

How To Pass The GAMSAT

**Before you reading anything else about the
GAMSAT, you NEED to know this...**

UK & Ireland Edition

By PassGAMSAT

The Agreement

I, Tomasz Forfa and PassGAMSAT are not endorsed, part of or supported by the Australian Council for Educational Research or the University Of Notre Dame. I write this independently based on my real life experiences and success, and that of my friends. This is what I did to pass the GAMSAT. The methods of this eBook are very powerful. You assume full responsibility for the consequences of your own actions. Tomasz Forfa will not be held liable in any manner whatsoever stemming from your use of the information in this eBook.

By reading this Manual you agree to all of the agreement on this page. If you cannot agree to this agreement, do not read this Manual and immediately delete it. If you do agree to the agreement on this page, then read on, have fun, get ready to excel at the GAMSAT, and enjoy...

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The GAMSAT in the UK & Ireland

The GAMSAT in Australia, Ireland and the UK is prepared by the same organization, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The guidelines for the exam are the same, as are the time limits and exam sections, and so are the sample and practice questions. The GAMSAT is the same in Australia, UK and Ireland.

ACER even states on their website that valid GAMSAT Australia results may be used to apply to the universities in the UK and Ireland which use GAMSAT as part of their admission procedures. Similarly, results from GAMSAT UK and GAMSAT Ireland may be used to apply to the Australian graduate medical programs (plus Dentistry and the Master of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney). [GAMSAT UK](#) is held in September each year; [GAMSAT Ireland](#) is held on the same date as GAMSAT in Australia – usually around the end of March.

I have only sat the Australian GAMSAT but the strategies and ideas below are applicable to **all three exams**. So you can feel confident that you are about to read ***valid, up-to-date and very valuable*** information about your exam preparation which will give you an edge over much of your competition.

You will need to sit GAMSAT UK if you intend to apply for 2008 entry to one of the following 4-year graduate-entry medical/dental schools:

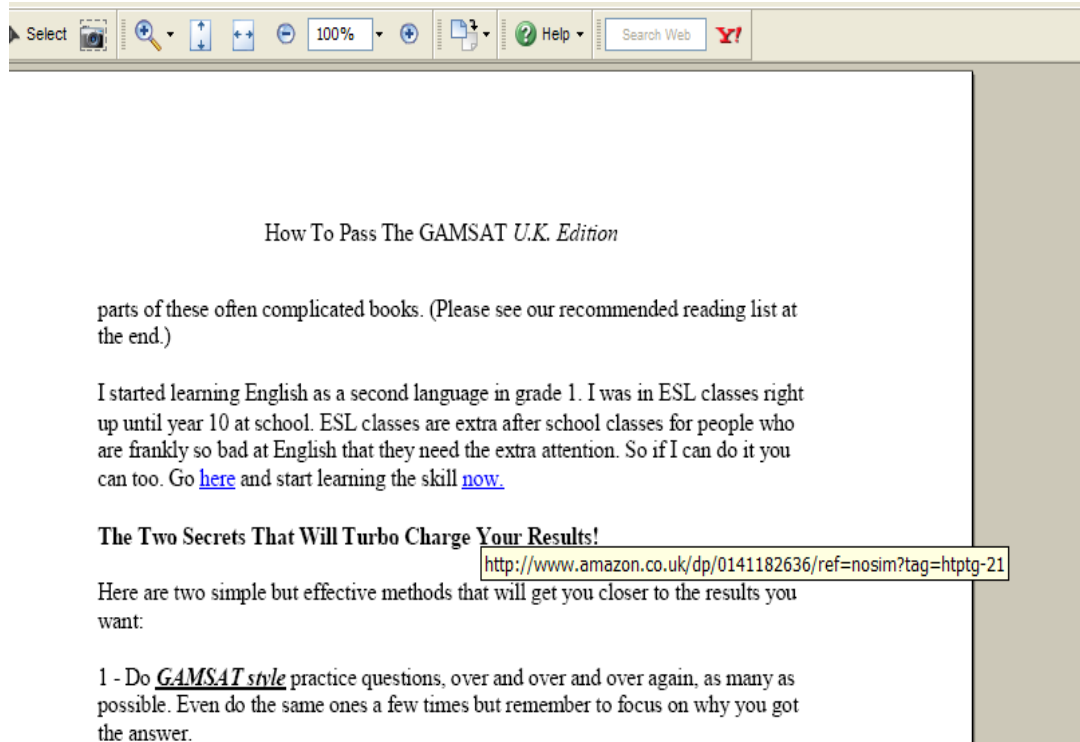
- St George's, University of London
- The University of Nottingham at Derby
- The University of Wales Swansea
- Peninsula Dental School
- Keele University

Or to the 5-year degree at

- The Peninsula Medical School

NOTE on this eBook:

This eBook has been designed with useful hyperlinks which help you find the information being referred to. A hyperlink will be blue and underlined like this: [The Great Gatsby](#). It will take you to internet pages that will make your preparation easier. To use the hyperlink, place the cursor on the hyperlink and left-click when you see the website name appear. Please see diagram below.



Introduction

Welcome **My Friend**,

Thank you for having the faith and confidence in allowing me to show you these ideas, methods and strategies. They will be extremely powerful in improving your GAMSAT result and assist you in taking this first vital step in your medical or dental career.

The objective of this eBook is very specific, which is to show you...

What you need to know to have the highest probability of passing the GAMSAT.

This is what I want to be able to do.

So let's get started...

The last couple of years have been an interesting experience; an experience I want to share with you here.

However, before we continue, let's lay a solid foundation so that you can know the source of the information about to be shared with you comes from concrete, real world experience and not a bunch of unproven ideas, theories and research from what others have to say.

I know as you begin to read this you are doing so with a raised brow. That's fine, as well you should. This is an important stage in your life and you want *and need* to have the best advice.

Much of what is available out there comes from businesses which have no direct personal experience with the actual test.

A number of them are great sources of information, and we'll get into that later. But most have not gone through the stress, pressure, hours of preparation, made the mistakes and taken the lessons which come with sitting the GAMSAT, a number of times. And not just sitting it for fun, but as a **hopeful medical student like you**.

