SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TESTS: PREview and CASPer

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First, what is a Situational Judgement Test?

A **situational judgment test (SJT)** is a type of assessment that is used to understand and evaluate how an individual would react or behave when presented with hypothetical social or professional dilemmas.

What is the Purpose?

Assess:

- **Behavioral tendencies -** i.e., how someone might act in a tough situation
- **Knowledge put into action -** i.e., how *effective* various responses will be in hypothetical scenarios
- **Assess skills & competencies-** i.e., problem-solving, ethical decision-making, and communication skills along with other personal and professional competencies

SJT Options:

- **CASPer** asks applicants **WHAT** they would do in a hypothetical dilemma and most importantly, **WHY** they would do it.
  - *Open-Ended Questions*
  - *Can be required by many different program types – ex: medical school, Dental school, PA school, etc.*
- **AAMC PREview** asks applicants to evaluate "the effectiveness of a series of behavioral responses to hypothetical scenarios.
  - *Multiple Choice Questions*
  - *Med School Only*

AAMC PREview Professional Readiness Exam.

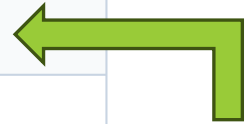
PREview

Learn about the Pre-Med Competencies

PREview: Registration Information

- Offered April – October 2026: We recommend taking by the June 24 & 25th Dates.
  - Testing Calendar
- Applicants can take this exam at most twice per application year (lifetime limit of 4 times)
- Exam fee is $100. Includes distribution of your score report to unlimited # of schools
- For students approved for Fee Assistance: Test # 1 at 100%, Test # 2 at 50%
- Registration is OPEN; it is recommended to register a month ahead of time.

Window	Test Dates	Registration Opens On	Registration Closes at 11:59 p.m. ET	Scores Released
1	April 15 & 16	Feb. 24	April 1	May 19
2	May 5 & 6	Feb. 24	April 21	June 9
3	June 3 & 4	Feb. 24	May 20	July 7
4	June 24 & 25	Feb. 24	June 10	July 28
5	July 22 & 23	Feb. 24	July 8	Aug. 25
6	Aug. 12 & 13	Feb. 24	July 29	Sept. 15
7	Sept. 16 & 17	Feb. 24	Sept. 2	Oct. 15
8	Oct. 14 & 15	Feb. 24	Sept. 30	Nov. 13



It takes about a month to get your score back!

Enter Keywords GO

CLEAR ALL FILTERS

SCHOOL NAME

All

PARTICIPATION LEVEL

All

SCORES AUTOMATICALLY RELEASE THROUGH AMCAS

All

Viewing 72 of 72

School Name	Participation Level	Scores Automatically Release Through AMCAS
Alice L. Walton School of Medicine	Recommending PREview	Yes
Arizona State University School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering	Exploring PREview for Future Use	Yes
Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University	Exploring PREview for Future Use	Yes
California Northstate University College of Medicine	Exploring PREview for Future Use	Yes
California University of Science and Medicine	Exploring PREview for Future Use	Yes

Finding Schools that Require Preview

A Few Notes on Preview "Participating Schools":

IF YOU ARE REAPPLYING: Some of these schools may accept scores from the previous application year, BUT you should contact the schools for confirmation.

Only Participating schools will be able to see your PREview scores in AMCAS (require, recommend, or exploring)

PREview Resources on AAMC Website

While you do not need to "study" for PREview – you should PREPARE for it.

- **Sample:** Questions to help you familiarize yourself with the exam structure
- **Preparation Guide:** Format, Scoring, Instructions and more
- **Practice Exams:** Two free practice exam booklets in PDF format that includes a scoring key AND rationales. A third practice exam you can purchase ($20) that is scored and ranked.
- **Test Day Experience Video:** Helps you become familiar with activities that take place the day of

How PREview is Scored:

When your score is ready, it will **automatically** be released to your AMCAS application

Your score will be a score ranging from **1-9**

You will also receive a percentile rank & and confidence band

Your score is based on the extent to which your effectiveness ratings of each response align with subject matter experts' ratings.

