



Department of Psychology

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Dear Interviewee,

At the University College we are interested in the sorts of people who apply to medical school, their interest in medicine and reasons for studying it, and the subsequent career they intend to pursue. The Psychology Department of University College is therefore carrying out a survey, with the approval and assistance of the Medical School, in order to find out the relationship between these factors and career choice so that clinical students can be helped with their career decisions. It would greatly help us if you could take part in this research survey by completing the enclosed questionnaire.

We are sending the survey questionnaire to all candidates invited for interview at the University College and Middlesex School of Medicine for entry in October 1992. We have already surveyed the candidates who applied for entry in 1990 and 1991 and have had a very good response. We hope you will co-operate and assist us by completing your questionnaire and returning it to us, as it will give us much valuable information and make an important contribution to our study.

We stress that the questionnaire is entirely for research purposes. None of its contents will be used in any way for student selection; nor will the contents ever be seen by those members of the medical school involved in student selection or teaching. The survey is being administered, organised and analysed entirely by the Psychology Department. We ourselves are not involved in the selection process or medical teaching programme.

All information in the questionnaire will be entirely confidential; published results will be in an anonymous aggregate form, in which individuals cannot be identified. Neither will the contents be disclosed at any time to members of the medical school or college, except in overall statistical form. Additional security and confidentiality of data is ensured by registration under the Data Protection Act of 1984. The questionnaire is not anonymous because we intend to carry out a follow up study in the future, which means we will need to identify individuals. Therefore we wish to reassure you by emphasising our commitment to treat all information in the strictest confidence and to use it for educational research only.

Completion of the questionnaire is not compulsory; whether you complete it or not is up to you – either way it will not affect your application as it is quite separate from it. If you choose not to do so, we would be grateful if you could notify us and return the questionnaire so that we know it reached you. However because this survey is part of an important study which will give us valuable information about how medical students decide what speciality they wish to pursue, we would be most grateful if you could take the trouble to complete and return the questionnaire, as soon as possible, in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope. If you do not wish to answer some of the questions, then just leave them blank and answer the rest of the questionnaire. We realise the questionnaire is long, but hope you will bear with us and complete it. We estimate it will take about one hour. You may feel that some of the questions are strange and seem to be of little use. Nevertheless, we do have good reasons for believing that they are useful, and would ask you to try and complete them all.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Dr A F Furnham
Reader
in Psychology

Dr I C McManus
Senior Lecturer
in Psychology

Ms T Pincus
Research Associate
in Psychology

University College and Middlesex School of Medicine (UCMSM)

Research questionnaire for interviews, 1991-1992

1. What is today's date? _____/_____/19____
2. What is your date of birth? _____/_____/19____
3. What is your full name? (block capitals please). _____
4. What is your sex? (please ring appropriate answer)
Male / Female
5. What is your marital Status? (tick the appropriate category):
 1. *Single (not engaged to be married within the next twelve months)*
 2. *Single (engaged and contemplating marriage within the next twelve months)*
 3. *Married without children*
 4. *Married with children (if so, how many)*
 5. *Divorced*
 6. *Widowed*
6. What is your country of citizenship (nationality) _____
7. In which country were you born? _____
8. If you normally live in the U.K in which county or borough is your permanent home?

9. When did you leave school or when do you intend to leave school?
Month _____ *Year 19* _____
10. In which of the following types of school have you received your secondary education? Please tick the appropriate one. If you have been in more than one type, please indicate the number of years in each.
 1. *Comprehensive*
 2. *State Grammar school*
 3. *Private grammar school*
 4. *Public school*
 5. *Private school*
 6. *Secondary modern school*
 7. *Sixth form college*
11. During your secondary education, did you spend one or more years as a boarder?
No / Yes
12. When do you intend to enter university?
October 19 _____
13. Are you already obtaining or are about to obtain a university degree in any subject?
No / Yes
If Yes, what division honours did you obtain?
I / II.i / II.ii / III / Pass / Not yet taken
14. Do you already have a professional qualification, other than a university degree?
No / Yes
If Yes, what qualification? _____

