

Some of the questions in this version of the questionnaire have been retracted as they may have copyright problems. Please contact me directly for further information.

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## Research questionnaire, 2003

This questionnaire is about aspects of medicine as a career, and contains a range of questions about you and your approach to studying and solving problems. For most of the questions there are no right or wrong answers, so please just answer as honestly as possible.

**1. Below are nine examples of medical work, followed by three aspects of the doctor's role. Read about each situation, imagine yourself as the doctor, and then indicate how much each aspect appeals to you by putting a 1 next to the *most* appealing, a 2 next to the *next most* appealing, and a 3 next to the *least* appealing.**

<p><i>Situation 1:</i> At 3 a.m. you examine an 18-year old woman in casualty with severe, right-sided abdominal pain, and decide to take her to theatre to remove her inflamed appendix. The next day there are no complications, she returns home and 10 days later you see her to check she is fully recovered.</p>	<p>a) Being the one who makes the decision to operate b) Being on duty in the middle of the night. c) Talking to the patient at follow up and seeing that they have recovered</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 2:</i> In clinic you see a distressed, 21-year old homeless man who is nervous and describes hearing voices. You talk to him about his family, his health and his drug habits. You admit him to hospital compulsorily, arrange appropriate treatment, and then you work with social workers to arrange his discharge into sheltered accommodation. You see him regularly for therapy.</p>	<p>a) Helping to alleviate the patient's social problem b) Being the leader of a team of people helping the patient c) Being respected for your ability to counsel disturbed and difficult patients</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 3:</i> Working in the radiology department you see a man who had been admitted through casualty the night before because of excruciating lower back pain. You perform some special x-rays, examine the films, diagnose kidney stones and write a letter to the GP describing your findings.</p>	<p>a) Knowing that the patient's treatment will depend entirely on your diagnostic skills b) Being in a well-paid, well-respected job with fixed hours c) Knowing that you have helped someone by providing an effective service</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 4:</i> In casualty you see a semi-conscious, 60-year old woman with a chest infection and very high blood sugar levels. You diagnose diabetes, treat her with insulin injections and antibiotics, and monitor her recovery over the next few days. When she feels better you explain to her how diabetes will require treatment for the rest of her life and what is entailed. You then see her every month in outpatients.</p>	<p>a) Treating this patient for a number of years in outpatients or hospital b) Treating an emergency, life-threatening condition in casualty c) Knowing that your treatment is up to date, effective and based on your reading of the latest literature</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 5:</i> In your surgery you see a 50 year old man who has been your patient for the past 10 years. He now reports losing about 5 kg in weight and when you examine him you feel a lump in his abdomen and you suspect cancer. You refer him to hospital and he is found to have an inoperable malignancy. The patient, his wife and son see you frequently over the next 3-4 months, firstly for explanation and then for support. The patient is anxious to avoid going into hospital, and you provide terminal care, pain relief and psychological support, meaning that he dies at home with his family.</p>	<p>a) Playing the most crucial role in diagnosing the patient's condition b) Being respected and trusted by the patient and his family c) Supporting the patient and his family in coping with his death</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 6:</i> You have to evaluate the effectiveness of different methods of screening for breast cancer. You spend several weeks reading scientific literature, visit other health authorities, have discussions with the Department of Health, and go to an international conference. Eventually you chair the meeting at which it is decided to split the budget of £4million pounds between an additional mobile mammography unit and a public awareness campaign.</p>	<p>a) Chairing the meeting at which the crucial decisions are made b) Knowing that the public funds are being used in a way to prevent cancer c) Being responsible for initiating a project, deciding on the best strategies, and steering it to completion</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 7:</i> As part of research project on heart disease, you visit a large number of relatives of a patient with heart disease, collecting blood specimens and interviewing them. You then test the blood samples in the lab, compare the results of this family with others, read about the condition and then write a research paper for <i>The Lancet</i>.</p>	<p>a) Being creative, original and working autonomously b) Feeling that you have helped people with heart disease by advancing medical knowledge c) Knowing that you are respected because you publish your results in a top medical journal</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 8:</i> You are an experienced anaesthetist and with the assistance of a junior doctor, nurse, and a theatre technician are responsible for a patient who is undergoing a six-hour open-heart operation to replace a heart-valve. As well as looking after the heart-lung bypass machine, and monitoring the patient's vital functions, you also stay with the patient until they awake on the intensive care unit and their condition is stable.</p>	<p>a) Talking to the patient before the operation, and reassuring them. b) Knowing that you have many technical skills that will always be in demand anywhere c) Understanding the basic science behind the heart-lung machine and the complex monitoring devices</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<p><i>Situation 9:</i> You are an obstetrician in a busy maternity hospital. In a typical day you may see many patients for routine checks in the ante-natal clinic, you attend four or five deliveries, one of which needed help because progress was too slow and the fetus distressed, you carry out a planned Caesarean section for a case of triplets, and you talk with a mother who has been admitted with a late miscarriage and has lost her baby.</p>	<p>a) Creating a situation in which most women deliver their babies naturally and safely b) Being able to do a Caesarean section c) Knowing how to counsel your patients at an important time of their lives</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

**Now consider your reaction to the above situations, and imagine how much you would like to be the doctor concerned. In the table below, indicate your preference by putting a *tick* below the three situations you would *most* like to deal with and a *cross* below the three situations with which you would *least* like to be involved.**

Situation 1	Situation 2	Situation 3	Situation 4	Situation 5	Situation 6	Situation 7	Situation 8	Situation 9