I have been there. I have put in the time and taken the risk as a candidate. I made getting into postgraduate medicine my goal and burning passion. This led me to search out people, methods and techniques which would allow me to pass the GAMSAT with the score I dreamt of.

And I succeeded.

I tell you this not to boast but to show you that it is possible to succeed at the GAMSAT. And YOU are about to discover the techniques which helped me to succeed at it.

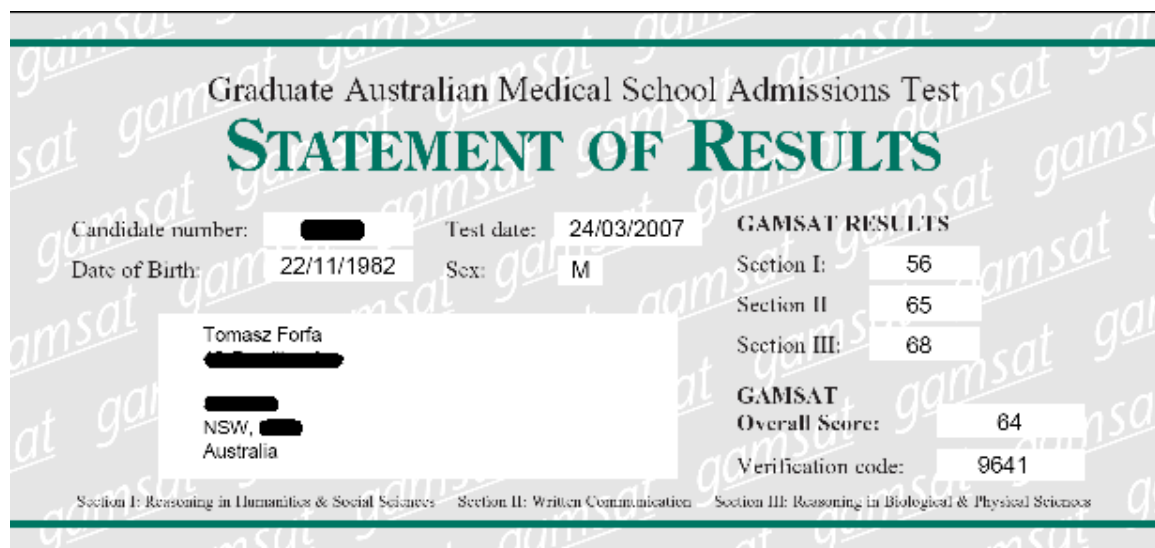
The first time I sat the test was in 2006. I had just completed university with majors in Finance and Psychology. It was then time for me to sit the GAMSAT. Due to my background, I felt confident in the humanities component of the exam and to a lesser extent, the essays.

The science however, was mostly new to me. I didn't study biology or chemistry at uni and so spent most of my study time trying to fill my brain with it all. I spent over three months flipping through text books, while also learning to write essays. When it came to the practical side, I had only sat two practice exams, and did about thirty practice questions. You will learn later why this is a bad idea.

The exam day was a shock to me and I knew on the day that I hadn't performed as well as I had hoped. It is understandable that, when my score card read 58, I was ECSTATIC! However, it did not get me into the university I was set on.

An invitation to an interview with the Australian National University arrived in the mail shortly thereafter. That was not the university I wanted. Perhaps I was crazy or perhaps just stubborn and determined, but I turned down the invitation. There was someone else who wanted the chance to interview with ANU much more than I did. If I had gone to the interview just for a practice run, it would have taken that away from someone else. So I decided to do the GAMSAT again.

The following year was completely different. My eyes were open to the GAMSAT experience, I had a taste of what was to come and nothing could stop me. That year I achieved a score which allowed me to cruise into an interview with my first choice university, University of Sydney. It's an amazing feeling.



Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test
STATEMENT OF RESULTS

Candidate number:	[REDACTED]	Test date:	24/03/2007	GAMSAT RESULTS	
Date of Birth:	22/11/1982	Sex:	M	Section I:	56
Tomasz Forja [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NSW, [REDACTED] Australia				Section II:	65
				Section III:	68
				GAMSAT Overall Score:	64
				Verification code:	9641

Section I: Reasoning in Humanities & Social Sciences Section II: Written Communication Section III: Reasoning in Biological & Physical Sciences

Over that period of time, I learnt that you need to use all the tools you can to compete with the *top minds* sitting this test. They are not stupid, this is a select population who all want to be there. They have prepared and will be doing the best they can to take one of the limited positions in one of the country's medical schools, from right under your nose.

How does that make you feel? So how do you compete with them?

By using every little or great resource and advantage you can. This manual is my notebook on **how to do just that**. Soon it will be yours.

To give you all this, I make it a point to cut to the chase and shoot straight from the hip. All the ideas have been applied and refined so it makes sense to be frank and tell it like it is. I think you will enjoy it.

Sometimes I repeat certain phrases throughout the text, I do this not to antagonise, but because these are **critical** points. There are a lot of confused and misrepresented ideas floating around about the GAMSAT, so I must make these critical points to make them clear. If you spot them, take note of them. Try to see through the words and grasp the principles, they are priceless when one acts on them and they are worthless when one does not. It's that straightforward.

Thank you again for your faith and confidence. Now, I know you're ready to get it going, so let's get started...

PART I – Before It Happens

3 Bombshells About The GAMSAT

Bombshell #1: *this is not a knowledge based test.*

That's right. You are not being tested on your knowledge of science or humanities. So you don't need to *know* anything before hand.

What?! Can this be true?

Yes, ACER says it themselves in the names of sections 1 and 3, "REASONING in Biological and Physical Sciences."

The key here is the word 'reasoning.' They are testing your ability to reason, to think, to work out the answer in *the context* of biological and physical sciences. They want people who can use their mind by manipulating the information given in the stimulus - not people who can remember large chunks of useless knowledge.

So if you want to pass the GAMSAT you need to train your thinking skills as is required to answer the questions. The next question is what are these thinking skills? And how do we develop them? Well I'm glad you asked because that's why we're here. All will be revealed as we go on.

