Judge the action, not yourself.

Situational Judgement is **69 questions in 26 minutes**: under 23 seconds each. It is the **tightest** section on the paper, not the most relaxed, and the one a lot of students walk in unprepared for because the questions look easy.

STRATEGY 1

Rate against the standards, not your instincts.

You are not judging what you would do. You are judging an action against professional standards: *Good Medical Practice* and its dental equivalent. Those codes do not publish a ranking, but in practice four considerations weigh in roughly this order, and it is a fast thing to test an option against.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A colleague makes a medication error. "Tell the supervising clinician" rates as very appropriate; "have a quiet word and leave it there" does not, because **patient safety** outweighs collegiality. Not because the quiet word is unkind, but because it leaves the risk in place.

1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
Patient safety	**Honesty**	**Know your limits**	**Respect and dignity**
beats everything else	never hide or cover	escalate, do not guess	patients and colleagues

STRATEGY 2

Settle the clear ones first.

You rate each option on its own. They are not ranked against each other, and two can carry the same rating. Most of the time lost goes on the gap between "appropriate but not ideal" and "inappropriate but not ideal". Do not start there. Settle the clearly very appropriate and very inappropriate ones, then you only have the middle left to weigh.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Four actions. One risks a patient: very inappropriate, instantly. One is safe, honest and within competence: very appropriate, instantly. That leaves two to weigh and about fifteen seconds, which is enough.

STRATEGY 3

Avoid both extremes of response.

Doing nothing is almost never right. Neither is escalating straight to the most senior person in the building. The best answer is usually the *proportionate* one: the smallest action that actually addresses the problem.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A receptionist is rude to a patient. "Report it to the hospital executive" rates as inappropriate for being disproportionate. "Ignore it" rates as inappropriate too. "Raise it with them directly" is the proportionate response.

Read the scenario once. Answer the whole cluster.

Scenarios carry several questions. Read it once, then answer the whole cluster before moving on. At under 23 seconds a question there is no room to read the same paragraph twice. Flag at about **35 seconds**. And note UCAT ANZ reports this section separately, as its own scaled score from **300 to 900**, not a band.

That is all four sections.

Every cheat sheet, the free pack and the Timing Blueprint are at **topmarktutors.com.au** · 0450 113 766

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