

MMI Questions

Below is a selection of Multi-Mini Interview, MMI Questions. All MMI Questions describe the station set up and suggest an approach you might take.

The answer guides have been put together by medics who have successfully navigated interviews at top Medical Schools.

Remember, though, that an interview is about an individual, so there are no hard and fast rules. The answer guides are only examples and are not exhaustive. They should be used to stimulate your thinking — not repeated verbatim at your interview.

MMI Question 1

Station set up:

The interviewer is sitting across from you, on the table there is a wrapped up box. You are asked to instruct the interviewer on how to unwrap and open the box, without helping them or using your hands. It's not straight forward as the examiner will be using no assumed knowledge and will be doing what you tell them only, e.g. 'lift up that flap'; *starts lifting up wrong flap*, 'Turn the box around'; *turns box in wrong direction*.

This station is testing your communication skills and your patience.

Approach:

- First explain the aim to the interviewer e.g. 'our aim is to open that box, I am going to give you a set of instructions on how to do so, are you ready?'
 - The key is to very specific with your instructions e.g. 'use your left hand to lift the left flap up and outwards to the left'.
 - The interviewer will do what you ask but try to not do what is wanted in order to test you. They are role playing and this could get quite frustrating given the time constraints. You must stay calm; be patient and smile.
 - Important aspects to convey are: changing your communication style to adapt (so rewording instructions), patience and perseverance (you can't just give up)
 - Don't be disheartened/frustrated if you never get the box opened, that's not the main point, it's your approach to the situation that actually matters.
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MMI Question 2

Station set up:

An actor hands you a card, telling you that, in this role play, you are a close friend of theirs. You have been house-sitting whilst 'your friend' has been on holiday and you have to explain to them that you broke their favourite ornament. When informed, the actor becomes hysterical and very angry. This station is testing your communication skills, ability to give bad news, your empathy and willingness to admit to your mistakes.

Approach:

- First make small talk to make the other person comfortable (remember in this scenario you are best friends) – *hi, how are you?*
- Then prepare them for the news- *I've got something to tell you that may be quite upsetting.*
- Tell them the bad news, making sure you are apologetic and empathise with them (the actor is going to be quite hysterical at this point, doing anything to make you feel uncomfortable).
- It's your job to stay calm. You should ask if there's anything you can do to remedy the situation e.g. offer to replace it (showing your problem solving skills).

MMI Question 3

Station set up:

You are told that this weekend you're going on a camping trip. Before you is a table of random objects. You have 20 seconds to pick 5 objects you deem to be of the most importance and value, and explain.

This station is testing your ability to make time pressured decisions and be able to defend them, it's also testing your ability to think practically.

Approach:

- Go through each item, briefly explaining why you picked it
- What use is it?
- What situations would it help you navigate?
- Is it going to be a hindrance e.g. heavy to carry, or is it conveniently sized?
- You could explain why you didn't pick some of the other items on the table

MMI Question 4

Station set up:

The interviewer asks a question: what ethical principle of medicine would you consider to be most important?

This station is simply testing your knowledge of the various ethical principles and checking that you appreciate their importance when making decisions.

Approach:

- Don't worry there is no most important one, just pick one of the following, describe its meaning and be able to justify your choice:
- Autonomy- allows patients to make informed decisions about their own treatment.
- Beneficence- Doctors must do good and act in best interest of their patients and/or society as a whole.
- Non-maleficence: Doctors should act in ways that do not cause harm to patients.
- Justice- Fairness across the population, only discriminating based on clinical need.
- Confidentiality- whilst not strictly an ethical principle, it's linked to several of them.
- This list and the explanations are not exhaustive so you need to beef up your explanation, you can look up the principles yourself, there's a lot of literature to look at.
- Link whatever principle you choose to your work experience by giving an example of how you saw the principle being demonstrated.

MMI Question 5

Section Setup:

You are faced with an actor playing a 65 year old man who has just been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He is coming to his GP for advice on how to cope with his diagnosis as he has heard a lot of stigma over the years about dementia and its burden on both his family and the healthcare service. Whilst talking to you he breaks down into tears.

This station is testing your ability to empathise with patients, knowledge of the problem of an ageing population, communication skills

Approach:

- Console the patient in an empathetic way
- Advise him on latest developments e.g. assistive technology
- Advise him to joining support groups e.g Alzheimer's Society
- Reassure him that there is a lot less stigma about dementia now than in the past