15. How many times have you applied to UCCA previously?
1. Primarily for medicine: _____
 2. Primarily for any other subject: _____
16. What is or was your father's occupation? (Describe what he does or did as fully as you can).
17. The following are the Registrar-General's occupational groups. Please classify your father's occupation as precisely as you can into one of these groups (ticking the appropriate category).
1. Socio-economic group I: Professional, etc. Occupations, eg. University teachers, higher executives, company directors, lawyers, etc.
 2. Socio-economic group II: Intermediate occupations eg. teachers, journalists, authors, civil service administrative officers, pilots, managers, technicians, musicians, etc.
 3. Socio-economic group III: Skilled occupations eg. accounting and costing clerks, craftsmen, foremen, shopkeepers, mine-workers, and other skilled workmen, etc.
 4. Socio-economic group IV: Semi-skilled occupations eg. postmen and telephone operators, agricultural workers, etc.
 5. Socio-economic group V: Unskilled occupations eg. building and dock labourers, etc.
 6. Armed Forces (if so, please state rank).
 7. Cannot classify
18. At present does your mother work:
1. In full time employment.
 2. In part time employment.
 3. As a full time house wife.
19. If your mother is in employment, what is her occupation? (Please describe what she does or did as fully as you can).
20. Which of the Registrar-General's occupational groups described above best describes your mother's occupation?
21. Does your father have any University degrees? *No / Yes*
If Yes, what degrees and subjects? _____
22. Does your mother have any University degrees? *No / Yes*
If Yes, what degrees and subjects? _____
23. If either of your parents is medically qualified, which medical schools did they go to?
Father _____ *Mother* _____
24. How old were you when you FIRST had the idea that you wanted to be a doctor?
_____ Years
25. How old were you when you DEFINITELY decided that you would like to be a doctor?
_____ Years

Ethnic origin: It is important that we are able to monitor the ethnic origin of applicants to medical schools, so that we can assess claims that equal opportunities might not apply to all applicants. We realize that such questions may be construed as controversial. Nevertheless, please try and answer the questions as far as is possible, bearing in mind the reasons for the study, and that strict confidentiality will be maintained.

Please note: In assessing ethnic group, we are NOT asking about nationality (which was mentioned earlier), but rather we are interested in whether your physical appearance is similar to that of the majority of persons from particular parts of the world.

26. If you were forced to classify yourself into one of the following ethnic groups, based primarily on your physical appearance, which would it be:-
White, European *Arab, Middle Eastern* *Asian (ie. Indian sub-continent)*
African *Caribbean* *Far Eastern (ie. China/Japan/East Indies, etc.)*
Other (please specify) _____
27. If you have answered Asian to the above question, which of the following categories best describes you?
Bangladeshi *East African* *Indian* *Pakistani* *Sri Lankan*
28. If your parents are not both in the same ethnic group as yourself, in which of the above groups would you place them?
Father _____ *Mother* _____
29. Were your parents born in the United Kingdom?
Neither / Father only / Mother only / Both
30. How many of your grand-parents were born in the United Kingdom?
None/ One/ Two/ Three/ Four
31. Is English your mother tongue?
No / Yes
If No, at what age did you first start to speak English? _____ years
32. If you felt unable to answer any of the above questions, please try and give brief reasons for or comments about your difficulty.
33. Are you in favour of attempting to monitor the ethnic composition of medical school applicants for the purpose of assessing equality of opportunity?
Definitely no / Probably no / Probably yes / Definitely yes
34. How would you describe your religious beliefs?
Christian / Jewish / Agnostic / Atheist / Hindu / Sikh / Moslem / Buddhist /
Other (please specify) _____
35. If you are a Christian, would you describe yourself as:
Anglican / Baptist / Catholic / Methodist / Presbyterian /
Other (please specify) _____
36. How often do you attend church (or other place of worship)?
Never / On festive occasions only / Between three and ten times per year
About once a month/ Every week/ More than once a week

37. How often do you say prayers?

*Never / Rarely / Occasionally / At least once a week
Most days / More than once a day*

38. How often do you read the Bible (or other Holy Book)?

*Never / Rarely / Occasionally / At least once a week
Most days / More than once a day*

