



# Critical Thinking - Section 1

## BMAT Course Book



**Critical Reasoning Tips**



**Mock Questions**



**Step-by-Step Guides**



**Detailed Explanations**

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# Introduction to BMAT Section 1

## Lesson 1



To gain a brief understanding of the different question types and the timing for this intense section.

### What is BMAT Section 1?



**BMAT Section 1** is the longest section in the test, being 1 hour. Many students find Section 1 to be the most difficult section, and most similar to the UKCAT in terms of its nature as being more aptitude based rather than content based (like Section 2).

### What are the different skills tested?

#### 1. Understanding Argument

You will get **10** questions on Understanding Argument.

These questions require the following skills:

- Being able to draw conclusions
- Spotting deficiencies in arguments

- Understand the logic behind an argument
- Be able to identify the use of assumptions in conclusions

### 2. Problem Solving

You will get **13** questions on Problem Solving.

These questions require the following skills:

- Applying relevant algebraic operations.
- Applying relevant numerical operations.
- Being able to deduce what information is relevant.
- Being able to understand when information is related to each other.

### 3. Data Analysis and Inference

You will get **12** questions on Data Analysis and Inference.

These questions require the following skills:

- Data interpretation
- Being able to reach appropriate conclusions from graphical, statistical and verbal information
- Determining the correct skills required to interpret information
- Using scientific inference skills to reach correct and appropriate conclusions

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### How are the questions structured?

There are two main structure types of questions:

### Type 1: Single Answer Questions

Here you will be given one of four options and you will have to pick one of the four answers.

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option B

### Type 2: Multiple Answer Questions

Here you will be given three statements, and you will have to identify whether one of them, two of them, three of them or none of them correspond to the correct answer.

- 1. Statement 1
  - 2. Statement 2
  - 3. Statement 3
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- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 only
  - E. 2, 3 only
  - F. 1, 3 only
  - G. 1, 2, 3
  - H. None



### What does a typical argument consist of?

BMAT Section 1 questions often require you to assess arguments. A typical argument consists of three elements:



We will explore arguments in more detail in future tutorials.

# Understanding Argument I: Introduction

## Lesson 2



To gain an understanding of how to break down arguments, and identify conclusion, assumptions and flaws.

### Understanding Argument Questions

In Understanding Argument questions you will be given a short paragraph of information and you will have to judge a variety of things with respect to the validity of an argument.

There are various types of Understanding Argument question, which we will explore below.

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#### 1. Recognising Conclusions

**“What is the main conclusion of this passage?”**

In **Recognising Conclusion** questions, you need to choose which statement (A-D) correctly matches the main argument of the passage.

Often you will be asked to draw your own conclusion from the information presented. To answer these questions you should consider whether the passage presented gives you a valid argument to accept one of the correct answers.

Establish the main aim of the argument, the message being conveyed, and the manner in which the aim is being established.

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#### 2. Recognising Flaws

**“What is the flaw in the above argument?”**

In **Recognising Flaw** questions, you need to spot the weakness in an argument, and assess why the conclusion in the argument does not follow from the information that is presented.



As with Recognising Conclusion questions, establish the main aim of the argument, the message being conveyed, and the manner in which the aim is being established.

Ask yourself - is there anything missing in the trail of logic used in the passage?

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### 3. Recognising Assumptions

**“What is the assumption made in the above argument?”**

In **Recognising Assumption** questions, you have to spot the assumption made by the passage. These questions are very similar to the Decision Making section of the UKCAT.

An *assumption* is an aspect of an argument that is not explicitly stated in the passage but is accepted as being true, despite a lack of evidence.

A good way to approach these questions is to identify the conclusion of the argument, and then identify the gap between the evidence and conclusion - the assumption. Scan through the statement options (A-D), and identify which one bridges the gap between the evidence and conclusion to complete the argument.

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### 4. Recognising the Effect of Evidence

**“Which of the following statements would, if true, strengthen the argument?”**

In **Recognising the Effect of Evidence** questions, you have to judge whether certain statements presented will weakens or strengthens an argument that is being made.

You need to identify the aim of the passage and measure how well a piece of evidence adds to or takes away from the main conclusion.