Bombshell #2: *Humanities students who have never studied science have a better chance at getting into medicine than science students.*

Humanities students have between a 1/2 and 1/3 chance of getting in as opposed to one in 4 or 5 for sciences.

This is due to, firstly, the sheer number of science students who do the test. They greatly out weigh the number of humanities students. And also, the basics of using science can be learned over a few months, while the language skills required for sections 1 and 2 are acquired over the long term.

The humanities candidates do very well on sections one and two, while they only need to pass with an average score in the third. However science students may kill the third section but may perform dismally in the other two sections, which are half of the exam!

But don't worry! We have solutions for both groups on how to master this test and use your strengths AND weaknesses to your advantage!

Bombshell #3: *It is possible to pass the GAMSAT without studying.*

...although I would not recommend it.

The fact that this test assesses thinking ability means that there are people who can go in there in between hiking trips and pass. They have the cognitive abilities to use language and science to answer the questions. These are the gifted people and there are not too many of them out there. So the rest of us do need to prepare. And where do we start? From the beginning.

Let's get into the nitty gritty of the basics and ask...

What Is The GAMSAT?

The GAMSAT stands for Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test. It is a standardised test which ranks candidates based on their performance compared to other students.

It happens once a year and allows the universities to choose the best students to go onto the interview process, then into postgraduate medicine.

It is put together by a company called ACER which makes a lot of money from the test. ACER expects candidates to have some presumed knowledge and splits the test up into three sections.

Section 1 is called 'Reasoning in Humanities and Social Sciences.' This consists of a number of units. Each unit has a piece of stimulus material and a number of questions. The stimulus material in this section can be anything from a poem, a picture, an extract from a play, novel, song, instruction manual or magazine. Basically anything that involves words or symbols and thinking. There is no specific presumed knowledge for this section.

This section contains 75 questions and you are given 10 minutes reading time followed by 100 minutes to complete them.

Section 2 is called 'Written Communication.' It requires you to write two separate essays. Each essay is on a theme which is conveyed through a group of five quotes. So you get five quotes, write an essay on their theme, then another five quotes and write an essay on their theme. Here you get 5 minutes reading time and 1 hour to write both essays. So half an hour per essay.

Section 3 is called 'Reasoning in Biological and Physical Sciences.' You get 10 minutes reading time and 170 writing time to answer 110 questions. The questions use first year university biology and chemistry, and year 12 physics. The lay out is the same as for the first section, with units containing stimulus material and questions. However, here the material can be a graph, equation, text, data or almost anything

science related. This section makes up half the exam, while the other two make up the other half.

So there you have it, the GAMSAT in a nutshell. It may sound intimidating but it's really not. To show you how easy it can be, let's try...

Breaking It Down – Standardisation is our friend

Now that we know all this about the GAMSAT, what use is it to us?

Well if we break down the meaning of the standardization of the test, it is quiet revealing as to what we can expect from it. The fact that it's standardised means, not only that it can be compared to tests from previous years and so can results, but that it **MUST** be comparable. This means that it has to be similar from year to year. This makes it **predictable**, thus conquerable.

It gives us a clue as to what will be in it. There have to be similar topics covered, with similar difficulty and comparable styles of questioning as in previous years.

This validates it but also makes it vulnerable.

The essay writing section is standardized through the use of a rubric and 2 markers. This means that for each essay there is a set of criteria which the candidates essay has to fulfill to earn top marks. This is **the same from year to year**. I hope you read and heard that right – it is the same from year to year. Also, there are two markers. This means that the rubric is applied stringently and your essays are graded fairly.

Breaking It Down – MCQs vs. ESSAYS

Why is the test mainly in Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) form?

Frankly, it originated so that teachers can work less. A machine marks the hundreds of papers and so the teachers, or in this case ACER, has a lot less work to do.

So then why is there an essay section if they can get a machine to do all the work?

The essays are there to test other aspects of your mind and thinking.

The first essay identifies your ability to organize your thoughts and ideas into an argument. And tests your communication and language skills too.

The second essay... well, in the 70s lots of doctors were graduating with technical skills but lacked skills in listening, communication and most importantly **empathy**. So they got researchers to study how to fix this problem. They found that most people going through med school were young, about 19-24 year olds. So by virtue of their age, they were likely to not be empathetic because of a lack of experiences.

So they asked what quality do people have which will predict empathy later on?

What they discovered was...

.... Imagination.

They need to know whether you can **imagine someone else's perspective**. Thus the second essay covers topics which require imaginative understanding of social themes.

This does not mean that you need to write a creative story using the imagination of a novel writing genius. It just means that you have to be able to visualise and explain how other people may be feeling and experiencing life – thus the social theme.

Whether the second essay achieved its goals is hard to know. But we need to take it seriously, because ACER does.

Practicing essay writing is the only effective way to prepare for this section. Start today by going to passgamsat.com/essays

Breaking It Down – The essay section

Even so, many students struggle with this part, especially those with a background in **science** and English-as-Second-Language (ESL) students. I will give you ways to develop your skills in this later.

To give you an understanding of what writing these essays involves, let's look at the two sets of quotations you are expected to write on:

Set A will share a philosophical or political theme. This assumes that by being a member of a community, you will know how to answer. You should do so in an analytical/ argumentative manner. Examples of theme can be censorship, human nature, education, progress and wealth.

Set B will have a more personal or social theme and you will relate to it through experiences by virtue of being a human being. In 2007 the theme was Humour. Other examples are hatred, youth, self discovery, conformity and laughter. No argument can really be made on these topics so you're better of **exploring and reflecting** on the theme.

The instructions have changed since 2004 so that now you are asked to respond to one or more of the quotes. So you need to refer to more than one quotation in the essay.

The criteria of assessment are Firstly and most importantly quality of thought content (originality of development of ideas) **and only secondly**, effectiveness of language, structure and expression.

This means that they are after **your ideas**. They want to gauge your imagination and how you write is not so important as long as they understand your ideas.

Why is this so important?

Because by knowing and using this fact a candidate who has not written many essays in the past, or was not good at them, can do as well in this section as a candidate who has.

How?

