

Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Section

What this Section Tests

The Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section tests how well applicants comprehend, analyze, and evaluate what they read, draw inferences from text, and apply arguments to new ideas and situations. It asks applicants to process information, draw conclusions, and solve problems from information that is presented in passages. This section aligns most closely with the Verbal Reasoning section of the old MCAT exam.

This section tests applicants' ability to process information by reading passages from a diverse set of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. However, the questions on the Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills test do not rely on specific background knowledge in the humanities and social sciences. Applicants get all the information they need to answer the questions in the accompanying passages or in the questions themselves.

The new exam gives increased attention to passages about population health, studies of diverse cultures, ethics, and philosophy to encourage applicants to read broadly and familiarize themselves with the issues and arguments these disciplines raise.

Examples of the ways examinees are asked to demonstrate their information-processing skills to answer test questions:

- Comprehend, analyze, and evaluate what they read
- Draw inferences from text
- Apply arguments and ideas to new situations