict who has just overdosed, one is a 40-year old woman with terminal breast cancer and only 6 months of life expectancy, the third one is a 70-year old marathon runner. Who gets the machine?

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