

Sample Interview

Questions

Medicine

Why do you want to be a doctor?

What is the most important quality in a doctor?

Tell me about a medical article you've read recently.

What are the benefits of small local A&E units as opposed to large regional centres?

Should unhealthy foods and drinks be taxed in order to cover the cost of later healthcare?

"First, do no harm." All surgery causes some harm. Discuss.

What are the perceived benefits/challenges and issues involved in the planned project to sequence 100,000 human genomes and make them available for research scientists and for public access?

How can you tell if a patient can feel pain under anaesthesia?

What is the purpose of DNA?

How would you design a brain?

What are ulcers?

Why do we see things in the colours we do?

If there was only one bird flu vaccine left, who would you give it to between you and me?

If you were the new Secretary of Health, how would you want to improve the NHS?

Describe some of the physiological changes which affect human beings during space flight.

What is your stance on the testing of drugs on animals?

How do you feel about euthanasia/private health care/abortion/assisted suicide/embryonic stem cell research/organ donation? (Interviewers are generally looking for a balanced view).

What is an enzyme?

What is a catalyst?

What does a statin do?

Is it ever acceptable to lie?

How does penicillin work?

Is access to medical information on the internet a problem for patients and/or doctors? Should we control what information is available on the internet?

How would you assess your own clinical potential?

What advancements in medicine has war caused?

Have you ever seen a doctor handle a difficult situation?

Is paedophilia a medical condition?

What is the difference between a virus and a bacterium?

How would you deal with the victims of a plane crash if you were the only doctor or nurse there?

Would you prioritise the screaming people or the quiet ones?

How would you react if doctor's salaries were cut in half?

Which doctor has influenced you most and why?

Why do some South American tribes use poison darts to kill animals and why do they not die when eating the animal? (*keep asking for more reasons*)

What are the negative impacts of being a doctor?

Is the mother or father more important in determining a child's health?

What do you know about cancer?

What is Alzheimer's disease and what are the causes?

What do you know about Parkinson's disease and its causes?

How does an ECG work?

Where are radicals produced and what are they?

Why are diseases screened for? What are the benefits and disadvantages?

Which is more stable: DNA or RNA? Why?

What are the limitations of a full hip replacement?

What happens to the brain to cause epilepsy?

How is the pharmaceutical industry related to medicine?

Describe how the body gets its energy.

How would you put disease into different categories?

Name a virus and explain what it does. Why is it so hard to fight against viruses using antibiotics?

If someone came into your GP surgery with a painful knee, what would you ask them?

What are the functions of the stomach? How is the wall of the stomach protected from acidic conditions?

What happens when you cut yourself? Is scar tissue skin?

What are the functions of the spine?

Dentistry

Why do you want to study this subject?

What are you reading regularly or what have you read recently which demonstrates your interest in this subject?

Why is this subject important?

What examples of your manual dexterity do you have?

What are the negative aspects of dentistry?

If taxpayers pay tax for dental students to become dentists do you think all dentists should have to work in the NHS for a certain number of years?

Can you think of a good example of your team working skills?

Tell us about what you observed on your work experience?

Why do you think that many NHS dentists are going private?

What qualities should a dentist have?

How do you cope with stress?

How is dentistry different to other jobs?

What do you do in your spare time to relax?

Can you tell us about any modern advances in dentistry?

How do you feel about the lack of dentists in this country and the lack of funding for dentists?

How do you feel about dentists moving over to this country e.g from Poland where there is an even greater shortage of dentists?

Why do some people underestimate the value of their teeth?

How should the government spend money on NHS dentistry and prevention of dental disease?
Are dentists portrayed badly in the media?

What stresses do dentists face other than their time management?

Which organ are you most interest in and why?

What is angioplasty?

Describe the structure of the heart and tell me about the circulatory system. How is a foetal heart different from a mature heart?

What are stem cells? What triggers differentiation and happens inside a cell to cause the cell to become specialised?

How would you isolate a lung stem cell?

What is the most common inherited disorder/genetic disease?

What are the immediate effects of high altitude on the body? Why can you not survive higher than a certain altitude without a pressure suit?

How would you go about designing a vaccine?

How would you break bad news to a patient?

Should prescribing nurses have to attend medical school?

How much blood is inside you? How would you measure the exact amount?

Why are elderly women more likely to develop osteoporosis?

How would you decide who gets organs between two patients when there is an organ shortage?

Veterinary Medicine

Why do you want to study this subject?

What are you reading regularly or what have you read recently which demonstrates your interest in this subject?

Why is this subject important?

What do you think about kidney transplants in cats?

Why do animals have two ears (i.e. not one or four)?

Is selective breeding tantamount to genetic modification?

Why do dogs behave badly?

What is the time difference from sound reaching one ear and the other?

How would you have solved the foot and mouth crisis?

How is a horse's anatomy different to a dog's?

Have you come across any cases during work experience which particularly interested you?

How does an antibiotic work?

What are the differences between a horse's leg and a human leg?

Estimate how much blood there is in the human body and explain how this amount could be measured.

When you eat a slice of toast, what happens?

What variables affect the drug you would give an animal?

Why is a horse faster than an elephant?

Why can't a fish breathe out of water?

How do we ensure animal welfare?

Why not vaccinate cattle against TB?

What is the point of a vet?

Why do you want to be a vet?

What is BSE?

How have animals adapted over time and what causes them to adapt? Are there any flaws in the theory of evolution? What other theories are there about how animals change?

What are the pressures and most stressful parts of being a vet?