

Teamwork

1. Thinking about your membership of a team (in a work, sport, school or other setting), can you tell us about the most important contributions you made to the team?
2. Can you think of a team situation where your communication skills have been vital? Tell us about the situation and your contribution.
3. Tell us about a group activity you have organised. What went well and what went badly? What did you learn from it?
4. Tell us about a team situation you have experienced. What did you learn about yourself and about successful team-working?
5. 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?
6. Who are the important members of a multi-disciplinary healthcare team? Why?
7. Are you a leader or a follower?
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in a team? Do teams need leaders?
9. Modern day health care is very much a team effort. Please tell us a role that you have played in a team, and what you think you contributed.
10. What do you think of nurses developing extended roles and undertaking tasks previously done by doctors?
11. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of nurses replacing doctors as the first contact person in primary care?
12. When you are a doctor you will be working in a team. Who do you see as the key members of your team, and why? How will you help the team to develop?
13. What do you think is the role of humour in team working. Give an example.

Tolerance and Ambiguity of Ethics

1. Is it better to give health care or aid to impoverished countries?
2. Why can't doctors give a guarantee that a medical or surgical procedure will be successful?
3. Should doctors have a role in contact sports such as boxing?
4. Do you think doctors should ever go on strike?
5. 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?
6. What do you think are the major sorts of problems facing a person with a long-term health problem, such as difficulty breathing?
7. What are the differences between length of life and quality of life?
8. Is there a moral case against drug companies becoming as large and powerful as the market allows them to be?
9. What are the arguments for and against the decriminalisation of drugs such as cocaine?
10. Should alternative or complimentary medicine be funded by the NHS, and why?
11. Should the NHS be involved in non-essential surgery?
12. Should the NHS fund the treatment of self-inflicted diseases?
13. With the growing problems of overpopulation should the NHS fund IVF treatment?
14. How do you think doctors should treat injury or illness due to self-harm, smoking or excess alcohol consumption?
15. Female infertility treatment is expensive, has a very low success rate and is even less successful in smokers. To whom do you think it should be available?
16. Would you prescribe the oral contraceptive pill to a 14-year old girl who is sleeping with her boyfriend?
17. What is your feeling about euthanasia?
18. Would you perform abortions as a doctor?

19. Is it right that Viagra should only be available to certain groups of men?
20. Some Trusts are refusing to perform some elective operations on obese patients. Why do you think that it? Do you think it's right?
21. What do you think about the use of animals for testing new drugs?
22. How do you respond and what do you feel when you see a beggar in the street?
23. Do you think that Class A drugs should be legalised?
24. Would being religious, and therefore potentially having a more positive view to death, be detrimental in your role as a doctor?
25. A man refuses treatment for a potentially life-threatening condition. What are the ethical issues involved?
26. A woman who is bleeding heavily refuses to receive a blood transfusion that you are proposing. Why do you think this might be? How would you handle the issue?
27. 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?
28. 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?

Personal Insight

1. What ways of working and studying have you developed that you think will assist you through medical school? What will you need to improve?
2. How do you think you will cope with criticism from colleagues or other health professionals?
3. Is there such a thing as positive criticism?
4. 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?
5. Have you ever been in a situation where you realise afterwards that what you said or did was wrong? What did you do about it? What should you have done?
6. How do you think you will avoid problems of keeping up to date during a long career?
7. What are your outside interests and hobbies? How do these compliment you as a person? Which do you think you will continue at university?
8. 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?
9. 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?
10. What do you think will be the most difficult things you might encounter during your training? How will you deal with them?
11. What relevance to medicine are the 'A' levels (apart from biology and chemistry) that you have been studying?
12. What skills do you think are needed in order to communicate with your patients; how do you think they are best acquired?
13. Can you learn communication skills?
14. How have you developed your communication skills?
15. What interests do you bring from school/college life that you think will contribute to your studies and practice?
16. What challenges do you think a career in medicine will bring you?
17. What do you think you will be the positive aspects and the negative aspects of being a doctor? How will you handle these?
18. What attributes are necessary in a good doctor? Which do you have, and which do you need to develop further?

19. Can you tell us about an interesting experience, and what you learned from it about yourself?
20. Thinking about yourself: what characteristics do you think you would most need to change in the course of becoming a good doctor?

