

MCAT[®] 2015

Student Guide



MCAT[®]

MCAT2015 Student Guide

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Welcome to The Princeton Review!

Welcome to TPR's MCAT[®] preparation program, updated and improved for MCAT2015! You've made a great decision to prep with us and we look forward to working with you. Our program is the best in the business: we offer 123 hours of live instruction, on-demand office hours, 11 full-length practice tests, a state-of-the-art online learning system that incorporates recent educational psychology research on the best ways to learn, 9 comprehensive textbooks, and thousands of questions in drills and practice passages, both online and printed. Our instructors are highly qualified experts in their field and must be certified in a rigorous training before entering the classroom. You are in great hands! But, like anything else, it's not magic: you'll get out of it what you put into it. This guide offers recommendations for how to set up your preparation schedule most efficiently and effectively. If at any time you have questions, let us know: we are here to help.

Register for the Test

Signing up for The Princeton Review MCAT course **does not** register you for the actual MCAT. If you haven't already, register now at www.aamc.org. The current fee is \$300.

We Love to Hear From You

Questions about course content should be directed towards your instructors. If at any time during the course you have concerns about any aspect of the program, please call us at 800-2REVIEW. Your satisfaction is incredibly important to us, so don't hesitate to let us know what we can do to improve your MCAT course experience.

We will also issue a post-course survey, "Would You Recommend The Princeton Review?" We hope your answers will reflect our efforts to deliver the type of program that has made The Princeton Review a leader in test prep and admissions services. We look forward to working with you.

Are You Ready for the MCAT[®]?

The MCAT[®] has been redesigned by the AAMC for 2015 with the stated purpose of better aligning the content knowledge tested with the material students need to know in order to be successful in medical school. The new test includes a greater emphasis on biochemistry, molecular biology, and psychology and sociology. Use the checklist below to record a snapshot of your current confidence levels in each of the major topic areas tested. Are there science categories you already know should be an area of focus for you? Being aware of those can help you focus your preparation.

Content Topic	Rate Your Confidence				
	(1 = low confidence/knowledge, 5 = strong confidence/knowledge)				
Autonomic Nervous System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Bacteria	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Biochemical Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Biological Macromolecules	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Cardiovascular System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Cellular Respiration	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Central/Peripheral Nervous System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Digestive System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
DNA Replication	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
DNA Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Embryology and Development	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Endocrine System and Hormones	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Enzymes and Enzyme Inhibition	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Eukaryotic Cell Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Evolution and Natural Selection	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Immunology	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Linked Genes and Hardy Weinberg	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Mendelian Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Mitosis/Meiosis	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Musculoskeletal System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Mutations and Repair	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Neuron Structure and Function	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Pedigree Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Protein Translation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Renal System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Reproductive Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Respiratory System	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
RNA Transcription	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Transmembrane Transport	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Viruses, Prions, Viroids	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Acids and Bases	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Atomic Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Bonding	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Buffers and Titrations	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Electrochemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Equilibrium	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Gases	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Intermolecular Interactions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Kinetics and Thermodynamics	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Periodic Trends	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Phases and Phase Changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Radioactivity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Redox Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Stoichiometry	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Aldehydes and Ketone Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Carboxylic Acid Derivatives	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Nomenclature and Functional Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Nucleophiles, Electrophiles, Leaving Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Separation Techniques	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Spectroscopy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Stereochemistry	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Substitutions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Conservation of Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Circuits and Capacitors	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Magnetism	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Electrostatics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fluid Dynamics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fluid Statics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Forces and Newton's Laws	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Kinematics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Mechanical Advantage and Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Mechanical Oscillations and Waves	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Momentum	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Optics – Mirrors/Lenses	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Physical Optics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Quantum Physics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sound Waves	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Thermal Physics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Torque, Center of Mass, Rotational Inertia	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Uniform Circular Motion	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Work and Power	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Attention and Attention Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Attitude and Attitude Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Attribution, Errors, Biases	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Behavior/Behavior Change	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Behavioral Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Cognition and Cognitive Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Consciousness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Culture, Socialization, Social Institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Demographic Structure/Shifts	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Emotion/Emotion Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Global Inequality	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Group Processes, Social Processes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Health/Healthcare Disparities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Human Development	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Identity and Identity Formation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Language	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Learning and Memory	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Motivation/Motivation Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Nervous System Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Perception/Perception Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Personality/Personality Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Prejudice and Stereotypes, Discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Psychological Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Psychological Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Self-Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sensation/Sensory Receptors	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Social Theories	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Statuses, Roles, Class	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Stress	<input type="checkbox"/>				

You should periodically revisit this list to confirm that your confidence and knowledge base are increasing.

Remember: you're reading these words for a reason... you want to be a doctor. The road to that goal may be long, and it may occasionally be hard, but you're here because you believe it is worthwhile. We believe in you, and we're on your side to help you achieve your goals. Let's get started!

General Schedule and Overview

The general schedule shown below assumes your course starts 15 weeks before your actual MCAT and lasts 12 weeks, leaving you about three weeks for review. If this is not the case, expand or contract the schedule as necessary. Expanding is easy... just spread the final review weeks out over more weeks as needed. To contract the schedule, for maximum efficiency focus on your weakest areas, and plan on doing more work each day. Remember that you can also track your strengths and weaknesses on the Progress page in your online Dashboard.

