

BMAT ESSAY

2016, Q2



TIMING ⌚ 30m

SCIENCE AND CULTURE

Science is not a follower of fashion nor of other social or cultural trends. Explain what you think the statement means. Argue to the contrary. To what extent do you agree with the statement?



ESSAY PLAN

BMAT ESSAY SCIENCE AND CULTURE

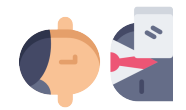
2016



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EXPLAIN WHAT IS MEANT BY THE STATEMENT

- Science is not influenced by popular culture and has its own independent principles - not subject to vested interests or an external force and is based solely on truth.
- It is a code that is followed universally and is not akin to a specific region - a common ground that connects individuals from all around the globe.
- Science is defined as the systematic study of behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment.
- Trends refer to temporary societal interests and perceptions.



ESSAY PLAN

BMAT ESSAY
**SCIENCE AND
CULTURE**

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ARGUE TO THE CONTRARY

- Science is funded by money from individuals / corporations who have a vested interest e.g. tobacco companies and oil industry. Scientists feel pressure to produce results to meet a company image so they can remain employed
- Science is influenced by trends e.g. heavy interest in nuclear energy during WW2 led to investment in nuclear power plants, artificial intelligence in 2010s due to the popularity of screen use by the population, Space Race to reach the moon first
- Scientific charities e.g. cancer research rely on socially trending activities such as fun-runs, climbing mountains and swimming to raise funds



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TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE?

- International conferences - experts from different cultures gather to discuss scientific research
- Science transcends public opinion e.g. “The earth is flat” - Galileo proved the entire population who believed this through scientific research
- If anything social / culture trends are influenced by science e.g. drop in smoking due to research
- Science has followed the same formula for hundreds of years and has not changed despite development of technology and cultural differences
- Research is often peer-reviewed by more than one person which reduces chances of it from being externally influenced