Let's assume for a moment that people who have been studying science until this point as not good at writing essays (it's a major generalization, I know, but lets run with it for now).

Well if this science candidate has an original, relevant, and intelligent development of ideas, and they can structure a GAMSAT style essay and write well enough to get these ideas across – they will absolutely stomp all over a humanities student who uses big words and smooth writing to express poor plain ideas!! That's exciting because I was never good at essay writing and we all have a great chance of blasting this section!

So to sum this up, candidates who don't have a background in essay writing and those who do, have an equal footing in this section **IF** they can effectively express their great ideas on the GAMSAT essay theme – easy as that.

You can get started today by going to passgamsat.com/essays

Breaking It Down – Why is the GAMSAT such a mystery to most?

With all this knowledge, why is there so much misguided and false information out there about this test? Why is it still a bit of a mystery to most?

Well, we are given sample questions from ACER which are from the late 90s, and no one gets to keep the exams after they are done. So there is a lot of guess work out there.

Now, if the 'experts' can't get it write, how can you? Well there are ways to cut the fat and get to the meat of the test. Unless you want to sit through the next two GAMSATs, we have the information you need.

Our Approach to *Absolutely Thrashing* the GAMSAT

You need a ‘holistic’ approach to the GAMSAT. I don’t mean you need to be a new aged psychic healers or magicians. What I mean by ‘holistic’ is you should have a **rounded approach** and cover all you need to know to cruise through this test and into medicine.

This *does not* mean tiring yourself out just studying your text books or learning the theories - that won’t get you far. It didn’t work for me or my friends the first time I sat the test.

It includes being able to focus your mind, steady your nerves on the day, make the most of your time studying, plan your study effectively, use your entire mind – conscious and sub conscious to pull you into med, motivate yourself, visualize yourself doing it all, so that on the day, you just go along for the ride because its all second nature to you.

Imagine you just turned up on the exam day and getting a great score was all second nature...

Wouldn’t that be an amazing feeling?

That is what we at PassGAMSAT want to give you as you continue with our programs. The only thing we won’t cover here is the assumed knowledge you need for the exam. I will give you a list of what that is, if you want to go over it yourself. But there are fantastic courses out there which teach you that stuff better than we ever could. And I recommend you do one of them. But this exam is about ***more than just that knowledge.***

Because if you studied every science book you have, learnt about all the literary techniques there are and learned all the words in the dictionary, you would **not pass** if you did not have the required ability to analyze, interpret, structure an argument and generally **think** the way you are require in this very discriminating exam.

So the number one most important thing you **MUST** know and **DO** to ensure you have the best possible chance in this test is...

PART II – Making It Happen

Your Secret Weapon

As a soon-to-be medicine student, you must approach the GAMSAT in the best possible way and to do this you need...

Strategy! That is the secret to mastering the GAMSAT. **Have a proven strategy.**

Multinational corporations, sports teams, media groups, and any other group or person who succeeds at what they are doing has one. So should you.

What do I mean by strategy?

Let's start by examining what I don't mean. The first thing that students do when starting to study is what they did at uni. I did the same thing the first time I sat the GAMSAT. What we do is find out the required knowledge, and then study our butts off in these topics – this is not what I mean by strategy. That's rote learning and a waste of time here.

I don't mean learning everything in your organic chemistry or physics or any other text book.

I don't mean studying the topics you enjoy most.

I don't mean going to all the courses and try as hard as possible to remember everything.

I don't mean trying harder next year if you don't pass this year (there are ways around having to do that).

I don't mean memorizing all the equations you can.

I don't mean spending hours at the library studying about everything to do with the GAMSAT assumed knowledge topics.

If you do any or all of this, you have wasted your time! That's a pretty bold statement. So why would I say all this? Well because I have either done it myself or seen my friends do it and fail.

So then what do I mean by strategy?

This means having a proven plan of attack. To have a plan of attack you need to step back and look at the big picture. Ask yourself:

Firstly – what is really required to pass the GAMSAT?

Secondly - where am I right now in terms of these requirements?

Thirdly - what do I have to do to get to the level required?

This eBook will more than cover the first question.

The second question will have to be address using a practice test or your own honest opinion. However, if you don't know much about the GAMSAT then I recommend getting your hands on an ACER practice paper, one of Des O'Neill's papers, or any other GAMSAT styled paper.

To answer the third question, read this eBook. Think hard about what is in it and the consequences for you. Be honest with yourself and for those serious about making the most of their time and effort get a copy of our guide [Never Do The GAMSAT Again!](#) - which will guide you through this process.

An important part of strategy is understanding...

Why Working Hard Studying Is A WASTE OF TIME.

How many of you have worked hard for the GAMSAT or ...intend to do so for the up coming test? Most of you.

Now after studying so hard, how many have already passed the GAMSAT or feel confident with their ability to pass the next one? Not as many.

Hmmm... Does that mean that working hard does not equal passing?

Let's put it another way - How many people have worked hard and not passed? A lot. So I ask you again, does working hard to pass this test mean that you are going to pass? No.

Anyone with determination and time can work hard. But not everyone will pass.

Repeat this for me, **work smart**.... Not hard. Strategize. Make the most of every minute you spent at your desk, or it may be on the train for some of you.

Find out where you stand right now, and what you have to do to pass. Then do it. Some may even want to work hard at working smart... but that's just too complicated for me. Write that down on a piece of paper and stick it above your desk: **WORK SMART**.

So how do you work smart? You make the most of every effective resource you have available. This means that you utilize every practice paper, every moment, every part of your mind and body, so you can get that GAMSAT score you dream of.

Use anything and everything which has been shown get you to where you want to go. The advice given in this book is ideal for that.

And those people who have not done this and as a result failed in the past need to read about...

How to Make Sure You Never Have To Do The GAMSAT Again

For those of you who have done the GAMSAT before and it didn't go as hoped, what will you do next time?

Try harder? Spend more time studying? Start studying earlier?

One of the definitions of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and hoping for a different result. This is what you are doing if you just try harder next time. Insanity is not one of the Medicine prerequisites, if it was I would have been in there a long time ago. (joke)

Take this for example - if a person is trying to get to the other side of a wall, it is no use trying to punch through it, or push through it harder next time. It is easier and more effective to try a new approach. Step back and see if there is a door or window to go through.

