

Sen's Checklist for Medical School Interview Preparation

This guide is most useful for those students in the final stages of their medical school application aka interview preparation. Interviews are the final hurdle of the application you need to complete, before medical schools sit down and choose who will be given offers.

In order to prepare well for a medical interview, it is important to know about, understand and reflect upon a variety of topics. Of course, this isn't mandatory, and it isn't expected for you to be an expert in all of these areas, but a well-researched student who has actively engaged in their work experience will show good knowledge in these areas.

Remember, securing a place at your chosen medical school isn't achieved by doing the bare minimum. It is by going above and beyond competing students, to show medical schools that you deserve a place.

1. Science

- A-level/IB syllabus science
- Science mentioned in your personal statement & SAQ
- Science underlying topical issues
- Science from books you've read

2. Ethics

- Ethical pillars of medicine
- Decision making
- Resource allocation
- Landmark ethical case studies

3. Topical Issues (relevant to 2020)

- COVID
- Antibiotic Resistance
- Vaccine Development & Clinical Trials
- NHS Waiting Lists

4. NHS

- Origin
- Structure
- Purpose and Aims
- Patient Journey
- Funding

5. Profession of Medicine

- Professional Responsibilities of a doctor
- Skills and Qualities of good doctors
- Multi-Disciplinary Care
- Professional Development in Medicine (training pathways)
- End-of-life Care

6. Medical Statistics/Public Health

- Notifiable diseases
- Social and economic context of healthcare and illness
- Pandemic management
- Epidemiological statistics
- Improving medical awareness within society

In terms of outside reading, many of you may wonder what preparation you may need to do. Below are a few fantastic resources, grouped into books and videos that I suggest you take a look at. These are to help supplement your interview preparation, to help you further develop thoughts and reflections on what practising medicine really involves.

Books

A Short Guide to Medical Ethics, Tony Hope – a short intro to medical ethics, on which you can build

Better, Atul Gawande – A book about striving for better medical care

How We Die, Sherwin Nuland – A book exploring end-of-life decisions

Videos

Healthcare Triage (YouTube Channel) – Learn about various healthcare systems around the world

24 Hours in A&E (Documentary series) – Understand the roles, rewards and challenges of emergency medicine

To conclude, here's a nice phrase I tell mentees that'll practically guarantee your success at interview:

“if you're better than the person before you and after you, you'll get a place”