Overview:

By the end of Week 1:

- Read “Information about Diagnostic Exams” in the Resources section of your online content
- Take Science Diagnostic Exams Set 1A
- Take the CARS Reading Comprehension Diagnostic Exam
- Review your score reports to determine which subject and subtopic areas are your weakest
- Read “Information about Core and Supplemental Tests” in the Resources section of your online content
- Take TPR Course Test 1

Weekly:

- Homework in each subject, emphasizing your weak areas
- Diagnostic exams as indicated in subject-specific schedules
- End of Week 4: TPR Course Test 2, review score report
- End of Week 6: TPR Course Test 3, review score report
- End of Week 8: TPR Course Test 4, review score report
- End of Week 10: TPR Course Test 5, review score report
- 1 week before your actual MCAT test date: AAMC Sample Test, review score report

About Diagnostic Exams:

You will have access to your online content 10 days before the start of your course, so you can start your prep before your classes begin. The first thing to do is to take the first set of Diagnostic Exams. Diagnostic Exams are NOT the same as Practice Tests. Practice Tests are mock MCATs, designed to look and feel like the actual test and are NOT content-comprehensive. There is simply no way to cover all areas of science content and all variations on CARS passages and questions in only 9-10 passages and 59 questions (sciences) or 9 passages and 53 questions (CARS). The science Diagnostic Exams are much longer in order to cover all MCAT content. For example, the Biology Diagnostic Exams include a total of almost 150 questions; the Physics exams include almost 130 questions, etc.

You have two full sets of Diagnostic Exams for each subject (Biology Diagnostic Exams 1A and 1B, Physics Diagnostic Exams 1A and 1B, Biology Diagnostic Exams 2A and 2B, Physics Diagnostic Exams 2A and 2B, etc.). Sets A and B are written to be very similar, but not identical (they test the same concepts in different ways), so that you can gauge improvement from the first set to the second. The Princeton Review is proud to be the only test-prep company to offer this to students!

Note that the CARS Exams, unlike the science exams, are timed, since the ability to do well in the CARS section is very much dependent on your ability to effectively pace yourself. Make sure to complete the online MCAT CARS Self-Evaluation Survey that goes with each CARS Diagnostic exam shortly after taking each test; these surveys are designed to give you more information and strategies based on the results of your Diagnostic Exam. When reviewing the CARS Diagnostics, make sure to take note of any question type or format that stands out as a weakness. When reviewing these questions, work to figure out what it is about that particular question type or format that causes you problems. There is also a CARS Reading Comprehension Diagnostic Exam. This is the first CARS Diagnostic Exam that you will be taking. The score on this exam, given as a percentage, will give you an idea of how strong your basic reading comprehension skills are and if that is an area within CARS on which you need to work to improve.

The Diagnostic Exams are subdivided into sections and each section is to be taken at a different point during your course. For example, Biology Diagnostic Exam 1A includes questions from the first three lectures and is to be taken before the course begins. After Biology Lecture 3, you will take Biology Diagnostic Exam 1B to see how you’ve improved since taking 1A, and you will take Biology Diagnostic Exam 2A to prepare for the next two lectures. The subject syllabus for each content area lists the specific exam to be taken at a particular point in the coursework.

About Score Reports:

Score reports are found by logging into your Student Tools at www.princetonreview.com. Drill score reports and diagnostic exam score reports can be accessed by going to the Classes page (where you initially launched the drill or diag) and clicking “View Report”. Practice test score reports are viewable from the Practice Tests page. Note that scores for the drills and diagnostic exams are reported simply as a percent correct and *do not* correlate with MCAT scores.

Note that the overall Diagnostic Exam score is less important than your performance in the individual subtopics. The subtopics within the sciences correlate with lecture topics and knowing the subtopics in which you show weakness will be important in guiding your homework and study throughout the course. Make sure to take note of your weaker science subtopics or CARS question types. You’ll want to review the individual questions as well; to review a question, simply click on the question number in your score report.

About Practice Tests:

At **minimum**, you should take and review five Practice Tests throughout your course, approximately one test every two weeks. The order in which you should take the tests is:

- TPR Course Test 1
- TPR Course Test 2
- TPR Course Test 3
- TPR Course Test 4
- TPR Course Test 5
- AAMC Sample Test (when available)

All of the above tests are, or will be (as soon as the AAMC Sample Test is released), available in the “Core Tests” folder in your online content.

Feel free to take more practice tests as your time and schedule allow. You can incorporate the Supplemental Tests into the General Schedule below on weeks where no Core Test is scheduled. Make sure to include review time; taking practice tests without reviewing the answers is not helpful. Also make sure to review any questions you are unsure about, or need guidance on, with your instructors.

Note that due to copyright reasons, we are not allowed to reproduce any AAMC content on our website; to review your AAMC Sample Test you must view the **AAMC score report** for that test.