39. How important is religion to you in your everyday life?

Not at all / A little / Somewhat / Very important

40. Overall how would you describe the nature of your early upbringing?

1. Religion was completely unimportant
2. Religion was fairly unimportant
3. Religion was fairly important
4. Religion was very important

41. How much did the following people or things encourage or discourage you in applying to study medicine?

	<i>Strongly discouraged</i>	<i>Moderately discouraged</i>	<i>No influence</i>	<i>Moderately encouraged</i>	<i>Strongly encouraged</i>
Your parents					
Your school teachers					
Reading books					
Watching television, films or listening to the radio					
Reading newspapers					
Your own general practitioner					
School friends or close colleagues					
People already studying at medical school					

42. Have you decided the nature of an eventual career in medicine? (tick the appropriate category)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, I have inclinations towards a certain field
3. No, but I have firmly decided against some kinds of work
4. No, I am quite undecided

43. Whether or not you have firmly made up your mind about a career, please indicate your degree of preference for a career among the following broad types of medical work

	<i>Uninterested</i>	<i>Not very interested</i>	<i>Fairly interested</i>	<i>Very interested</i>
Basic medical sciences or original research				
Hospital or specialist work with continuing responsibility for patients				
Clinical practice outside hospital eg. general practice				
Hospital or specialist work without continuing clinical responsibility e.g. radiology, anaesthetics				
Hospital or specialist work of a laboratory nature e.g. pathology, microbiology, biochemistry				
Non-clinical work eg. public health, medical administration				
Clinical practice outside hospital without continuing clinical responsibility e.g. community health				

44. Below is a detailed list of specialities in which a medical career can be pursued. Please indicate your attitude towards the specialities as a possible career. If you either know nothing about a speciality, or have no opinions about it at all, simply leave that answer blank.

	<i>Definite intention not to go into this</i>	<i>Not very attractive</i>	<i>Very attractive</i>	<i>Definite intention to go into this</i>
Anaesthetics				
Pathology				
Surgery				
Medicine in hospital (including cardiology, neurology, etc.)				
Geriatric medicine				
Obstetrics/ Gynaecology				
Paediatrics				
Psychiatry				
General practice				
Medical research				
Public health, community medicine				

45. If you were forced to choose just ONE of the above categories as your future career, which would it be? _____

46. Apart from medicine, what other career have you seriously considered pursuing?

47. We have found that medical students can be described in terms of simple life style types. Below are a list of six types of students. Please rank order them for yourself (1= most like me; 6= least like me).

	<i>Rank</i>
A: <u>Studious</u> : Hard-working, serious-minded, academic	
B: <u>Sporty</u> : Athletic, team-sports person, outgoing	
C: <u>Scientific</u> : Technically interested, interested in research, computer programmer, naturalist	
D: <u>Cultured</u> : Consumer of the arts - music, painting, literature, theatre, cinema	:
E: <u>Party-goer</u> : Good mixer, friendly, goes out a lot, joins social groups	
F: <u>Political</u> : Politically active/ aware, interested, committed	

48. Below are shown pairs of statements. For each pair, please indicate by ringing the 'A' or 'B' which of the two better describes you.

1. A. I can't wait to get into the indoors on a cold day.
B. I am invigorated by a brisk, cold day.
2. A. I would like to hitchhike across the continent.
B. Hitchhiking is too dangerous a way to travel.
3. A. I would like to go water-skiing.
B. I would not like to go water-skiing.
4. A. I can't stand watching a movie that I've seen before.
B. There are some movies that I enjoy watching a second or even a third time.
5. A. I would not like to learn to fly an airplane.
B. I would like to learn to fly an airplane.
6. A. A person should have some sexual experience before marriage.
B. It's better if two married persons begin their sexual experience with each other.
7. A. There is altogether too much portrayal of sex in movies.
B. I enjoy watching many of the "sexy" scenes in movies.
8. A. People who ride motorcycles must have some kind of an unconscious need to hurt themselves.
B. I would like to drive or ride a motorcycle.
9. A. I would like to go scuba diving.
B. I prefer the surface of the water to the depths.
10. A. I enjoy spending time in the familiar surroundings of home.
B. I get very restless if I have to stay around home for any length of time.

