



BMAT

Essay Feedback

James White*



*Student name changed for confidentiality

BMAT Essay Feedback

Student Name: James White*

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Essay Attempted: Question 3, 2009

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<i>Component</i>	<i>Feedback</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	A strong opening that focuses on the title well- I would however, avoid using rhetorical questions to advance an argument as it can appear patronising.
<i>Main Body</i>	The first sentence of your main body is largely redundant- you could easily have left it out. I'm not entirely convinced by your first point as it was somewhat unclear what you identified the assumption to be. The second assumption is far better. If you had defined "medical treatment" in the introduction- you would have had more to talk about here.
<i>Conclusion</i>	A fair summary that addresses the question well- again, avoid rhetorical questions. You needed to make more points than relying on capitalism alone ie. there was limited breadth of argument
<i>Final Comments</i>	Overall a good attempt at a difficult essay. The intro and conclusions are done well but the main body needs greater breadth of argument to attain the higher marks.
<i>Overall Score</i>	A 3.5

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Essay Attempted: Question 2, 2010

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<i>Component</i>	<i>Feedback</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	A fair opening but you're wasting a lot of space paraphrasing the question title. The first sentence is very much redundant and the introduction would be a lot more effective and concise without it. Again, avoid rhetorical questions.
<i>Main Body</i>	You make some excellent and well developed points in this section. I particularly like the argument of smokers causing self-damage. The example about lacrosse is a bit odd as I wouldn't consider it an extreme sport (cf. mountaineering or skiing).
<i>Conclusion</i>	I think you missed the point of the last part of the question- it was asking if the public should change their views on extreme sport not how they would change!
<i>Final Comments</i>	A strong essay that is let down by the conclusion- ensure you fully understand the title before committing to it. Finally, don't forget paragraphs!
<i>Overall Score</i>	A 2.5

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Essay Attempted: Question 1, 2009

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<i>Component</i>	<i>Feedback</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	OK, but I think the second sentence could give the impression that you don't quite know what the essay is about- especially when you talk about patient autonomy which this essay is not really about!
<i>Main Body</i>	You've covered the all the major points including legality and trust. However, the lack of paragraphs and organisation made this hard to read. Additionally, when mentioning studies, you should have the reference or at least the study's name to hand- otherwise it is not as credible.
<i>Conclusion</i>	Whilst I agree with your sentiment, as a doctor you are obliged to try to communicate key information like diagnosis of cancer or MND to both patient and family members- you can't not tell them because you think it's not important that they know. The second point you make is far more valid.
<i>Final Comments</i>	This is a tricky essay and although you covered the main points in the main body, the introduction and conclusion could have been stronger. In particular, the misconception about withholding information lowered your mark significantly. To improve, have a quick read of the GMC guidelines (<i>Tomorrow's Doctors</i>) and brush up on basic ethics.
<i>Overall Score</i>	A 2.5

I hope you find this feedback useful and use it to improve your future essays. Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions.

Senior BMAT Tutor