You might choose to review your tests using the Question Review Worksheet found in the Resources section of your online content, under “Additional Printable Resources.” You can print out this PDF form and fill out a copy for each section of the practice test you are reviewing. Highlighting the questions you got wrong can help you see patterns and/or areas of weakness. For CARS, use the CARS Self-Evaluation Survey (*CARS Review* pp. 30-43) and the Test Assessment Log (*CARS Review* p. 24-26). Copies of the log can also be downloaded from your online content.

About *amplifire*TM:

*amplifire*TM is a revolutionary new software tool to help you review and learn MCAT science content. There is at least one *amplifire*TM module, sometimes more than one, for each MCAT science lecture.

Think of *amplifire*TM as electronic flashcards, but better because they are MCAT-style questions. Each module contains approximately 20 questions that are presented to you in groups of eight. You must answer each question correctly twice to consider the module “mastered”; if you get a question wrong, the program will continue to cycle that question and present it to you until you have answered it correctly twice.

About the LiveOnline Psychology/Sociology modules:

The Psychology/Sociology portion of this course is delivered LiveOnline (LOL) via *Blackboard Collaborate*. When you access your online resources for the first time you will schedule your six LOL Psych/Soc class sessions. You can access the classroom links from the individual Psychology/Sociology Class pages; the links to the classroom become active 15 minutes before class starts. You can also reschedule classes from those pages, and when class is over, you can review the recording of the class by clicking the “Review” button.

General Schedule

Remember to schedule your study time like you would schedule anything else important. Set aside blocks of uninterrupted time when you know you can focus effectively.

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
0 (before course start)	Biology Diagnostic Exam 1A	Gen. Chem. Diagnostic Exam 1A	Physics Diagnostic Exam 1A	O-Chem. Diagnostic Exam 1A	Psych/Soc Diagnostic Exam 1A	CARS Reading Comprehension Diagnostic Exam	Review Tests
1	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams					TPR Course Test 1	Review Practice Test
2	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams						
3	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams						
4	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams					TPR Course Test 2	Review Practice Test
5	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams						
6	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams					TPR Course Test 3	Review Practice Test
7	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams						
8	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams					TPR Course Test 4	Review Practice Test
9	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams						
10	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams					TPR Course Test 5	Review Practice Test
11	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams						
12	Subject-specific homework, reading, and diagnostic exams. Complete unfinished ICC passages and any incomplete or optional homework.						
13	Subject-specific review as necessary.					AAMC Sample Test	Review Sample Test
14	Final review on topics you are unsure of, email your teachers with questions, redo <i>amplifire</i> TM modules, etc.						
TAKE THE REAL MCAT!!							

Subject-Specific Syllabi and Homework Lists:

On the next several pages you will find syllabi for the different MCAT subjects. These will let you know the topic of the class, the prework you should do before, and the homework you should do after.

Sciences

Required Homework, All Students: all reading, all *amplifire*[™] modules, and all freestanding question sets in the textbooks (*MCAT Review* series texts) are required. Some of the passages (printed or online) are required.

Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness: these are passages that tend to be more content-heavy than other passages, i.e., they tend to test more memory-based concepts, or the more basic concepts, in a particular subtopic. If you have a solid understanding of a particular subtopic (i.e., your Diagnostic Exam does not indicate this is an area of weakness), these passages are optional for you; note however, that the more practice passages you complete, the better you will be all around. Remember that you will determine your personal areas of weakness by taking the Diagnostic Exams periodically throughout the course (see “About Diagnostic Exams” above and the general schedule below).

Required Homework, Subtopic Strength: these are more advanced passages that tend to be less content-heavy than other passages, i.e., they tend to test more from the passage topic or experiment than from basic concepts. If you have a weakness in a particular subtopic (i.e., your Diagnostic Exam indicates this is an area of weakness), these passages are optional for you; note however, that the more practice passages you complete, the more prepared you will be all around. You might choose to delay these passages until you have completed the course and are doing your final review before the MCAT. Remember that you will determine your personal areas of weakness by taking the Diagnostic Exams periodically throughout the course (see “About Diagnostic Exams” above and the general schedule below).

Optional Homework, All Students: additional passages you can complete as time allows or for final review before the MCAT. The passages are sorted into “Weakness” (more content-heavy passages) and “Strength” (less content-heavy passages)

Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

Required Homework, All Students: all reading and all passages/exercises from the *MCAT Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Review* are required.

Required Homework, Low Practice Test Score: a low practice test score is a 124 or below. The first five assignments include passages that are, for the most part, at or below average difficulty level compared to other passages. These will help you improve your CARS skills before you attempt some of the harder passages. Once your practice test score rises to a 125 or above, switch to the High Score assignments. Or, if it is after Class 5, you may wish to go back and complete the harder passages in the earlier assignments for extra practice. The assignments for weeks 6 and 7 are the same for all students.

Required Homework, High Practice Test Score: a high practice test score is a 125 or above. The first five assignments consist of passages that are, for the most part, at or above average difficulty compared to other passages. They will give you practice on what would be the harder passages on the test. However, there is still value in doing and perfecting your performance on easier passages; you may wish to complete both assignments for Classes 1-5. The assignments for weeks 6 and 7 are the same for all students.