(Quick GAMSAT style question: What literary technique was used in the previous paragraph? A- Metaphor, B- a simile C- an analogy D- a quotation)

What you NEED to do next time to get a different result is to do something different. Have a different approach, different angle.

If you studied from the text book last time, get some practice questions and do them this time. If you didn't do much for section 1, read some novels this time. If you did questions last time, get better ones this time. If you went to one course, go to a different one. Study with someone different (hopefully someone better than you so you can learn from them), write more essays this time, or write them using a different [structure](#). Whatever you do, make sure it's different from last time.

Many people complicate things for themselves but there is...

A Really Simple Way To View This Test

The GAMSAT is about two things –

- 1 - Understand the stimulus and,
- 2 - Answer the questions accordingly.

That's it.

Get these two things right and you have passed sections 1 and 3. It sounds obvious but you will be surprised at how people can complicate it for themselves.

Let's focus on this for a sec, 'understand' means you know what is going on in the stimulus. The questions have to be based on the stimulus. So if you understand the stimulus you can answer the questions.

'Accordingly' means that the answers come out of, and according to, the stimulus. Not from pre-existing knowledge but **only** from the stimulus.

Putting this all together - you need to learn to take in what is happening, break it down to an understandable level and use this information to get the answers. Many people tend to complicate it for themselves by either expecting more or using prior knowledge to answer the questions. This is not what you are required to do.

A wonderful way to train your mind to do this correctly is through [logic problems](#). These are exercises of the mind which derive their answers only from the given clues. No prior knowledge is helpful or needed, only the ability to think.

You can buy a book of them [HERE](#) or I have a large number of them in our guide [Never Do The GAMSAT Again!](#)

I am not saying that just by doing logic problems you will pass gamsat – that would be silly. But by doing these challenges, you will train yourself to think in a way that is required on the gamsat. You will find your answers within the stimulus. It will align you to approach the questions correctly and in a simple way.

This is what I did the second time I was studying for the test and the results were phenomenal. After doing these logic problems, doing gamsat questions seemed more *straight forward* because I was not complicating them with outside knowledge but just sticking to the information at hand. So get yourself a book of them [now by clicking here](#).

Are Study Courses Worth Your Time and Money?

Yes. Do a study course. Plain and simple.

Unless you are one of those naturally gifted individuals, and there are those people, you will GREATLY benefit from a study course.

There are a few out there and for the first time gamsatee, go for any of them. They will teach you things you may have forgotten or not know. But remember that a course is not the be all and end all of your study – there is more to preparing for the gamsat than sitting through one course.

Unfortunately, it appears as though there aren't any live preparation courses to attend in the UK or Ireland. Please let me know if I've missed one. Never fear there are great home study packages offered by a number of companies.

Firstly, there is the Medprep online 'live' course. Now to make it absolutely clear, this is not a seminar or a lecture. It is a series of recordings which you can watch online. So it is not you're traditional 'live' course but an online one.

From my experiences and in my opinion, Medprep is best for people who have not studied science before and have no prior knowledge. They cover all the topics you may need to know. (This is not a knowledge based test but having practice and a footing in the material which will be used to test you is a benefit to anyone).

The presenters are fantastic, always very clear, easy to understand and make the learning experience fun and easy. The text book that comes with the live course is a great basic source of knowledge and is all you need as far as knowledge for the test goes.

I have attended both Medprep and Des O'Neill live courses and found that for the same price you get a lot more from Des. The 2.5 day science course has more content with better practice questions. While the second 2.5 day course has a very realistic practice GAMSAT, great realistic questions, tips and techniques on answering the section 1 and 3 MCQs. Des knows his stuff.

The only down side is that you will need some prior knowledge to keep up with the science course, otherwise it will all go over your head. You could always do some study of the course text book before the start of the course to get up to speed.

I have read Griffiths' GAMSAT review and the best thing in it was the practice paper. I have not reviewed the Guru Method but would be very keen to read it. I am keen to experience/ review all other courses.

Now the courses are expensive. At about GBP 300-500 for a home study package it may seem excessive. But ask yourself this, how much will it cost if you don't pass this year? You will finish medicine a year later, missing out on a year's salary, plus one year of your life. All because of the small investment which was not made now.

So bite the bullet, save, get a loan, whatever and do a course if you want the best chance of getting into med this time around.

Some of the online options may suit you better. Doing a course over the internet means you can be anywhere and start anytime. There is no waiting for postage and best of all – it's cheaper. The fact that the material does not need to be printed and mailed out means you get the same quality material but at a more reasonable price.

PassGAMSAT understands that as students you value every pound. So we have used an online frame work to bring you quality information fast and at a great price. If you are interested in science practice questions, you can download them from [HERE](#). If you want help with the essay section, click [HERE](#). And for a proven GAMSAT strategy that is guaranteed, click [HERE](#).

A Golden Nugget for English Second Language Students

For those not great at English and wanting to do the GAMSAT in a year or two, do an English literature, poetry or writing course now.

Section 1 is where you will struggle most and the skills you need for it are acquired over the long term. You can not cram for that section. This may not sound appealing right now, but believe me when I say that section 1 does not require any specific knowledge of English, but the *skill* of it. And skills are learnt over time.

You can start right now, today, by going out and buying or borrowing a classic English novel here. I know it sounds boring but it's what you have to do to get into medicine in Australia. Think of it as part of your journey to becoming a doctor.

Start with something relatively simple like 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scot Fitzgerald or '[1984](#)' by [George Orwell](#). Read it twice. First time go through it fast just to get a hang of the plot and the second time more slowly.

The second time read 'between the lines.' This means, try to find the deeper meaning in the plot, characters and imagery. Ask yourself, why is the author writing this? What message is he trying to send across? Do this ASAP, [NOW, TODAY](#). It will get the ball rolling on your English skills and give you a head start. Clicking [here right now](#) to begin your English language GAMSAT success journey.