Full credit is awarded for an item if your response matches the medical educators' rating.

Partial credit is awarded if your rating is close to the medical educators' rating.

Med schools see the same scores you do – they can't see how you answered specific questions.

PREview Exam Format:

30 Scenarios

186 Response Items

75 Minutes to take the Exam

Check-in & Check-out Time

Following each scenario, several behaviors describe a response to the dilemma.

You will be asked to rate the effectiveness of each behavior using a 4-point scale:

- ✓**very ineffective**
- ✓**Ineffective**
- ✓**effective**
- ✓**very effective.**

Tips for the PREview Exam:

- Consider each response as the **immediate** next step (unless stated otherwise)
- Remain Non-Judgmental
- Do not make assumptions, everything you need to know to evaluate the response is in the scenario
- Be open-minded
- Lead with empathy, responsibility, and respect towards others as well as ethical problem-solving
- Do not compare responses to each other or rank them
- Review Pre-Med Professional Competencies & Basic Medical Ethics Principles
- Think ethically, but also practically – what truly is effective and what is not for the situation at hand?
- Do not lose core sight of the situation at hand. What is the problem? Focus on that.

Questions to ask Yourself for each scenario…

- Which pre-med competencies are they accessing with this scenario?
- What ethical dilemma is at play here?
- Do you have any legal responsibilities?
- What are the potential consequences of each response?
- How does your response impact others in the situation?
- What is the responsible thing to do? The professional thing to do? The ethical thing to do? …

Practice is the Key to success for this Exam!

Both practice exams have answer keys as well as **answer explanations**. Make sure to go through this thoroughly.

Very Ineffective (1)	Ineffective (2)	Effective (3)	Very Effective (4)
The response will **cause additional problems or make the situation worse**.	The response will **not improve the situation or may cause a problem**.	The response **could help but will not significantly improve the situation**.	The response will **significantly improve the situation**.

One more thing before we practice - It's essential to understand these response types!

Let's Practice Together – Place your answers in the Chat!

AAMC Scenario Example: (AAMC Practice Exam # 1, Scenario 8)

You just received a lower course grade than you expected. You worked extremely hard and don't believe your course grade accurately reflects your performance in the course. You are also worried this grade will reflect poorly on you when you apply to residency, so you are meeting with your professor to discuss your grade.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #1

Ask the professor for feedback on why you earned a lower grade.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

The student seeks feedback from their professor regarding their course grade as an immediate next step. This response demonstrates a **desire to learn from and potentially improve** the student's performance in the future.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #2

Tell the professor that you deserve a better grade for this course.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

The student fails to enter the conversation with an open mind, nor do they communicate their perspective in an appropriate manner. The student's behavior also demonstrates that they are **unwilling to accept or learn** from this setback.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #3

Question the professor's application of the grading rubric.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

The student **does not show an openness to additional feedback** or to learn from the professor's evaluation. Instead, the student treats their professor with a **lack of respect** by presuming they are better suited to evaluate their performance than the professor.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #4

Ask your professor if there are any additional assignments you can do to raise your grade.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

While the student seeks opportunities to improve their grade, **they fail to demonstrate a willingness to learn** from their performance in the class. Given that the scenario specifies that the student believes their course grade does not match their performance, the student should instead **seek feedback** on why they received a lower than expected grade.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #5

Ask the professor to make an exception for you given your level of effort.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

This response suggests the student is **unwilling to take responsibility** for their course grade. The student does not show any interest in additional feedback or desire to listen to the professor's perspective or learn from their evaluation.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #6

Ask the professor how you can improve your performance in the future.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

Although the course has ended, the student **proactively seeks input** from their professor regarding how they can improve in the future. The response demonstrates a **commitment to ongoing improvement** in the student's development as a physician.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #7

Discuss your situation with classmates to determine whether their understanding of the grading rubric matches yours.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

By seeking input from classmates, the student makes an effort to **better understand** the grading rubric as it pertains to their own performance. However, as an **immediate next step**, the student should **first consult with the professor** given the professor's role as an evaluator.