Optional Homework, All Students: additional passages you can complete as time allows. Optional homework for weeks 3-5 is categorized by “High Score” or “Low Score.” The optional homework for week 6 is the same for all students. The online practice passages are optional for these weeks because the required homework includes full CARS practice tests from the CARS Workbook. However, you are strongly encouraged to complete as many of the optional online practice passages as possible.

GENERAL CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT General Chemistry Review*; reading and *amplifire*TM primer questions should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”. See page 17 for explanations/definitions of the abbreviations used.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
TAKE GENERAL CHEMISTRY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1A					
1	Background; Chs. 1-2 Moles & Stoichiometry; Chapter 3 Atomic Structure and Periodic Trends; Ch. 4.1-4.3, 4.5-4.8 AMP GChem Lecture 1 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 1-2 GCR Ch. 4 questions and passage OL 3 SWB 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 1 SWB 1, 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 2 SWB 2, 5, 7 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 4, 5 SWB 6 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 4, 5 SWB 3, 4
2	Bonding and Intermolecular Forces; Chapter 5 Thermodynamics; Chapter 6 AMP GChem Lecture 2 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 3-5 GCR Chs. 5 and 6 questions and psgs. OL 6, 7 SWB 11, 19, 23, 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 12, 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 10, 16, 22 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 14, 17, 25 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 15, 18, 20, 21
TAKE G-CHEM DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1B (COMPARE TO 1A); TAKE G-CHEM DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2A					
3	Phases; Chapter 7 Gases; Chapter 8 AMP GChem Lecture 3 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 6-7 GCR Chs. 7 and 8 questions and psgs. OL 8, 11 SWB 28, 30, 34, 37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 10 SWB 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 9, 12 SWB 31, 32 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 13, 14 SWB 27, 33 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 29, 35, 36
4	Kinetics; Chapter 9 Equilibrium; Chapter 10 AMP GChem Lecture 4 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 8-9 GCR Chs. 9 and 10 questions and psgs. OL 18, 20, 21 SWB 38, 41, 43 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 19 SWB 44, 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 16, 23 SWB 39, 40 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 46 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 15, 17, 22 SWB 42, 47
TAKE G-CHEM DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2B (COMPARE TO 2A); TAKE G-CHEM DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3A					
5	Acids and Bases; Chapter 11 AMP GChem Lecture 5 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 10-11 GCR Ch. 11 questions and psg. OL 28, 31 SWB 48, 51, 55, 56 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 26, 30 SWB 49, 54 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 29, 32 SWB 50, 58 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 24, 27 SWB 52, 53, 57 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 25, 33 SWB 53
6	Redox and Electrochemistry; Chapter 12 Radioactive Decay; Section 4.4 AMP GChem Lecture 6 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 12-13 GCR Ch. 12 questions and psg. OL 35, 37 Redox 62, 66, 67, 76, 78 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 34 SWB 64, 68, 73 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 36 SWB 60, 69, 75 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 38 SWB 63, 71, 72, 74, 77, 80 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 38 SWB 59, 61, 65, 70, 79, 81, 82
TAKE GENERAL CHEMISTRY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3B (COMPARE TO 3A)					

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Organic Chemistry Review*; reading and *amplifire*TM primer questions should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”. See page 17 for explanations/definitions of the abbreviations used.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
TAKE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1A					
1	Background; Chapters 1 and 2 Structure and Stability; Chapters 3 and 4 AMP OChem Lecture 1 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 1-2 OCR Ch. 4 questions and passage OL 4, 5 SWB 1, 2, 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 2 SWB 5, 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 6 SWB 4, 8 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 3 SWB 10, 11 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 1 SWB 6, 9
2	Separation Techniques and Spectroscopy; Chapter 5 AMP OChem Lecture 2 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 3 OCR Ch. 5 questions and passage OL 10, 11 SWB 13, 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 8, 12 SWB 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 7, 9 SWB 12 	
TAKE O-CHEM DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1B (COMPARE TO 1A); TAKE O-CHEM DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2A					
3	Carbonyl Chemistry; Chapter 6 AMP OChem Lecture 3 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 4 OCR Ch. 6 questions and passage OL 13, 20 SWB 17, 18, 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 15, 17 SWB 19, 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 16, 19 SWB 25, 26 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 14, 21 SWB 16, 21 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 18 SWB 23, 24, 27, 28
4	Biologically Important Molecules; Chapter 7 AMP OChem Lecture 4 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 5 OCR Ch. 7 questions and passage OL 23, 24 SWB 31, 35, 36 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 22 SWB 30, 37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 8 SWB 29, 32 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 34, 38 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL 25 SWB 33
TAKE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2B (COMPARE TO 2A)					