49. Please indicate how far each of the following statements applies to the way in which you approach studying:

I need to be working on a topic until I feel I really understand it

While I am studying, I often think of real life situations to which the material that I am learning would be useful

I chose my present courses largely with a view to the job situation when I graduate rather than their intrinsic interest to me

I find that at times studying gives me a feeling of deep personal satisfaction

I want top grades in most or all of my courses so that I will be able to select from among the best positions available when I graduate

I think browsing around is a waste of time, so I only study seriously what's given out in class or in course outlines

I try to work consistently throughout the term and review regularly when the exams are close

I would see myself basically as an ambitious person and want to get to the top, whatever I do

I find that I have to do enough work on a topic so that I form my own point of view before I am satisfied

I try to do all of my assignments as soon as possible after they have been set

I find that finding academic topics can at times be as exciting as a good novel or film

I usually become increasingly absorbed in my work the more I do

I generally restrict my study to what is specifically set as I think it is unnecessary to do anything extra

I almost resent having to do further years studying after leaving school, but feel that the end results make it all worthwhile

I see getting high marks as a kind of competitive game, and I play it to win

I find it best to accept the statements and ideas of my lecturers and question them only under special circumstances

Whether I like it or not, I can see that further education is for me a good way to get a well-paid or secure job

I try to relate new material, as I am reading it, to what I already know on the topic

I keep neat, well organised notes for most subjects

When I am studying I find that the things I am learning are 'fitting together'.

I always try to relate the theory I am learning to practical situations I have already experienced.

These days I really enjoy my studying.

When I am studying I have lots of sudden and unexpected insights into my work.

Lately I have found it easier than in the past to remember the things I am learning.

I am constantly seeing the links between the topics I am studying.

To my surprise I now find my work is fun.

In practical situations I find it easy these days to recall the things I learnt some while ago.

	<i>Rarely true</i>	<i>Sometimes true</i>	<i>True half the time</i>	<i>Frequently true</i>	<i>Usually true</i>

50. Education is supposed to train the character as well as the mind. However, people often disagree as to which characters are desirable and which are not. Please indicate whether you PERSONALLY approve or disapprove of the qualities listed below:

	<i>Disapprove strongly</i>	<i>Disapprove somewhat</i>	<i>Approve somewhat</i>	<i>Approve strongly</i>
Physically tough				
Fond of animals				
Mixes well, socially				
Personally neat and tidy				
Highly strung				
Obedient				
Sense of responsibility				
Low opinion of yourself				
Highly imaginative				
Respect for elders				
Independent of parents				
Affectionate				
Mildly eccentric				
Very enthusiastic				
Having set opinions				
Consideration for others				
Slightly effeminate				
Stiff upper lip				
Gentleness				
Accepting expert advice				
Courage				
Fashionably dressed				
Trying to be original				
Self-control				
Using bad language				
Very well mannered				
Good team member				
Artistic sensitivity				
Hides strong feelings				
Masculinity				

51. Time allocation: Please indicate how much time in a typical week you would spend on the following activities:

	<i>Hours</i>						
	<i>0</i>	<i><1</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>3-4</i>	<i>5-8</i>	<i>9-15</i>	<i>16+</i>
Playing sport							
Watching television							
In a pub							
Playing a musical instrument							
On hobbies							
Visiting art galleries or museums							
Talking to friends							
Reading newspapers							
Earning money							
Reading books							
Working for exams/school							
Social activities							
Theatre/drama/etc.							
Political activities							
Other [please specify]							

