

Sunshine Tutorial Services

General Advice when preparing for section I and II of the GAMSAT General Knowledge and Big Ideas

General knowledge about and the big ideas of, a culture cannot be acquired by reading a book. They are only acquired over time by taking a consistent interest in issues and ideas. The following sites will not only provide you with general knowledge but will also canvass arguments and ideas related to the foundations of our culture. In addition, they will help expand your vocabulary.

TED <http://www.ted.com/>

Harvard University Justice with Michael Sander <http://www.justiceharvard.org/watch/>

The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

The Conversation <http://theconversation.edu.au/>

Some subjects areas you might consider:

Poverty, Climate Change, Africa, Social Justice, Aid, Genetic Engineering, GM Crops, Urban Development, Congestion, Governance, Corruption, Inventiveness, Science, Space Exploration, International Law, War and Peace, Refugees, Women, Disability.....and so on. Consider: What is the issue? What are the various positions? What is your view? Why?

You should aim to have sufficient general knowledge on a range of cultural issues to be able to form an "intelligent" opinion. An "intelligent" opinion is one for which you have plausible justifications: not one with which the examiners agree.

Verbal Logic

The following APP can be downloaded for free from:

Logical Reasoning APP

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.programmerworld.LogicalReasoningQuestions>

This APP provides a series of basic logic exercises of various forms. (Number and abstract concept rarely present a problem for GAMSAT students). Focus instead on the language exercises ; Theme detection, matching definitions, analogies, making judgements etc. (We are always interested in new and useful apps)

Real Life Reasoning.

Contemporary Ethical Issues. <http://www.blatner.com/adam/psyntbk/ethicissues.htm>

Top Ten Moral-dilemmas. <http://listverse.com/2007/10/21/top-10-moral-dilemmas/>

Practice: Spend time thinking about your answer to each of the problems raised. How would you justify your answer? Spend 25 minutes writing out your answer and explaining your reasoning.

Examiners look for clear reasoning under pressure, good general knowledge and the capacity for empathy.