PHYSICS SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Physics and Math Review*; reading and *amplifire*TM primer questions should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”. See page 17 for explanations/definitions of the abbreviations used.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
TAKE PHYSICS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1A					
1	Kinematics and Newton’s Laws; Chapter 3 and section 4.1 AMP Physics Lecture 1 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 1-4 PMR Ch. 3 questions and passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 2, 4 SWB 1, 2, 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 1, 3, 5 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read PMR pp. 508-564, “Math for Physics”
2	Mechanics I and II: Forces, Uniform Circular Motion, & Torque; Chapters 4 & 5 AMP Physics Lecture 2 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 5-9 PMR Ch. 4 and 5 questions and passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 6, 8 SWB 7 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 4
3	Mechanics III: Work, Energy, and Momentum; Chapter 6 AMP Physics Lecture 3 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 10-12 PMR Ch. 6 questions and passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 9, 10, 12 SWB 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-P 11 SWB 8, 9 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 13 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 5, 6, 10, 12, 14
TAKE PHYSICS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1B (COMPARE TO 1A); TAKE PHYSICS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2A					
4	Thermal Physics, Fluids, Elasticity of Solids; Chapters 7 & 8 AMP Physics Lecture 4 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 13-15 PMR Ch. 7 and 8 questions and passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 14, 16, 17, 18 SWB 16, 19, 20, 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 13, 15, 19 SWB 17, 18, 27 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 15, 22, 24, 25 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 21, 26, 28
5	Electrostatics; Capacitors Chapter 9, section 10.2 AMP Physics Lecture 5 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 16 PMR Ch. 9 questions and passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 20 SWB 29, 30, 42 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 21 SWB 41 	<i>none</i>
6	Electricity and Magnetism; Chap. 10 AMP Physics Lecture 6 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 17-18 PMR Ch. 10 questions and passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 24 SWB 32, 35, 37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 22, 23 SWB 33, 40, 43 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 31, 36, 38, 39 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 34, 44
TAKE PHYSICS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2B (COMPARE TO 1B); TAKE PHYSICS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3A					
7	Oscillations and Waves, Sound; Chapters 11 and 12 AMP Physics Lecture 7 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 19-23 PMR Ch. 11 and 12 questions and passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 27-29, 31, 33 SWB 45, 47 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 25, 26, 30, 32 SWB 50, 53, 57 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 48 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 46, 49, 51, 54, 58
8	Light, Geometric Optics, and Quantum Physics; Chps. 13 & 14 AMP Physics Lecture 8 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 24-26 PMR Ch. 13 and 14 questions and passages. Unfinished ICC psgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 35, 38 SWB 52, 56 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-PP 34, 36, 37 SWB 59, 62 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 55, 60, 61, 63, 64
TAKE PHYSICS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3B (COMPARE TO 3A)					

CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND REASONING SKILLS: SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading and exercises should be completed AFTER the designated class and BEFORE the next class (or the real MCAT). Complete only the exercises and drills that are listed here or assigned by your teacher. When completing practice passages in the *MCAT Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Review*, make sure to follow the instructions that introduce that drill. After taking any Practice Test (including the CARS Workbook Practice Tests), complete the CARS Self-Evaluation Survey (CARS Review pp. 30-43) and Test Assessment Log (CARS Review pp. 24-26) as soon as possible after taking the test. See page 17 for explanations/definitions of the abbreviations used.

Class	Topics	Required Homework: All Students	Required Homework: Low Scores	Required Homework: High Scores	Optional Homework
TAKE CARS READING COMPREHENSION DIAGNOSTIC EXAM BEFORE CLASS 1 DO CLASS 1 AND 2 OL-CARSPP AND CARSWB PASSAGES UNTIMED, FOCUSING ON TECHNIQUE AND ACCURACY.					
1	Introduction to MCAT Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read CARSREV Ch. 1-3 Do CARSREV Ch. 2 end of chapter passages Do CARSREV Ch. 3 "CARS Exercises: MAPS" 1-4 (pp. 68-77) and "CARS Exercises: Active Reading" 1 & 2 (pp. 82-89) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARSWB 1, 4, 9, 5 OL-CARSPP 1-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARSWB 3, 7, 8, 11 OL-CARSPP 6-10 	n/a
2	Active Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do CARSREV Ch. 3 passages Read CARSREV Ch. 4 pp. 107-122 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARSWB 6, 13, 15, 16 OL-CARSPP 11-15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARSWB 2, 12, 14, 21, OL-CARSPP 16-20 	n/a
FROM THIS POINT ON, DO AT LEAST TWO PASSAGES AT A TIME BEFORE CHECKING ANSWERS.					
3	Question Types and Strategies Part I (Formats and Specific/ General Questions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read CARSREV Ch. 4 pp. 123-186 Do CARSREV Ch. 4 end of chapter passages Take CARSWB Practice Test I (timed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARSWB 20, 19 OL-CARSPP 21, 23-25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARSWB 10, 18 OL-CARSPP 27-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Scores OL-CARSPP 13 High Scores OL-CARSPP 26 All: CARSWB 17, 22
TAKE CARS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1A AFTER CLASS 3 FROM THIS POINT ON, KEEP TRACK OF THE TIME SPENT ON OL-CARSPP PASSAGES.					
4	Question Types and Strategies Part II (Reasoning and Application Questions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do CARSREV "Identifying Question Types" Exercise 1- (pp. 140- 141) DO CARSREV Exercise 2 "Focus on Question Types: Practice Passages" (pp. 141-173) Read CARSREV Ch. 5 and Appendix A.1 Take CARSWB Practice Test II (timed) 	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Scores: OL-CARSPP 31-35 High Scores OL-CARSPP 36-40
TAKE CARS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1B AFTER CLASS 4, COMPARE RESULTS TO 1A					