Rate the effectiveness of each response: #8

Explain to your professor why you feel the grade does not reflect your performance.

A. Very Ineffective

B. Ineffective

C. Effective

D. Very Effective

Rationale:

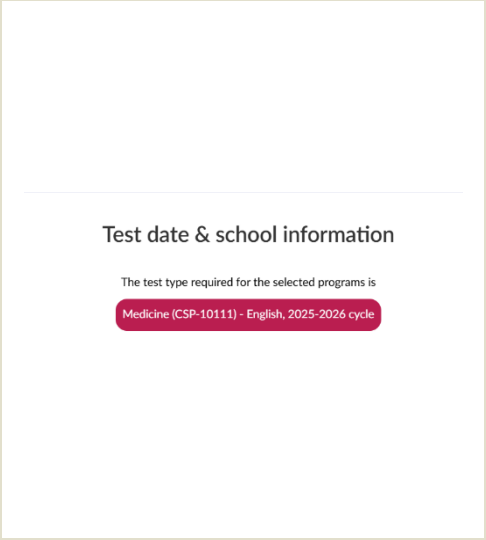
While the student may be advised to share their perspective with the professor, they should enter the conversation with a **more open mind** regarding their professor's evaluation of their performance.

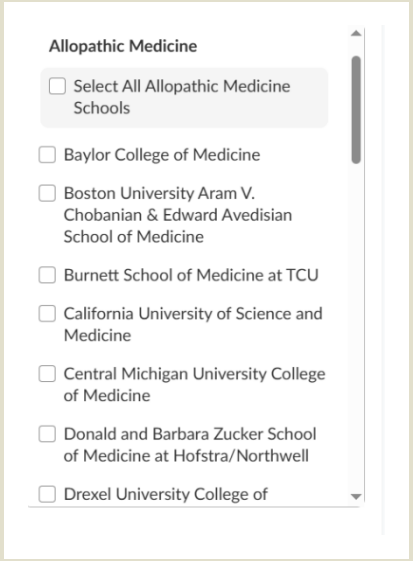
Questions?

CASPer

CASPer: Assesses for

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Empathy
- Equity
- Ethics
- Motivation
- Problem Solving
- Professionalism
- Resilience
- Self Awareness





Which schools participate in CASPer?

You can search this by going on Casper's Website and selecting your application year & program type – this will pull up a list. In addition, **we highly recommend** checking each school's website to confirm if this is required or recommend.

https://my.acuityinsights.app/dates-times

How Is Casper Scored?

- Your scenario responses are rated on a scale from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 9 (superb). Your final score is a culmination of all your answers.
- Each section is scored by a different rater, which helps reduce the exam's subjectivity or biases.
- **You will not be penalized for grammar or spelling mistakes**, so it is more important to focus on the content of your answers while still making sure it is comprehensible**.**
- **You also won't receive a lower score if you run out of time before finishing a sentence.** The raters will look at your response as a whole and will rate you based on that.
- CASPer scores are usually sent to the programs on your list 2-3 weeks after you take the exam. About a month after you take the exam, you will receive your test quartiles.

COSTS

Fee to take Altus Suite: $85 (USD) Includes distribution of results to **7 programs**

Distribution fees for additional programs - $18 (USD) per program

Free if you qualified for the AAMC Financial Assistance Program FAP

Rescheduling fee if reschedule within 30 days of test date (or after date)

Registration Information:

- **CASPer registration is also now OPEN**
- **CASPer is only good for ONE application cycle, so if you are reapplying, you will need to take it again!**
- Please note that you only take the exam once; the dates for different schools show which testing dates they will accept, with each school having its own deadline. The earliest test date is on March 19th
- Also, you should register at **least three days** before your preferred test date and time.

CASPer Format:

2 sections, 11 scenarios

Casper has 2 main sections: video responses and typed responses.

Each section will present you with word-based and video-based scenarios.

Video responses (4 scenarios):

Each scenario will ask you two open-ended questions. You will have one minute to record a video for each response.

