Explanation of BMAT Scores

Results for Sections 1 and 2 are reported on the BMAT scale, which runs from 1 (low) to 9 (high), with scores being reported to one decimal place. Extreme scores are expected to be comparatively rare. The scale has been designed so that typical applicants to the most highly selective undergraduate university courses in the UK (who are by definition academically very able) will score around 5.0. The best applicants will score more highly, but 6.0 represents a comparatively high score and only a few very exceptional applicants will achieve BMAT scores higher than 7.0.

The distributions of the November 2008 BMAT scores for Sections 1 and 2 are shown below.

Section 3: Writing Task

The essays are marked holistically, and awarded a single score on a scale from 0 to 15 that reflects the overall quality of the essay.

In arriving at the score, markers are instructed to consider:
- Has the candidate addressed the question in the way demanded? i.e. have they
  - rephrased the proposition or explained its implications;
  - set out reasonable or plausible counter-propositions;
  - proposed reasonable ways of assessing the competing merits of the propositions or resolved their conflict logically?
- Have they organised their thoughts clearly?
- Have they expressed themselves clearly using concise, compelling and correct English?
- Have they used their general knowledge and opinions appropriately?

Each essay is double marked. If the two marks are the same, or occupy adjacent positions on the scale, the average of the two marks is reported. If there is a larger discrepancy in the marks, the essays are marked for a third time, and the final mark awarded is checked by the BMAT Assessment Manager.
The use of BMAT results in the admissions process varies from institution to institution. If you require more information about how your results will be used, please contact the institution(s) to which you have applied.