

The HPAT is designed to test skills complementary to the Leaving Certificate. The exam prepared by an Australian organization ACER (). It is North American in style and follows a similar structure to standardised tests such as the SAT, GRE and GMAT.

The issue for Irish students is this is not the way we are examined & thus the test preparation requires a different mindset or approach.

Exam structure: Multiple choice exam of 110 questions based on a scenario, short prose essay, quantitative / graphical situation or sequences and series. The test is 2.5 hours in duration. For UL applicants there is an additional 1 hour English 2 essay type question exam.

- Logical Reasoning & Problem solving. The mathematical level not much beyond JC Science and LC probability and statistics: Drug trials, basic physics required, some deep understanding of number theory such as prime numbers, good comprehension of graphical data. This is close to LC maths.
- Interpersonal Understanding: As a future doctor, you are assumed not only to have the skills to diagnose but also to sense the social & personal circumstance of patients. This is really verbal / vocabulary in disguise. For instance, if a patient presents to you with their family and the family were having "words", you might be asked if the tone of the dialogue was a) disdainful b) dismissive c) patronizing d) mocking? This is odd for Irish students. We will provide synonym and verbal databases.  
Non-Verbal Reasoning: This is closest to your arithmetic, quadratic & geometric sequence & series at LC level. Use what you know! But quite
- demanding. Think of the rotational and axial symmetry questions you did in JC Maths but unfortunately more difficult: Requires exposure to many problems.

The fortunate news is there is no "negative marking". If you, after our coaching, have isolated 2 most probable answers and guess the wrong one, you are not penalised. In the United States each wrong answer is minus 0.25 mark. So to your advantage to attempt every question, even by a process of elimination.

#### Exam breakdown

Section 1: number of questions 44. Time 65 minutes

Section 2: number of questions 36. Time 45 minutes

Section 3: number of questions 30. Time 40 minutes

Section 4: UL applicants only. Number of questions 2. Time 60 minutes

- 4 day intensive course. 945am to 430pm July 31st to August 3rd.
- 100 problems sent via email in PDF format. 40 solved problems with remainder for practice
- Access to tutor by email for questions or advice with prompt response
- Exam technique advice
- Final "mock" exam for students, if desired
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Day 1: logical reasoning and problem solving

Day 2: interpersonal understanding

Day 3: non-verbal reasoning

Day 4: invigilated mock exam at KES