55. For each of the following statements please indicate whether or not the more appropriate answer is Yes or No.

	Yes	No
Do you have many different hobbies?		
Does your mood often go up and down?		
Have you ever taken the praise for something you knew someone else had really done?		
Are you a talkative person?		
Do you ever feel "just miserable" for no reason?		
Were you ever greedy by helping yourself to more than your share of things?		
Are you rather lively?		
Do you often worry about things you should not have done or said?		
If you say you will do something, do you always keep your promise no matter how inconvenient it might be?		
Can you usually let yourself go and enjoy yourself at a lively party?		
Are you an irritable person?		
Have you ever blamed someone for doing something you knew was really your fault?		
Do you enjoy meeting new people?		
Are your feelings easily hurt?		
Are all your habits good and desirable ones?		
Do you tend to keep in the background on social occasions?		
Do you often feel "fed-up"?		
Have you ever taken anything (even a pin or button) that belonged to someone else?		
Do you like going out a lot?		
Are you often troubled about feelings of guilt?		
Do you sometimes talk about things you know nothing about?		
Do you prefer reading to meeting people?		
Would you call yourself a nervous person?		
Do you have many friends?		
Are you a worrier?		
As a child did you do as you were told immediately and without grumbling?		
Would you call yourself happy-go-lucky?		
Do you worry about awful things that might happen?		
Have you ever broken or lost something belonging to someone else?		

56. For the following activities please put a '1' against that which you would most enjoy doing, a '2' against the next most enjoyable activity, and a '3' against the third most enjoyable activity, and so on until you mark a '9' against the one you enjoy least.

	Rank
Talking with your friends	
Meeting new people	
Playing with computers	
Making things eg. clothes, other objects, mending machines	
Reading	
Playing a musical instrument	
Going out to cinema, theatre or concerts	
Going to parties	
Watching T.V. and videos	

58. People cope with everyday stress in their lives in a variety of characteristic ways. Below are some of the things people do when under stress. Please indicate to what extent you cope in this way by ticking in the appropriate box.

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Frequently</i>	<i>Very often</i>
I seek out groups of friends or close people.				
I eat a lot.				
I become aggressive and feel like fighting.				
I smoke cigarettes.				
I meditate or do other things to relax myself.				
I watch T.V.				
I drink more tea or coffee.				
I cry.				
I sleep a lot.				
I spend time alone.				
I ignore the problem and think about other things.				
I practice yoga				
I go for a walk or a short trip.				
I daydream and fantasize.				
I take stimulating drugs				
I work with myself and try to work out a plan to make myself feel better.				
I get together with one very close person or friend.				
I take tranquillisers (like valium).				
I engage in physical activities like sports, dancing, or jogging.				
I become irritable and short-tempered.				
I cut down on my other responsibilities for a while.				
I blame myself for feeling depressed.				
I engage in sexual behaviour (of any kind).				
I confront my feelings and try to figure out what is bothering me.				
I engage in some sort of creative activity like writing, reading, drawing, playing music or working on projects.				
I do go places where there are lots of people, like clubs or dances.				
I talk with other people and try to work out a plan to make myself feel better.				
I drink alcoholic beverages.				
I laugh and try to find humour in my situation.				

59. Below are a number of statements about justice. We want you to indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of these statements. Of course, there are no right or wrong answers - we are merely interested in your opinions.

	<i>Disagree strongly</i>	<i>Disagree somewhat</i>	<i>Agree somewhat</i>	<i>Agree strongly</i>
Basically the world is a just place.				
The political candidate who sticks up for his/her principles rarely gets elected.				
I've found that a person rarely gets the reputation that he or she has.				
People who find money in the street have often done a good deed earlier that day.				
It is a common occurrence that a guilty person gets off free.				
Movies in which good triumphs over evil are unrealistic.				
Students almost always deserve the marks that they get in school or university.				
Crime doesn't pay.				
When parents punish their children, it is almost always for good reasons.				
Although there may be some exceptions, good people often lead lives of suffering.				
It is often impossible for a person to receive a fair trial in this country.				
In almost any business or profession, people who do their job well rise to the top.				
Although evil men may hold political power for a while, in the general course of history good wins out.				
By and large people get what they deserve.				
Parents tend to overlook the things most to be admired in their children.				
It is rare for an innocent man to be wrongly sent to jail.				

Because it is important that you understand the nature of the questionnaire and the information you have given, we would like you to sign the following statement:-

In completing the questionnaire I understand that it is not part of the selection process and that it will be used entirely for research purposes; the information contained is entirely confidential and will be released only in anonymous aggregate form.

Signed.....

Date.....

Thank you very much for your help in completing this fairly lengthy questionnaire.
How long did it take you to complete it?.....minutes