5	Process of Elimination (POE) and Attractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do CARSREV Ch. 5 end of chapter passages • Read CARSREV Chs. 6 and 7 • Do CARSREV Ch. 6 Ranking Exercises 1- 3 (pp. 226- 231) • Do CARSREV Ch. 7 Pacing and Self-Evaluation Exercises 1- 3 (p. 256- 263) • Take CARSWB Practice Test III (timed) 	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Scores: OL-CARSPP 41-44 • High Scores: OL-CARSPP 45-48
TAKE CARS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2A AFTER CLASS 5					
6	Section-Wide Strategy (Ranking/Ordering and Pacing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do CARSREV Chs. 6 & 7 end of chapter passages • Read CARSREV Chs. 8 & 9 • Do Ch. 8 Exercises 1- 6 (pp. 285-320) • Take CARSWB Practice Test IV (timed) 	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All: OL-CARSPP 49-51
TAKE CARS DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2B AFTER CLASS 6, COMPARE RESULTS TO 2A					
7	Solidifying Your Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read CARSREV Appendix A.2 • Do CARSREV Chs. 8 and 9 end of chapter passages • ICC: any passages not finished in class 	n/a	n/a	n/a

BIOLOGY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Biology and Biochemistry Review*; reading and *amplifire*TM primer questions should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all other questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”. See page 17 for explanations/definitions of the abbreviations used.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1A					
1	Biochemistry I; Chapters 3 and 4.1-4.6 AMP Biology Lecture 1 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 1 BBR Ch. 3 questions and passage OL-BP 1, 4, 5, 6 SWB 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 2, 4, 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 2, 3 SWB 3 	n/a
2	Biochemistry II, Intro to Molecular Biology; Chapters 4.7-4.8 and 5.1-5.5, (skim <i>MCAT O-Chem Review</i> Ch. 7) AMP Biology Lecture 2 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 2 BBR Ch. 4 questions and passage OL-BP 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 7 SWB 6, 7 	n/a
3	Molecular Biology, Viruses; Chapters 5.4-5.9 and 6.1-6.2 AMP Biology Lecture 3 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 3, 5, 19 BBR Ch. 5 questions and passage OL-BP 17, 19, 20 SWB 9, 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 15 SWB 12, 13 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 18 SWB 11, 14
TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1B AND COMPARE RESULTS TO 1A TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2A					
4	Bacteria, Eukaryotic Cells, Mitosis; Chapters 6.3-6.4 and 7.1-7.6 AMP Biology Lecture 4 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 4, 6, 7 BBR Ch. 6 questions and passage OL-BP 21, 24, 25, 26 SWB 16, 17, 19, 24, 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 18, 27, 29, 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 27 SWB 20, 21, 22 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 22, 23 SWB 15, 23, 28, 31, 32
5	Oncogenes, Meiosis, Genetics; Chapters 7.7 and 8 AMP Biology Lecture 5 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 8, 9 BBR Ch. 7 and 8 questions and passage OL-BP 28, 29, 32 SWB 34, 35, 36, 37, 39 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 30, 31, 33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 33, 38, 40 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 41 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 42, 43
TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2B AND COMPARE RESULTS TO 2A TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3A					
6	The Nervous System, Sensory Systems; Chapter 9.1-9.5 AMP Biology Lecture 6 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 10 BBR Ch. 9 questions and passage OL-BP 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 SWB 44, 46, 49, 51 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 35 SWB 45, 48 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 50, 53 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 47, 52, 54, 55
7	The Endocrine, Cardiovascular, and Lymphatic Systems, and Immunity; Chapters 9.6 and 10 AMP Biology Lecture 7 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 11, 12, 13 BBR Ch. 10 questions and passage OL-BP 41, 47, 48, 49, 50 SWB 59, 60, 61, 62, 65, 67 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 42, 46 SWB 56, 57, 63, 69, 72 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-BP 43, 44, 45 SWB 58, 66, 70 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 68 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 64, 71
TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3B AND COMPARE RESULTS TO 3A TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 4A					

8	The Excretory and Digestive Systems; Chapter 11 AMP Biology Lecture 8 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 14 • BBR Ch. 11 questions and passage • OL-BP 51, 52, 54 • SWB 74, 75 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-BP 55 • SWB 76, 78 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-BP 53, 56 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 73, 77
9	The Muscular, Skeletal, and Respiratory Systems, Skin; Chapters 12-13 AMP Biology Lecture 9 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP modules 15, 16 • BBR Chps. 12-13 questions and passages • OL-BP 57, 58, 59, 61, 66 • SWB 79, 80, 84, 85 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-BP 64 • SWB 81, 83, 87 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-BP 60, 62, 63, 65 • SWB 86 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 82, 88
10	The Reproductive Systems, and Development; Chapter 14 AMP Biology Lecture 10 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP modules 17, 18 • BBR Ch. 14 questions and passages • OL-BP 67, 71, 72, 73 • SWB 89, 92, 95 • Unfinished ICC psgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-BP 68 • SWB 91 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-BP 69, 70 • SWB 90, 93 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 94
TAKE BIOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 4B AND COMPARE RESULTS TO 4A					

PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Psychology and Sociology Review*; reading and *amplifire*TM primer questions should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See page 17 for explanations/definitions of the abbreviations used. Because this is such a new subject, all homework is required for this section.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength
TAKE PSYCH/SOC DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1A				
1	Self Identity, Group Identity, Social Structures, Statistics; Chapters 8, 7 (section 7.3), Appendix, Online Addendum to Chapters 7 and 8 (all) AMP Psych/Soc Lecture 1 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 1 • PSR Ch. 8 questions and passage • OL-PSP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 • SWB 1, 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 2, 4
2	Identity, Social Interaction, and Social Behavior; Chapter 7 and Chapter 5 (section 5.3) AMP Psych/Soc Lecture 2 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 2 • PSR Ch. 7 questions and passage • OL-PSP 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 • SWB 7, 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 9, 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 6
TAKE PSYCH/SOC DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 1B (COMPARE TO 1A); TAKE PSYCH/SOC DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2A				
3	Personality, Motivation, and Psychological Disorders; Chapter 6 and Chapter 5 (section 5.2) AMP Psych/Soc Lecture 3 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 3 • PSR Ch. 6 questions and passage • OL-PSP 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 • SWB 12, 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 14, 15
4	Learning and Memory; Chapter 5 (sections 5.1 and 5.4) AMP Psych/Soc Lecture 4 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 4 • PSR Ch. 5 questions and passage • OL-PSP 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 • SWB 18, 19, 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 16
TAKE PSYCH/SOC DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 2B (COMPARE TO 2A); TAKE PSYCH/SOC DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3A				
5	Attitudes, Consciousness, Emotion, and Stress; Chapter 4 (sections 4.1, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) and Chapter 6 (section 6.4) AMP Psych/Soc Lecture 5 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 5 • PSR Ch. 4 questions and passage • OL-PSP 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 • SWB 22, 23, 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 21
6	Sensation, Cognition, and Language; Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 (sections 4.2 and 4.6) AMP Psych/Soc Lecture 6 primer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 6 • PSR Ch. 3 questions and passage • OL-PSP 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 • SWB 27, 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 28, 29
TAKE PSYCH/SOC DIAGNOSTIC EXAM 3B (COMPARE TO 3A)				

SYLLABUS ABBREVIATION LEGEND

AMP = *amplifire*[™]

SWB = Science Workbook passages

ICC = In-Class Compendium

GCR = *MCAT General Chemistry Review* book

OL-GP = Online General Chemistry Practice Passages

OCR = *MCAT Organic Chemistry Review* book

OL-OP = Online Organic Chemistry Practice Passages

PMR = *MCAT Physics and Math Review* book

OL-PP = Online Physics Practice Passages

CARSREV = *MCAT Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Review* book

CARSWB = *Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Workbook*

OL-CARSPP = CARS Online Practice Passages

BBR = *MCAT Biology and Biochemistry Review* book

OL-BP = Online Biology Practice Passages

PSR = *MCAT Psychology and Sociology Review* book

OL-PSP = Online Psychology and Sociology Practice Passages

MCAT COMPUTER BASED TEST (CBT) INFORMATION AND TECHNIQUES

The section provides an overview of the CBT MCAT, as well as some general techniques you can use on the test. For all the information you would ever need about the MCAT, go to www.AAMC.org or PrincetonReview.com/MCAT.

Format	Exclusively computer-based. NOT an adaptive test.
Sections, Number of Questions, and Timing	Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems, 59 questions, 95 minutes Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills, 53 questions, 90 minutes Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems, 59 questions, 95 minutes Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior, 59 questions, 95 minutes
Scoring	Test is scaled. Several forms per administration. All sections receive scaled scores of 118-132.
Frequency of Test	14 testing dates in 2015. This is subject to change based upon need.
Length of Test Day	7½ hours
Breaks	Optional 10-minute breaks between sections, with an optional 30 minute break for lunch between CARS and Bio/Biochem.
Registration	Online via www.aamc.org . Begins as early as six months prior to test date; available up until week of test.
Security	Photo ID with signature Electronic fingerprint Electronic signature verification Assigned seat
Testing Centers	Administered at Thomson Prometric testing sites; smaller, climate-controlled computer testing rooms with standardized proctoring
Proctoring	Test administrator checks examinee in and assigns seat at computer. All testing instructions are given on the computer.
Allowed/Not allowed	No timers. Earplugs in a new, unopened container, or you can use the noise reduction headphones provided to you. Scratch paper and pencils given at start of test and taken at end of test. Locker provided for personal items.
Results: Timing and Delivery	Approximately 30 days. Electronic scores only. Examinees can print official score reports.
Maximum Number of Retakes	Can be taken a maximum of three times per year, but an examinee can only be registered for one date at a time. No “special permission” or documentation is required.

