

MCAT Verbal Reasoning Skills

I. Comprehension

- A. Identify the Central concern or thesis of the passage.
- B. Identify the reasons or evidence offered in support of a thesis.
- C. Identify the background knowledge contained in the passage or question that is relevant to a particular interpretation.
- D. Determine, from context, the meaning of significant terminology or vocabulary used in the passage.
- E. Recognize an accurate paraphrase of complex information presented in the passage.
- F. Identify comparative relationships among ideas or pieces of information contained in the passage.
- G. Identify stated or unstated assumptions contained in the passage.
- H. Recognize appropriate questions of clarification.

II. Evaluation

- A. Judge the soundness of an argument or a step of reasoning presented in the passage.
- B. Judge the credibility of a source.
- C. Judge whether a conclusion follows necessarily from the reasons given in the passage.
- D. Appraise the strength of the evidence for a generalization, conclusion, or claim.
- E. Distinguish between supported and unsupported claims
- F. Judge the relevance of information to an argument or claim.

III. Application

- A. Predict a result on the basis of passage content and specific facts about a hypothetical situation.
- B. Use given information to solve a specified problem.

- C. Identify the probable cause of a particular event or result based on information presented.
 - D. Determine the implications of conclusions or results for real-world situations
 - E. Recognize the scope of application of hypothesis, explanations, and conclusions.
 - F. Identify a general theory or model based on given information.

IV: Incorporation of new information

- A. Judge the bearing of new evidence on conclusions presented in the passage.
- B. Recognize methods or results that would challenge hypotheses, models, or theories given in the passage.
- C. Determine how a conclusion from the passage can be modified to be made consistent with additional information.
- D. Recognize plausible alternative hypotheses or solutions.