FREE RESOURCE

UCAT Timing Blueprint

How to pace every section: the exact time per question, when to flag and when to move on.

Section	Time	Questions	Per question
Verbal Reasoning	22 min	44	**30 sec**
Decision Making	37 min	35	**63 sec**
Quantitative Reasoning	26 min	36	**43 sec**
Situational Judgement	26 min	69	**22.6 sec**

Six pages. Designed to be saved to your phone and kept open while you practise.

Written by TopMark Tutors | topmarktutors.com.au
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THE PROBLEM

Timing is not a detail. It is the test.

The UCAT does not ask whether you can solve the question. It asks whether you can solve it in the time you have been given. Those are different skills, and only one of them is what most practice builds.

Where the time actually goes

The common pattern is not that students are slow. It is that they spend their time unevenly: a handful of hard items absorb minutes, and then the easy items at the end of the section get rushed or never reached. The marks lost at the end of a section are almost always easier than the marks fought for in the middle.

Two numbers that change how you practise

30 seconds is your Verbal Reasoning budget per question. **22.6 seconds** is your Situational Judgement budget. Most people assume Situational Judgement is the relaxed section because the questions look short. In fact it is the tightest section on the paper. Decision Making, at 63 seconds, is the generous one, and it is the easiest section to overspend in precisely because it feels affordable.

> **The flag rule**
>
> Set your flag threshold at about **1.5× your per-question target** for that section. Past that point, the expected value of continuing is lower than the expected value of banking two more questions. The thresholds are on the next page.

How the scoring works, briefly

Verbal Reasoning, Decision Making and Quantitative Reasoning are each scored from 300 to 900, and they add to a total of **900 to 2700**. Situational Judgement is reported separately as its own scaled score from **300 to 900**; it does not go into the total. Bands 1 to 4 are the UK convention and do not apply to UCAT ANZ.

THE TARGETS

Section by section.

Targets, not absolutes. Some questions are built to take ten seconds and some are built to eat three minutes. The goal is to *average* to these numbers across a full section.

Section	Total time	Questions	Target per question	Flag at
Verbal Reasoning	22 min	44	**30 sec**	**45 sec**
Decision Making	37 min	35	**63 sec**	**95 sec**
Quantitative Reasoning	26 min	36	**43 sec**	**65 sec**
Situational Judgement	26 min	69	**22.6 sec**	**35 sec**

Checkpoints, so you know mid-section

Averages only help if you can tell where you are. Use the halfway mark:

Section	At the halfway point you should be at	With
Verbal Reasoning	**question 22**	11 minutes left
Decision Making	**question 18**	18 minutes left
Quantitative Reasoning	**question 18**	13 minutes left
Situational Judgement	**question 35**	13 minutes left

If you are behind at the checkpoint

Do not try to speed up uniformly. That drops accuracy everywhere. Instead, lower your flag threshold to the target itself for the rest of the section. You will bank more questions and lose fewer marks than by rushing every item equally.

THE METHOD

Flag and return, properly.

Flagging is not giving up. It is deciding that a question has become more expensive than it is worth, and buying the cheaper questions behind it instead.

1. **Read the question. Can you see the path?**
   If you can see how to get there within the target time, do it. Most questions are like this.

2. **No path, or past the flag threshold? Mark it and move.**
   Do not finish the sentence you are on. The moment you pass the threshold is the moment to leave.

3. **Complete every unflagged question first.**
   Everything you have not seen is worth more than anything you have already failed to solve once.

4. **Return in order of partial understanding, not in page order.**
   Go to the flagged question where you got furthest, not the first one you flagged. Page order is arbitrary; how close you got is information.

> **Why returning works**
>
> A question you skip and come back to often takes half the time on the second look. You have already read the stem, your brain has kept working on it and you are no longer anchored to the approach that was not working. That is not a trick. It is the main reason flagging beats persistence.

The one exception

In Situational Judgement, scenarios carry several questions. Do not flag a single question out of a cluster and leave the scenario, or you will have to re-read the whole thing to come back. Answer the cluster, then move. At 22.6 seconds a question there is no room to read the same paragraph twice.

THE DRILL

How to train timing.

You cannot build timing by doing untimed questions and hoping. The timed-block method trains speed and accuracy as one skill, which is how the exam measures them.

1. **Set a timer for five minutes.**
   Short enough that you cannot drift, long enough to settle into a rhythm.

2. **Do as many questions as you can from one section.**
   One section per block. Mixing sections defeats the purpose: each has a different rhythm.

3. **Record attempted, correct and accuracy.**
   Both numbers, every time. Speed without accuracy is not progress.

4. **Four blocks per session. Track it for two weeks.**
   The goal is more questions attempted without accuracy falling below about 70 per cent.

Green
Accuracy holding, attempts rising. Keep going and tighten the target.

Amber
Attempts rising, accuracy falling. You are rushing, not speeding up. Slow back one notch.

Red
Attempts flat. The problem is method, not pace. Go back to the section strategy.

Date	Section	Block	Attempted	Correct	Accuracy	Notes
		1				
		2				
		3				
		4				

WHAT NEXT

Timing is what we drill.

A question bank gives you more questions. It does not tell you whether a lost mark was timing, method or reading, and those three have three different fixes. That is the gap this blueprint points at, and the gap the course is built to close.

Free Medicine and Dentistry workshop

Saturday 14 November, 11 am Adelaide time (11:30 am AEDT), about an hour on Google Meet. What each university asks for, how the application works and live Q&A. Free to attend, and it is live rather than recorded.

UCAT Online Course

Starts **Saturday 5 December 2026**, live online with Haseef: 96th percentile, 3210 in the 2024 sitting, now studying Medicine at Flinders University. Lecture classes teach the content; small-group workshop classes run timed questions and give you feedback on where the time went.

Two classes a week. **$35** a lecture, **$45** a workshop or **$75 a week for both**. First class free. Weekly through to your UCAT, with a pause over the Christmas period. Enrol by **Monday 30 November** to start with the group on day one.

topmarktutors.com.au/ucat.html

Topmarktutors99@gmail.com | 0450 113 766 | Adelaide

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