I started reading 'The great Gatsby' 5 months before the GAMSAT and worked through 3 or 4 such books, each one a little more complicated than the last. Just go to the classic books sections in the store – or [online](#) if you want it to be *cheaper*. You need to find the section of the bookstore that's got the books you would probably never thought anyone would read, the ones with the boring covers – the classic literature section.

A MUST for beginners and those who want extra help with any book are Cliff's Notes. These are guide books which explain what the book is about. They analyse it and teach you how to understand the characters, themes, subjects and many other parts of these often complicated books. (Please see our recommended reading list at the end.)

I started learning English as a second language in grade 1. I was in ESL classes right up until year 10 at school. ESL classes are extra after school classes for people who

are frankly so bad at English that they need the extra attention. So if I can do it you can too. Go [here](#) and start learning the skill [now](#).

The Two Secrets That Will Turbo Charge Your Results!

Here are two simple but effective methods that will get you closer to the results you want:

1 - Do ***GAMSAT style*** practice questions, over and over and over again, as many as possible. Even do the same ones a few times but remember to focus on why you got the answer.

There is no point studying physics and chemistry and all the other science and literature topics unless you put that knowledge to use. You need to be able to think and reason in the sciences and humanities, not recall information. So do GAMSAT-style practice questions religiously!

2 – Anyone can do the GAMSAT questions, anyone, but not anyone can do them **within the time restrictions**. So the second tip is to practice doing the GAMSAT style questions ***within the time given***. That is 1.3 minutes per question in section 1 and 1.5 minutes per question for section 3 and 2 essays within the hour for section 2.

Do them briskly, carefully and intelligently. Follow these two tips and you will see results. The second time I did the gamsat I came across these secrets and applied them immediately. The results speak for themselves. And when you do these questions follow...

The Powerful *Three-peat* Process

How to use your valuable practice papers and questions as effectively as possible.

Doing practice papers and questions is the most powerful thing you can do to increase your GAMSAT score. Practicing the thinking techniques by doing GAMSAT style questions will put you in good step with the top students.

But there is a right way and a wrong way to do this.

The wrong way is to do the questions, mark them and go onto the next. Do I here you say “But that sounds like the way I always do it!”

Well, if you are going to pay for the questions, spend the time doing them and get the most out of them, you may as well do it properly. To get the best results, and it will make sense if you think about the learning process involved, is to do every paper and every question **THREE** times.

Yes, three times.

That sounds excessive and tedious. Yet the choice we have it to make the most of our study time or waste the next three of four months of study. Not to mention the money spent on the questions.

Here is the reasoning behind it. The first time you do a paper, do it under exam conditions. Get together with friends and do the whole paper in one hit. This will give you practice in timing, which is CRITICAL. It will put you under pressure to perform, which will be even greater on the day of the test. And it will teach you to sit there and think for the whole time.

That's the first go through. The second time is after you mark it you must go through the paper and do each question again. If you got it right, make sure you got it right for the right reasons. Be honest with yourself. Make sure you understand it all. And for the questions you got wrong, find out how you can get them right. **This sounds tedious and time consuming but it's the only way for us to learn from these questions.** It's no use doing them, marking and going on because you don't get anything out of doing the questions. It's more about knowing why you got something right rather than just getting it right.

Now the third time you do it is a week or two afterwards. This will be a lot quicker because you now understand what is going on. Do the paper again, timing it, to make sure you really understood the questions and see if you get them correct. You will remember some of the answers, but try to go through the working out and thinking processes you need to get the answer. This is a very revealing process because it shows you exactly whether you understood what was going on.

You will find that you still get some questions wrong and get stuck on others – now that shouldn't happen if you really understood what the question was about – which shows you have some study left. This is WORKING SMART.

Now if you ever see a similar question, you will know exactly what to do. And believe me, questions and topics are repeated on the GAMSAT *every year*. Follow this process for the humanities and science questions. It is THE BEST way to make the most of your study.

Are There Really Some Of The Same Questions In The GAMSAT From Year To Year?

Yes.

There are usually about 10 -15 questions *repeated* from the previous years GAMSAT. I was shocked when I saw it for myself but its true. They are the same questions with different numbers used. There are also a number of topics which come up regularly.

For example, Enthalpy and Gibbs Free energy, lenses, organic chemistry equations, forces in physics, positive and negative feedback mechanisms and enzymes in biology, to name a few will come up every-single-year. You will receive an email later which has a comprehensive list of science topics which come up in the GAMSAT.

To make sure you are covered for most topics, do all the questions and the papers which ACER offer at the time you register for the GAMSAT.

Every year since 2005, there have been questions in the papers which were almost carbon copies of the questions provided in the ACER booklets!! Also, buy Des O'Neill's questions or attend his course because it contains great questions.

If you want other practice questions head over to our science page – www.passgamsat.com/science. There you can download some wonderful practice questions with full answers. This should be your starting point and will give you an idea as to what you can expect in the GAMSAT.

There are also full length GAMSAT imitation papers at ozimed.com. You will have to have them mailed to you and they sell for about GBP12-15 each depending on how many you buy.

You can buy them individually or in a bundle at a discount. I bought 10 and completed 8 of them. In my opinion they are not the best questions. They are not similar enough to the present GAMSAT. Perhaps when they were written the GAMSAT was different because the Ozimed papers require a lot of assumed knowledge.

What they are **great** for is timing and getting an understanding of the ACER prerequisites. I would get 3-5 of the papers and follow our *Three-peat Process* to the letter for best results.

After doing these papers you will feel empowered because you would have done the GAMSAT over 3 times. Now that's more than many people can say. Along the way you would have practiced the QUE, improved your thinking endurance, worked on your exam technique and found out what you need to have and do to be at your best during the test. This will put you ***ahead of at least 50% of candidates***.

A Method Which Gives You Extra Time In The Exam

To get this extra time, in the reading time of sections 1 and 3, you will Q.U.E. your questions.

Q.U.E. stands for the Question Utilization Exercise.

This is where you establish an order in which you will answer the units based on how many questions they contain. First are the units with the most questions. This is to make the most the time spent reading and understanding the stimulus material.