Typed responses (7 scenarios):

For each scenario, you will type answers to two open-ended questions, which will be presented on the same page. You will have 3.5 minutes total to respond to both questions.

65-85 minutes, with breaks

Casper typically takes 65-85 minutes to complete. We provide an optional 10-minute break after the video response section and another 5-minute break halfway through the typed response section.

Scored by human raters

Each scenario is evaluated by a different member of our trained group of raters, ensuring a fair assessment of your skills. Our raters undergo rigorous training, so they can assess your responses accurately. Learn more about how Casper tests are rated.

Scores sent to programs

2-3 weeks after you take your test, your Casper score is automatically sent to the programs you've selected for distribution. Programs will update your application status within their application portals.

What is "good judgment?"
What does it look like?

- **Consider multiple facets.** There is often no "right" answer. Can you consider multiple perspectives, show empathy, and ultimately commit to a course of action while discussing its pros and cons. Can you be understanding and compassionate while maintaining your ethical values? For each question**, show your thought process** rather than solely choosing the "right" answer.
- **Learn the basics of common ethics.** While you won't be explicitly tested on your knowledge of medical knowledge, having a basic understanding to guide you in your responses, and, it's helpful to have understanding of what your own ethics.
- **Use personal examples to help convey empathy and respect.** You might have to discuss when you faced a similar situation as the scenario. As you reflect on your own experiences, think about how you approached situations. how would you want to improve**?** *different raters for each scenario-you can reuse stories or examples if fit.
- **Use "If/then" and "on the other hand…" type statements.** To help you consider multiple perspectives and possible outcomes/consequences, For example, if this is true, then I would react this way. On the other hand, if I choose X then this this might be the outcome. Anticipate outcomes/consequences.

- **Avoid making assumptions.** These ambiguous scenarios leave out a lot—on purpose. What is unsaid is often as or more important than what is said. The different scenarios try to trick you into making unwitting assumptions/expressing implicit biases. By remaining non-judgmental in your response, you can give characters the benefit of the doubt
- **Make a firm decision**. For some scenarios, you are being tested on your ability to pick a path and stick to it. You may be faced with making tough decisions where you want to make exceptions to the rules for the person. Rather than seeming empathetic; it will seem like you are unable to make difficult choices. As a future doctor, veterinarian, dentist, etc., there might be similar situations where you have to make a Casper challenging choice.
- **Practice!** You can prepare! Put time into understanding the kind of questions you will face and approaches to answering. Emulate testing conditions- **especially practice timing**.

In what kinds of (your many) **experiences** have you needed to practice good judgment?

Leadership and responsibility among peers (clubs, etc.)