General Ideas on Practice Tests

- 1) **Do not “save up” your practice tests until you have “learned all the content”:** Practice tests are designed to get you familiar with the experience of taking a real test, and not necessarily for practicing science content. Your homework drills and practice passages are for practicing content. Practice tests are to help you learn what to do, eat, wear, etc. on test day. They are mock MCATs.
- 2) **Take the entire test in one sitting:** Do not take a section here, a section there. Set aside an entire day and start the practice test at the same time you will be taking your real MCAT. You need to learn how to sit and focus for 7.5+ hours, and the only way you can do that is by actually sitting and focusing for 7.5+ hours.
- 3) **Try to mimic test-taking conditions as closely as possible:** take the test at the same time of day. Be in an area where there are slight distractions (people will be walking in and out of the testing room on test day). Take your scheduled breaks. Use this time to go to the bathroom, have a snack, stretch, etc. Experiment with different snacks to see which ones give you the most energy and focus. Avoid caffeinated beverages and sugary snacks that might make your blood sugar crash and make you drowsy.

On-Screen Tools

The Computer Based Test (CBT) approach to the MCAT requires that students be able to adapt to the limitations of the on-screen tools that are provided. Because scratch paper is also provided, it can be used to supplement the tools. Your Princeton Review Instructors will give you more specific information on the best way to adapt usage of the tools and the scratch paper for the specific subjects on the MCAT. The on-screen tools are as follows:

- 1) **Highlighting:** This is done in the passage text (including equations and table entries, but excluding figures) by clicking and dragging the cursor over the desired text. To remove the highlighted portion, just click over the highlighted text. Note that highlights DO NOT persist once you leave the passage. Note also that using a regular mouse (as opposed to a touchpad) is the best way to practice this.
- 2) **Strike-out:** This is done on the various answer choices by clicking over the answer choice that you wish to eliminate. As a result, the entire set of text associated with that answer choice is crossed out. The strike-out can be removed by clicking again. Note that strike-outs DO persist after leaving the passage.
- 3) **Mark button:** This is available for each question and allows you to flag the question as one you would like to review later if time permits. When clicked, the “Mark” button turns red and says “Marked.”
- 4) **Review:** Button near the bottom. Clicking this button brings up a new screen showing all questions and their status (either “answered”, “unanswered”, or “marked”). You can then choose one of three options: “review all,” “review unanswered,” or “review marked.” This button can be clicked at any time during the allotted time for that section of the MCAT; you do NOT have to wait until the end of the section to click it.
- 5) **Previous/Next:** Buttons near the bottom. These allow movement from passage to passage. (NOTE: Highlights will be lost when moving from passage to passage. See above under “Highlighting”.)
- 6) **Periodic Table:** This can be brought up by clicking a button marked “Exhibit” near the bottom. Note that the periodic table is large and covers most of the screen. It is not possible to see the questions and the periodic table at the same time.

General Techniques

A. Mapping the Passage

1. Time is of the essence! Do not spend more than 1.5-2 minutes mapping a science passage, or 3-5 minutes mapping a CARS passage. The MCAT gives points for answering questions correctly, not for reading thoroughly.
2. Read the first sentence of the passage! The topic of science passages are usually found within the first few words (CARS passages are different; your CARS teachers will give you more information on this during class). On the three science sections of the test, many students find it more efficient to tackle all of the passages from their stronger subject first, leaving the remaining time to work on all passages from their weaker subject. Remember, the MCAT gives points for answering questions correctly, regardless of their difficulty level or subject association.
3. Highlighting—use this tool sparingly otherwise you will end up with a passage that is completely covered in yellow highlighter.
4. Scratch Paper—scratch paper is only useful if it is kept organized! This will be very useful when/if you wish to review a question.
 - Do not give in to the tendency to write on the first available open space.
 - Indicate which passage you are working on in a box near the top of your scratch work, and indicate which question you are working on in a circle to the left of the notes for that question.
 - Draw a line under your scratch work when you change passages to keep the work separate.
 - Do not erase or scribble over any previous work. If you do not think it is correct, draw one line through the work and start again. You may have already done some useful work without realizing it.

B. Tackling the Questions

1. Do the questions in order from easiest to most difficult.
2. Do not leave any questions blank. Use the Review button to make sure you have answered all questions.

3. Process of Elimination is paramount! Use your Strike-out tool to help you.
4. Use the “Mark” button to flag a question for later review. Make sure to click on an answer so that the question is not left blank.
5. Keep an eye on the timer. You get about 1 minute 35 seconds per question.

C. Miscellaneous

1. Relax. The Princeton Review Online Diagnostics and Practice Tests, the AAMC Practice Test, your awesome instructors, and your studying will give you the confidence you need to do well on the computer-based MCAT.
2. Take your 10-minute and 30-minute breaks. Get up, stretch, breathe deeply, eat something, go to the bathroom, etc. The breaks help to ease the transition between sections and moving around will stimulate blood flow to the brain.
3. Use the noise-reduction headphones or earplugs (see “Allowed/Not Allowed” in the table on page 18) to help eliminate distraction.