Imagine a page of stimulus material which takes 3 minutes to read and understand. If it has 8 questions, you then knock off 8 questions for 3 minutes of reading. If instead there are only 2 questions, you only complete 2 questions for 3 minute reading.

It is a more efficient use of time to complete 8 questions as opposed to 2 after reading the stimulus material.

After 20 minutes of the exam you would have completed more questions, which means that you get through the paper faster and have more time! So do the units with the most amount of questions first using QUE

PART III – Doing The Exam

Once all the preparation is complete, the time has passed and the big day has arrived, what can you expect...?

To tell you the truth, the day of the exam can be quite stressful. Of course it is perfectly fine to be relaxed, calm and focused, that's our aim. All the preparation and anticipation has come down to this one day and its time to perform. So you need to be able to handle the pressure, particularly for section one. After that people usually settle down and can think a lot better.

This is important because many people have experienced a situation in section one where the excitement of the day gets so much that they can't think straight. The pressure is too great and their skills falter.

There are techniques and methods to avoid this.

Firstly, there's just your natural cool calm and collected composure, for those of you who have it. For the rest of us there is a whole menu of techniques including meditation, prayer, medication, just letting go of all concern about the outcome, and, my favorite, breathing techniques, affirmations and specific exam preparation. Details on this can be found in our manual [Never Do The GAMSAT Again!](#)

Remember that to get to this stage in your education you have all sat through hundreds of exams and past most if not all of them, so YOU CAN do it.

The day before the exam go to the venue if you have never been there. Just to check it out. Familiarise yourself with it. This also gives you practice on how to get there, how long it takes and where it actually is, as well as the best parking spots or public transport options. See, feel, hear, and smell how it is there so you feel comfortable the next day. Sit down, have a sandwich, read a book and just take it all in.

When you get home remember to go through your...

Essential GAMSAT Day Checklist.

Print this page- Go through it the night before and check it off on the morning of the exam.

This is the stuff you **MUST** have:

1. Identification
2. Attendance Ticket
3. A calculator with **fresh** batteries
4. A watch – the ones provided may be hard to see or too far away.
5. Layers of clothes - be prepared for hot/ no air con temperatures as well as cold ones. So have cool clothes underneath and a warmer layer if it gets cold. The attending staff is notorious for being unhelpful with the temperature situation in the exam hall.
6. Pain killers - incase you get a head ache from the tension or whatever.
7. 3 of your own B pencils – because there is no borrowing and you don't want to waste time asking the attendants for spares.
8. 2 pens
9. An eraser
10. Sharpener
11. Short ruler – for measuring distances etc in section 3
12. Lunch and lots of it - it's a long day and you will get hungry, plus there may not be anything to buy in the area and if there is it may be junk. A high salt meal like a kebab will put your blood pressure through the roof during the science section making you feel stressed, anxious and its hard to think – believe me I've been there and learnt the hard way!!
13. A piece of string for estimating distances on graphs
14. Money for parking, train etc
15. A newspaper to get your mind thinking beforehand.
16. Water bottle – because it's a long exam, you will get thirsty and you want to have a supply with you so that you don't waste time getting up to go to the water cooler.
17. Lollies/Sweets - for brain energy half way through section 3. Its long and your brain needs sugar to work. Make sure they have wrappers which open quietly and don't crinkle and crackle as you unwrap them.
18. Ear-plugs – it can get noisy in some venues with the hundreds of candidates flipping pages, as well as possible outside noise or large fans used on hot days
19. Plus anything else you may require to get you through.

Note: If you forget the essential three – pencil, eraser or water, they have those there in limited supply.

What Happens On GAMSAT Day? Tips On How To Make The Most Of It?

You will be required to get there at 8.15am. Aim to be there by the latest at 7.45am to be safe.

You will need to register. This begins from about 7.45-8am. This requires your admission ticket, and a form of id (driver's license or passport). You will line up in a long line, present your ticket and id, get your name checked off and receive a seat number. These are random and you will not be able to choose who you are next to or where you sit.

Once you have registered you have to go into the exam hall and can not leave. Don't worry, you can still chat to friends inside, there are toilets there too.

Once inside, you will need to place your bag in the bag area and take to your desk only what you need for the exam.

The exam will probably start at 9am. This depends on how things go in your particular exam hall and how quickly people get in.

If you have a phone with you it will need to be switched off and placed under your seat.

What Will Happen While Doing The Actual GAMSAT?

First section will not require a calculator so you will be told to take it off your desk. On your desk you should have your two pencils, eraser, and sharper, lollies, time piece, ID and admission ticket. Have your pencil case under your table in case you need anything else – have your aspirin, medication, whatever, in there.

Section two will start shortly after the end of section 1. You may or may not get a break in between. By that I mean that you may be required to stay in your seat for the whole time they collect the section one stuff and put out the section two papers.

In 2007-09 at Sydney test center, we could not go anywhere in this time, even to the toilet. You had to go to the toilet during the writing time of section 2. Why do they do that? They need to control the room when the papers are being collected and handed out so they can't have people moving round. So go to the toilet before section 1 or during the reading time of section 2.

During the 2010 Australian exam, we were allowed to stand up and stretch as the written exam was being handed out. We still could not go to the bathroom. It is most likely that this will be the same for the GAMSAT UK 2010.

Note: It would be safe to assume that all the test centers have this same schedule in order to give everyone the same conditions.

Lunch time goes for an hour and you have to be seated and ready to go by the end of the hour. So effectively you have about 45 minutes between the time it takes for everyone to leave and get back into the hall.

Eat a healthy lunch, one that is low in sugar, salt and GI so there is a steady release of energy for example, brown rice or wholemeal bread sandwich. Don't drink too much. Actually don't take big gulps of liquid any time during the day because it will go straight through you and you will be wasting time in the exam going to the toilet.

Now for the monster part. By monster I mean the cookie monster, if you're prepared - **Section three** can be an enjoyable challenge or a gauntlet depending on your attitude.

You get 10 minutes reading time, then 170 minutes to write. All together that's 3 hours of thinking. That sounds painful.

