Sample Instructions

You are about to begin the Situational Judgment Test. This test contains scenarios that measure knowledge, skills, and abilities important to being a successful medical student and doctor.

Each scenario includes a short paragraph describing a situation and a range of options for how you could respond to the situation. Each scenario will have between four and eight possible responses. You will be asked to rate the effectiveness of each response on a four-point scale.

The scenarios and responses are based on real-life school or clinical situations medical students encounter. For each scenario, you should assume the role of a medical student and rate the effectiveness of each response.

You will use the following 4-point scale to rate each response:
- 1 = Very Ineffective
- 2 = Ineffective
- 3 = Effective
- 4 = Very Effective

Read each scenario and response carefully before responding, and please keep the following tips in mind:

- **Rate each response independently.** Do not compare the responses or scenarios to each other.

- **Do not attempt to rank-order the responses.** Each option is an example of one action that could be taken in response to the scenario. As in real life, there may be multiple ways to respond to a situation.

- Each scenario may include several effective or ineffective responses.

- You can assign the same rating to as many response choices as is appropriate.

- The scenarios are not related to each other, so **do not consider any information from earlier scenarios** when figuring out how to handle new ones.

- No prior medical knowledge, knowledge of hospital protocols or clinical experience is needed to rate the effectiveness of the responses.
Sample 1

You have been offered a competitive, two-week volunteer opportunity at a well-regarded local clinic. When you receive your course schedule, you realize that your shift at the clinic conflicts with your weekly required chemistry lab. This is the only time that the lab is offered this semester, so you are not able to make up the lab. Participation counts toward your grade.

Please rate the effectiveness of each response to this situation.

1 = Very Ineffective
2 = Ineffective
3 = Effective
4 = Very Effective

1. Skip your lab for two weeks to attend the volunteer opportunity.
2. Ask the clinic whether you can reschedule when you volunteer so that it does not conflict with your lab.
3. Decline the volunteer opportunity this semester so that another medical student can take advantage of it.
4. Tell your professor in advance that you will miss two of your scheduled lab sessions.
5. Ask the clinic if you can share the volunteer opportunity with another student so that you only miss one lab session.
Sample 2

During class, your professor observes you participating in a role-play exercise with one of your classmates. You are acting as a doctor, and your classmate is acting as an angry patient. The role-play is tense but stays on course. You think you performed well, but, after class, your classmate gives you unexpected negative feedback that you missed several opportunities to comfort the patient and calm the situation. You are now expected to attend a debriefing session with your professor and classmate.

Please rate the effectiveness of each response to this situation.

1 = Very Ineffective
2 = Ineffective
3 = Effective
4 = Very Effective

1. Tell your classmate that only the professor is qualified to provide feedback.
2. Tell the professor you understand that you missed some opportunities during the exercise.
3. Ask your classmate about how you could improve your performance for the future.
4. Explain to your professor why you were satisfied with your performance.
5. Ask your classmate if they would be willing to practice role playing in advance of your next exercise.
6. Ask your classmate not to bring up the negative feedback during your debriefing session.
Sample 3

You are leading a study group with some classmates when two classmates begin arguing about one of the course topics. The argument is tense but stays on-topic until one student insults the other's religion, and the other responds by insulting the first student's intelligence.

Please rate the effectiveness of each response to this situation.

1 = Very Ineffective
2 = Ineffective
3 = Effective
4 = Very Effective

1. Begin a discussion about the importance of tolerance for different religious beliefs.
2. Ask another classmate to diffuse the argument.
3. Let the two classmates handle the situation themselves, as you were not directly involved in the argument.
4. Tell the two classmates that personal attacks are not acceptable, and they need to stop insulting each other.
5. Re-focus the discussion on course content.
6. Ask the two classmates to resolve their issue privately.
7. Tell the study group to take a short break, and speak to the two classmates privately.