Understanding Of The Role Of Medicine In Society

1. What is wrong with the NHS?
2. What problems are there in the NHS other than the lack of funding?
3. What relevance has the Hippocrates oath to modern-day medicine?
4. What would you prefer in a doctor? Bad communication skills with good clinical skills or good communication skills with bad clinical skills? Why?
5. Would you argue that medicine is a science or an art, and why?
6. How do politics influence health care provision? Is it inevitable?
7. Why do you think we hear so much about doctors and the NHS in the media today?
8. Do you think doctors should set a good example to their patients in their own lives? How or why might this be difficult?
9. In what ways do you think doctors can promote good health, other than direct treatment of illness?
10. Do you think doctors and the NHS get a bad press, and if so, why?
11. From what you have read and found out, where do you see the health service going?
12. What are the arguments for and against non-essential surgery being available on the NHS?
13. What does the current government see as the national priorities in health care? Do you agree with these?
14. How should the health service achieve a balance between promoting good health, and in treating ill health?
15. What do you think are the similarities and differences between being a doctor today and being a doctor 50 years ago?
16. Should doctors have a role in regulating contact sports, such as boxing?
17. Do you think doctors should ever strike?
18. 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?
19. What does the term 'inequalities in health' mean to you?
20. Do you think medicine should be more about changing behaviour to prevent disease or treating existing disease?
21. What do you think is the purpose of the health service in the 21st century?
22. What do you think are the chief difficulties faced by doctors in their work?
23. Why do you think people in the north of England live, on average, 5 years less than those in the south? Do you think this should be a matter for government intervention?
24. What are the arguments for and against people paying for their own health care as and when they need it?
25. What do you understand by the term 'holistic' medicine? Do you think it falls within the remit of the NHS?
26. How accurately do you think the media (particularly television) tend to portray the role of the doctor?
27. Do you think the bulk of medical treatment takes place in hospital or in the community? What makes you think this?
28. What do you think about the way doctors are shown in the media, say in the Simpsons or on the news? How do you think this will affect patients' views of their own doctors?
29. What do you think is the greatest threat to the health of the British population today?
30. Ten years ago most doctors in hospitals wore white coats; now few do. Why do you think this is? What do you think are the arguments for and against white coats?

31. Animals that are thought to be suffering are 'put down'. Should human suffering be treated in the same way?
32. Do you think more doctors or more nurses would be of greatest benefit to the nation's health?
33. What are the arguments for and against banning the sale of tobacco?
34. 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?
35. What issues should be considered in deciding to terminate or not continue a patient's life-sustaining treatment?
36. Medicine will bring you into contact with a vast range of different people, with different cultures; what experience have you had of different types of people?
37. What are the consequences of obesity for health services? Why?
38. Can you tell us about a significant recent advance in medicine or science? Why is it significant? Why has this interested you?
39. Tell us about something in the history of medicine that interests you. Why was it important?
40. What do you think was the greatest public health advance in the 20th century?
41. People are living longer and longer. Should doctors take credit for this?
42. What lessons can be learnt from how the swine flu pandemic was handled? What would you have done differently?
43. How do you think the rise of information technology has influenced and will influence the practice of medicine?

Work Experience

1. What experiences have given you insight into the world of medicine? What have you learnt from these?
2. What aspect of your work experience did you find the most challenging, and why?
3. In your work experience, what skills have you learnt that you can apply to medicine?
4. 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?
5. Reflect on what you have seen of hospitals or a health care environment. What would you most like to organise differently, and why?
6. What aspect of your work experience would you recommend to a friend thinking about medicine, and why?
7. What impressed you most about the doctors in your work experience?
8. Can you think of a situation where good communication has saved the day and give a reason why?
9. Thinking of your work experience, can you tell me about a difficult situation you have dealt with and what you learned from it?
10. Have you visited any friends or family in hospital, or had work experience in a hospital? From these experiences, what did you see that you would like to change?
11. Can you tell me the key things you learned from your work experience, in caring or other settings?
12. What have you done on work experience/ in employment previously? What would you change about what you saw, if you could, and how would you set about this?
13. What do you think would be the advantages, and difficulties, for a person with a major physical disability (e.g. blindness) wishing to become a doctor?
14. Tell me about a project, or work experience, that you have organised, and what you learned from it?

Empathy

1. Give an example of a situation where you have supported a friend in a difficult social circumstance. What issues did they face and how did you help them
2. What does the word empathy mean to you. How do you differentiate empathy from sympathy?
3. Is it right for doctors to 'feel for their patients'?
4. What thoughts and feelings might face someone offered alcohol to celebrate after receiving a liver transplant?
5. A person with learning disabilities is regularly being teased by their neighbours. How might that affect them?
6. What do you guess an overweight person might feel and think after being told their arthritis is due to their weight?
7. A friend has asked your advice on how to tell her parents that she intends to drop out of university and go off travelling. How you respond?
8. A friend tells you he feels bad because his family has always cheated to obtain extra benefits. How would you respond?