Have your calculator, two pencils, ruler, string, eraser, sharpener, water and especially sweets ready. The brain needs glucose and air to work. So when you feel yourself starting to slow and your brain is not picking things up as well, this might be after about 1-1.5 hours in, then have a couple of sweets, a drink and take a few deep breaths. This will take 30 seconds so you won't miss much time but the beneficial effects will be HUGE.

Tips For Maximizing Each Sections Results On The Day

For section one – **in reading time**, there are a number of things you can do to make the most of the ten minutes.

Some people like to do the pictures and units with which they feel most comfortable. This makes sense because the pictures are usually 1 or 2 questions which you can get out of the way quickly and the units which you feel good about are easy marks for you.

What I prefer to do is first find the relatively 'simple' social science questions to do with newspaper articles, graphs and data. These are easy marks which you need to make sure you get.

Then Q.U.E. the next 5 or so units. Start doing the first unit in your QUE in the reading time and continue to do as many as possible. Remember your answers so that once the reading time is over, you can write them in. Some people 'wear out their nails' during the reading time 'remembering on the paper' which answer they chose, if you know what I mean. Once the reading time is finished, you would have already done 7 or more questions.

There is no better feeling during such a timed exam than looking at your answer sheet 15 minutes into the exam and already having down a quarter of the paper using this technique. You realize that, yes I can do this!

To save valuable time, **circle your answer** on the *question* sheet. Write the answer onto the answer sheet only once you finish the unit. This will reduce the time you use to find the question numbers on the answer sheet fill them in and get back to the questions. Instead of doing that 4 or 5 times per unit, do it once at the end of each unit.

How Guessing Can Give You The Right Answer.

If you have to guess between four options, chose c. The writers of MCQs love to make the answer c. You have a 33% chance on average of getting the right answer if you chose c compared to either a, b, or d.

Also what you can do is cancel out the answer which is the most unusual or different from the others. Now you have a 1 in three chance. Next cancel the one that uses the same words as in the stimulus (this is for the humanities questions). This is a trick used to pick out the people who skimmed over the stimulus and did not understand it. Then you have a 50% chance. Now guess out of the remaining two.

Your Next Step

There you have it ladies and gentlemen, or should I say future doctors and dentists.

You have now discovered that the GAMSAT is not a knowledge based test, that humanities and science students have an equal chance of getting in and that some of you can pass without studying.

You know that because it is standardized it is conquerable, that English Second Language candidates need not be disadvantaged, and that developing a preparation strategy is your secret weapon.

You have two amazing techniques that will turbo charge your results, you know to study smart not hard, you know that doing a study course will be the best investment you can make this year.

Yet, the key to success here is NOT study, but practice and preparation. The key is the building of thinking skills and exam skills. As well as making the most of every resource that will get you to your goal GAMSAT score.

And most importantly of all, you now know what will happen on the day, the mystery has been taken out of it and you know what to expect. Thus you can plan for every foreseeable and some unexpected events so that you do the best job possible!!

You need to do the best you can because this is an important test where you will be discriminated against based on your ability to think in the exam. ACER puts thousand of dollars into it with the aim of discriminating the best from the rest according to your ability to think in the given fields and, for sections 1 and 2, to use the English language to explain it. That's how it is; you just have to accept it.

What you do about that is up to you. By reading this eBook you now have an advantage because you know what is going on and what needs to be done. I have laid the ground work for you to take the next step and move forward into your medical or dental career.

What is YOUR next step?

Well that is up to you. You have to make it up. You need to figure that out.

Unless you would like the guidance of someone who has been there before. Someone who has combined the experience of many people to put together a **step by step** program to guide you, **by the hand**, so that you are as ready as possible for the GAMSAT.

This plan would incorporate everything in this eBook into a practical process and part of a coherent plan. It would use all the resources that have been found to be helpful in giving candidates the results they want. It would use your entire mind, conscious and sub-conscious, as well as your body to pull you towards your goal GAMSAT result and beyond.

Most importantly, this prepared plan will **take out all the guess work**. No more wondering "Am I doing enough preparation? Am I doing the right thing? Have I focused on the right areas?"

We cover all the bases!

If you are ready for such a plan then discover more about it by [clicking here](#).

Take the NEXT STEP and move forward toward your ideal GAMST result! This is your opportunity to have the guidance of someone who has been there before and SUCCEDED! Find out more by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Good Luck and Work Smart,

Tomasz Forfa

P.S. For many people, getting into Medicine can be a 2-3 year task. It doesn't have to be for YOU. Cut out all the guess work and shorten that time by checking out my [Never Do The GAMSAT Again!](#)

Recommended Reading List

To prepare for sections 1 and 2, it is to your strong advantage to have strong skills in Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Drama. All the below have been used in the GAMSAT before and are a great place to start reading:

- Fitzgerald, F. Scott, [The Great Gatsby](#) (Fiction)
 - For help see it's [Cliff's Notes](#)
- George Orwell [1984](#) (Fiction)
 - For help see it's [York Notes](#)
- Heller, Joseph [Catch-22](#) (Fiction)
 - For help see it's [Cliff's Notes](#)
- Baldwin, James [Notes of a Native Son](#) (Non-fiction)
- Johnson, Samuel [The Major Works](#) (Non-fiction)
- Tuchman, Barbara [The Guns of August](#) (Non-fiction)
- Eliot, T.S. [Selected Poems](#) (Poetry)
 - For help see the [Brodie's Notes](#)
- Frost, Robert [The Poetry Of Robert Frost](#) (Poetry)
-
- Yeats, William Butler [The Collected Poems Of W.B. Yeats](#) (Poetry)
-
- Shakespeare, William [Macbeth](#) (Drama)
 - For help see the [York Notes](#)
- Shakespeare, William [Romeo and Juliet](#) (Drama)
 - For help see the [Cliff's Notes](#)
- Miller, Arthur [Death of a Salesman](#) (Drama)
 - For help see the [Cliff's Notes](#)
- [Harder Logic Problems](#)
- [More Logic Problems](#)

ACER's Assumed Knowledge for the GAMSAT:

1st Yr University Organic Chemistry [Organic Chemistry](#)
1st Yr University Biology [Biology, 6th Edition](#)
1st Yr University Chemistry [Chemistry](#)
A Level Physics [Basic Physics](#)