In classes and discussion sections

Responsibility of making your own decisions and learning from consequences

Family and friendship situations

“Real world” work experience in customer service or community volunteer roles

Other real-world experiences

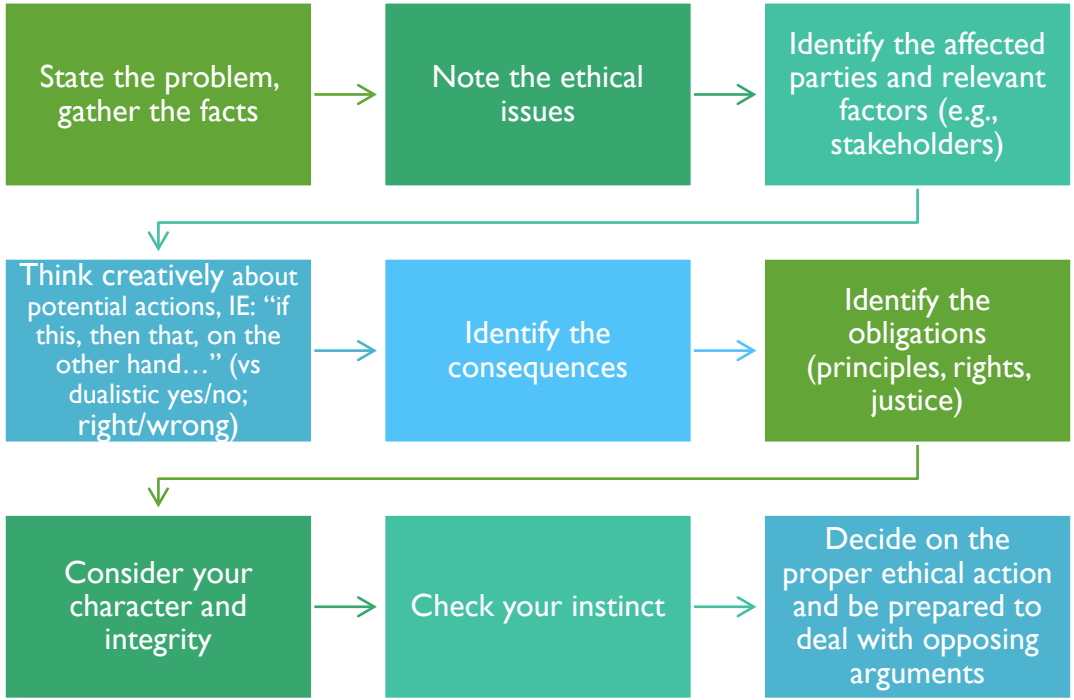
You’ve been making decisions your whole life and learning as you go!

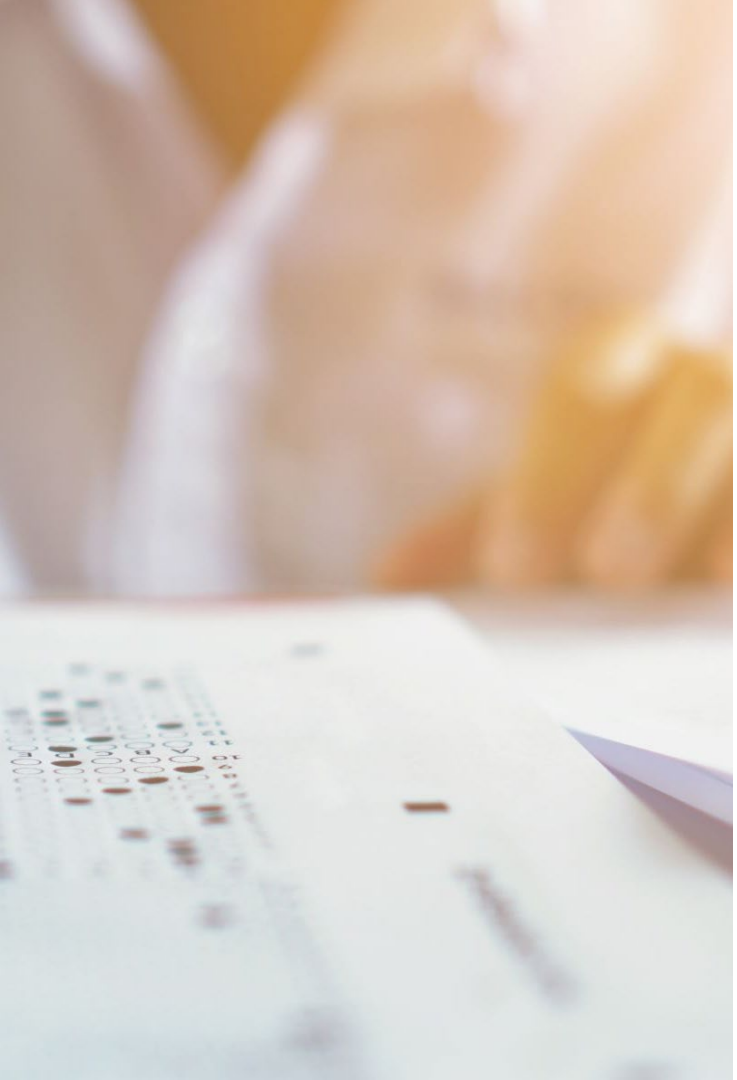
4 Basic Principles of Ethical Decision Making

There are four basic ethical principles:

