**Class 1 – Introduction**

The GAMSAT is a **Psychometric test.**

**Psychometric tests** are a standard and scientific method used to measure individuals' mental capabilities and behavioural style.

**Psychometric tests** are designed to measure candidates' suitability for a role based on the required personality characteristics and aptitude (or cognitive abilities) – e.g. the role of a health professional.

Examples of specific characteristics that the GAMSAT is testing include:

* Ability to handle time pressures
* Ability to think analytically and critically in a problem-solving scenario
* Ability to express logical yet complex ideas in a coherent fashion

**Overview of Section 1 – Reasoning in Humanities and Social Sciences**

75 questions in 100 minutes (+ 10 minutes reading time)

**1.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of texts:** | Features: |
| Technical texts | * Featured mostly in the exam
* Long passages with complex ideas and technical terms
* Based upon ideas of medicine, history, philosophy, ethics, politics…
 |
| Literary Prose | * Long passages from classic and modern literature
 |
| Poetry | * Either short individual poems or multiple poems arranged for comparison
 |
| Proverbs and quotes | * Questions asked about a specific proverb or quote
 |
| Comparative comments | * Questions asked about comparison between multiple comments
 |
| Cartoons | * Usually 2 – 3 cartoons (About 5 questions in total)
* ACER like to take cartoons from the New Yorker
 |
| Plays and dialogues | * Passages taken from classic or modern plays
 |
| Diagrams | * Diagrams based on problem solving concepts
 |

**2. Questions emphasize the following skills (explain in ACER GAMSAT booklet 2020):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Understanding** | **Plausible reasoning** | **Critical thinking** |
| Recognition of explicit and implicit meanings through close reading of words and phrases and global interpretations of text.  | Interrelating, elaborating and extending concepts and ideas, and drawing conclusions. | Make discriminations and judgments in the realm of plausible reasoning.  |

**3. Keep a Vocabulary logbook**

Benefits:

* Improved comprehension and thus speed of reading, retention and interpretation
* Improved essay expression for Section 2
* Applicable to real world life

Example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vicissitudes**  | An unwelcome change of circumstances.  |
| **Desiderata**  | something that is needed or wanted. |
| **Diffidence**  | modesty or shyness resulting from a lack of self-confidence. |

**4. Start reading as much as you can!**

Try to read at least 15 – 30 minutes a day every day in the lead up to the March exam.

Recommended reading:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Text name and Author** | Info: |
| Consolations of Philosophy by Alain de Botton | Good introduction to the world of philosophy. Written with real world relatability so it is not dry. |
| The Meaning of Things – A.C Grayling | Anthology of short essays on a range of personal, social and political topics. |
| When Breath becomes Air – Paul Kalanithi | Memoir from a neurosurgical resident who was diagnosed with cancer during his medical training.  |
| Medical texts and classic literature |  |

• I shall post and regularly update a reading list for my E-learning platform.

Benefits of reading:

* Improved speed reading
* Building of ideas foundation for Section 2
* Improved skill of comprehension and critical interpretation
* Build reading stamina

**5. Error-logbook**

It is good to use an error logbook during the early stages of preparation to pick up on mistake trends. After you pick up on your common mistakes you can stop using an error logbook.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question Number** | **Question Type** | **Your Answer** | **Correct Answer** | **Your evidence** | **Correct evidence** | **How to avoid this mistake in the future** |
| ACER Practice Test 2 – Q34  | Technical Text - Philosophy | A | C | Made an assumption about the contention | Read line 12 - 14 | Don’t make assumptions |

**6. Annotation Strategy**

To battle against the time restrictions of the exam, annotation strategies for each specific text type can help to effectively answer the questions. I will outline my own personal strategies for each text type during our lessons.