2. Below is a list of possible medical careers (it is not meant to be comprehensive). How attractive do you find each of them? Please rate each career from 'Definite intention to go into it' to 'Definite intention not to go into it'

	<i>Definite intention to go into this</i>	<i>Very attractive</i>	<i>Not very attractive</i>	<i>Definite intention NOT to go into this</i>
Anaesthetics				
Community child health				
Dermatology (Skin conditions)				
Ear, nose and throat surgery				
Forensic medicine				
General practice				
General surgery				
Genito-urinary medicine				
Haematology (Blood disorders)				
Hospital medicine (e.g. cardiology [heart disease], neurology [disorders of brain & nerve], oncology [cancer treatment])				
Medicine for older people				
Obstetrics and gynaecology				
Ophthalmology (Eye conditions)				
Orthopaedic surgery (Bone & Joint problems)				
Paediatrics (Disorders of children)				
Pathology (e.g. chemical pathology, microbiology)				
Public health				
Psychiatry				
Radiology (Diagnostic imaging)				
Specialist surgery (e.g. neurosurgery, chest surgery)				
Other (please specify)				

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

	<i>Rarely true</i>	<i>Sometimes true</i>	<i>True half the time</i>	<i>Frequently true</i>	<i>Usually true</i>
<i>i.</i> While I am studying, I often think of real life situations to which the material that I am learning would be useful.					
<i>ii.</i> I chose my present courses largely with a view to the job situation when I graduate rather than their intrinsic interest to me.					
<i>iii.</i> I find that at times studying gives me a feeling of deep personal satisfaction.					
<i>iv.</i> 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>v.</i> 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>vi.</i> I try to work consistently throughout the term and review regularly when the exams are close.					
<i>vii.</i> I would see myself basically as an ambitious person and want to get to the top, whatever I do.					
<i>viii.</i> 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>ix.</i> I try to do all of my assignments as soon as possible after they have been set.					
<i>x.</i> I find that studying academic topics can at times be as exciting as a good novel or film.					
<i>xi.</i> I usually become increasingly absorbed in my work the more I do.					
<i>xii.</i> I generally restrict my study to what is specifically set as I think it is unnecessary to do anything extra.					
<i>xiii.</i> I almost resent having to do further years studying after leaving school, but feel that the end results make it all worthwhile.					
<i>xiv.</i> I see getting high marks as a kind of competitive game, and I play it to win.					
<i>xv.</i> I find it best to accept the statements and ideas of my lecturers and question them only under special circumstances.					
<i>xvi.</i> 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>xvii.</i> I try to relate new material, as I am reading it, to what I already know on the topic.					
<i>xviii.</i> I keep neat, well organised notes for most subjects.					



7. Qualifications: Please put the appropriate grade next to each subject taken at GCSE, AS-level or A-level. Please write 'taking' if the subject is to be taken in the future.

Subject	GCSE grade	Taken/taking AS level	Taken/taking A-level	Subject	GCSE grade	Taken/taking AS level	Taken/taking A level
Biology				German			
Chemistry				History			
Physics				I.T.			
Double science				Latin			
Art				Law			
Dance				Mathematics			
Design & Tech				Music			
Drama				Politics			
Economics				Psychology			
English				Religious			
English				Sociology			
French				Spanish			
Further maths				Other			
Geography				Other			

8. Have you already taken any degrees? If so, please describe them	Subject	Level (BA / BSc / MSc/ PhD/ etc)	University	Year of completion	Class

10. Below is the Registrar General's employment classification. Please put ticks next to the categories that best describe your father's occupation and your mother's occupation (if appropriate).

	Mother	Father
I Professional - includes doctor, lawyer, architect		
II Managerial - includes shopkeeper, teacher, farmer		
IIINM Non-manual - includes shop assistant, clerical worker		
IIIM Skilled Manual - includes electrician, miner		
IV Partly skilled - includes bus conductors, farm workers		
V Unskilled - includes labourers		

11. Are your parents doctors? *Neither /Mother /Father /Both* 12. Are you Male or Female? 13. What is your year of birth? 19\_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnicity and Religion.** It would be helpful to us if you could answer the following questions, which are taken from the 2001 UK Census.

14. What is your ethnic group? Tick one box to indicate your cultural background.

White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Chinese or Other ethnic group
<i>British</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Indian</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Caribbean</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>White &amp; Black Caribbean</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chinese</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Irish</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pakistani</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>African</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>White &amp; Black African</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other (please specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other (please specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bangladeshi</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other (please specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>White and Asian</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>Other (please specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>		<i>Other (please specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	

15. What is your religion? Please tick one box.

None  Christian  Buddhist  Hindu  Jewish  Muslim  Sikh  Other (please specify)

**Thank you for completing this detailed questionnaire and helping with the survey**

<p>As described in the covering letter, this questionnaire is entirely for the purposes of research. It is entirely confidential and will be stored safely and electronic versions will be stored in an anonymised form. None of the information provided will be used for the purposes of selection, and nor will it be provided to those examining or teaching students. Results from the survey will only be published in aggregate or other form in which individuals cannot be identified. Both for your own reassurance and as a normal part of research ethics, we would be grateful if you could consent to the information being used for this purpose by <b>initialing here:</b>  <i>Initials</i> _____ <i>Date</i> ____/____/____</p>	<p>In order that we can link these data with other information, and provide feedback on the survey, it is important that you provide us with <u>contact details</u> in BLOCK CAPITAL. As with the rest of this questionnaire, your provision of this information and your participation are optional.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Home Address: _____</p> <p>E-mail address: _____</p>
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