- Autonomy (respecting the rights of individuals and letting them make choices for themselves)
- Beneficence (doing good; what is in someone's best interests)
- Non-maleficence (avoiding harm)
- Justice (fairness and equity)

Steps in the Ethical Decision-Making Process





What helps applicants fare best on CASPer

According to the CASper FAQ page, students score better based on the following criteria:

- **Effort**: They may have tried harder to respond to questions (for instance, they may have explained their position fully, or used the full amount of time before moving on to the next question, compared to those who applicants who place in the first quartile)
- **Empathy**: They considered all perspectives in a meaningful way
- **Equity**: They show the same high degree of respect for the experiences and needs of others
- **Communication**: They demonstrated above-average ability to effectively articulate their ideas
- **Familiarity with the medium: They familiarized themselves with the format of the test (video, typed response, etc.) and were able to successfully navigate these aspects of the test.**

Practice taking the test
There is a (free) full 14-scenario sample test containing both the video and typed response sections that you can use to practice as many times as you like.

"We have found that applicants who complete the practice test generally perform better on Casper."

Resources on CASPer/Acuity Insights website

https://acuityinsights.app/test-prep/

Let's Practice Together: Video Scenario

You now have 3.5 minutes to answer these three questions.

Pull out a blank document and begin typing – when you hear the alarm go off, stop.

You are the store manager.

As the store manager, would you give this customer a refund? Why or why not?

Imagine that you decide to refuse to give a refund. How would you communicate your decision to the customer? Explain your response.

Discussion – Let's hear some of your responses!

CASPer Example Response # 1

As the store manager, would you give this customer a refund? Why or why not?

I would first take the customer aside to have a private conversation and seek more information about his situation. I would empathize with his worry over his daughter's health and want to help him if possible. I would consider two options—does the store contribute to charity or give back to the community? If so, I could issue a refund from the store's charitable fund. If not, I would consider altering the store refund policy. I would add a clause saying refunds could be issued without a receipt based on the manager's discretion. I would also set a limit to the refund amounts to prevent the company from suffering financial harm.

Source: Shemmassian

Additional Points for this Scenario

1. Show empathy and understanding for the customer, even if you can't break store policy. How would you do this?

Ex: Listen carefully to their situation and acknowledge how difficult it is so they feel heard and not brushed off. We would recommend starting with this!

2. Is there anything else you can do for the customer? Is there anyone you would consult with? What are your options? More information you would gather?

3. What is your responsibility as the store manager? How would you explain store policy in a way that is respectful, clear, but empathetic? Explain this!

4. Is there any other way you could help them outside of what the store can do?

5. Demonstrate your problem-solving skills and reframe this as you trying to help the customer, not getting defensive or arguing with them.

6. Consider acknowledging the consequences, your obligations, and future implications in your rationale

7. Can lean on personal experiences when addressing the "What's important in customer service" question.

8. Avoid Red Flags – for example: being adamant, judgmental, blameful, overly-simplistic answers, black & white thinking…

Remember…

There is no right or wrong answer – there are many different ways to approach each situation.

PRACTICE…. 3.5 minutes goes by very quickly. Try not to get too stuck on one question. Skip it if you need to, and go back to it. If you are cut off at the end of a sentence, don't worry, as long as you got your point across.

Last Practical Advice:

Practice your Typing and your timing!

Utilize the full-length practice CASPer exam – this will help you familiarize yourself with the format as well.

Find a framework! For example: **PPRDJ** (stands for **P**roblem, **P**erspective, **R**esponsibility, **D**ecision, **J**ustification), that help you methodically work through a prompt.

Familiarize yourself with Technical Standards. Also, they will be monitoring you throughout the exam (Webcam can monitor your keystrokes, microphone, etc.)

Back to PREview – they take this a step forward and will have an actual proctor run a systems check, which may mean adjusting your computer settings before the exam. They also will check for confidentiality – so they will want to see you background and be there throughout the exam.

We do not recommend CASPer resources that you have to pay for. Here is a free resources that some students have used for more **practice**: https://prepmatch.com/

Final Questions?