



UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
LAHORE

Guide to **MDCAT**

An Official Guide to Medical and Dental
College Admission Test



2024

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

By:
Media and Publications

FOREWORD



It is with great pleasure that I present the Guide to MDCAT 2024, a brief resource designed to assist prospective medical and dental students in navigating the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT). This guide has been crafted to provide candidates with the essential guidelines and instructions necessary to succeed in this critical examination. As the Vice Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences, I firmly believe that this guide will serve as an invaluable tool in your preparation, enabling you to approach the MDCAT with confidence and clarity.

The MDCAT is a pivotal step in your academic journey, and this guide is intended to simplify the complexities often associated with it. The University of Health Sciences is committed to maintaining the highest standards of medical and dental education in Pakistan, and the MDCAT is a reflection of our rigorous academic standards. Through this guide, we aim to ensure that all candidates are well-informed about the structure, content, and expectations of the examination. Additionally, the guide provides crucial instructions on exam day procedures, helping you to avoid any unnecessary stress and ensuring a smooth examination process. In addition to the practical information, this guide also emphasizes the importance of academic integrity, fairness, and ethical conduct, which are the cornerstones of the medical profession. I encourage you to carefully read and internalize the guidelines provided in this guide, as they are not only designed to assist you in the examination but also to instill a sense of responsibility and professionalism that will be essential in your future career.

Finally, I wish each of you the best of luck in your preparation and the examination itself. The University of Health Sciences is proud to be a part of your academic journey. Remember that the MDCAT is not merely a test of knowledge but also a test of your determination, discipline, and dedication to the field of medicine and dentistry. I am confident that with the right preparation and mindset, you will be able to achieve your goals, insha'Allah.

Prof. Dr. Ahsan Waheed Rathore
MBBS, DCH, MRCP (UK), MRCPCH (UK), FRCP (London)
Vice Chancellor
University of Health Sciences Lahore

1. General Information

1.1 We advise the candidates to please be aware of the following as they read this booklet:

1.1.1 This is an Official Medical & Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024 Guide and contains information regarding the processes, procedures, rules and regulations pertaining to the test which the candidates are required to follow strictly.

1.1.2 The University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore does not endorse any commercially- available preparation courses or material for MDCAT.

1.2 Contact:

For any query related to MDCAT registration, curriculum, format and content related to the test, the candidates may contact the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC):

Pakistan Medical and Dental Council

Landline: +92-51-9190000 (Ext. 301, 302)

E-mail: examination@pmdc.pk

Website: www.pmdc.pk

Postal Address: G 10/4, Mauve Area, Islamabad

For queries related to the conduct and declaration of result of the MDCAT-2024, please contact the University:

University of Health Sciences Lahore

Landline: +92-42-111333366 (Ext. 373, 376, 377)

E-mail: mdcat2024@uhs.edu.pk

Website: www.uhs.edu.pk

Postal Address: Khayaban-e-Jamia-e- Punjab, Lahore, 54600, Pakistan

2. General Policy

2.1 The MDCAT-2024 shall be conducted by the University of Health Sciences Lahore as an admitting University as notified by Government of Punjab in accordance with the provisions of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) Act, 2022.

2.2 Merely appearing and qualifying MDCAT does not confer any right to the candidate for admission in MBBS/ BDS programmes. The admission to any

Medical/Dental Institution is subject to fulfilling the admission criteria as laid down by Pakistan Medical & Dental Council, Admitting University and the Government of Punjab.

- 2.3 Information in the MDCAT-2024 Guide may change / be updated based on the decisions taken by the PM&DC/Government of Punjab from time to time which shall be binding upon the candidates.
- 2.4 The PM&DC and the Admitting University reserve the right to withdraw permission, if any, granted inadvertently to any candidate who is not eligible to appear in the Test at any stage before the conduct of the test.
- 2.5 Candidates are advised to regularly check the PM&DC website (www.pmdc.pk) and UHS website (www.uhs.edu.pk) for further updates or information.

3. What is MDCAT?

- 3.1 The Medical & Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) is a standardized admission test which is MANDATORY for admission to MBBS and BDS programmes in all public and private sector medical and dental institutions all over Pakistan as per Section 17(2) of PM&DC Act, 2022. In the province of Punjab, the test shall be administered, produced and evaluated by the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore as an admitting University. The format, weightage and the curriculum of the MDCAT-2024 shall be the same as notified by the PM&DC. UHS is also responsible for facilitating the candidates through an extensive province-wise network of test centres at which the candidates can sit the test.

4. Centres for the MDCAT-2024

- 4.1 In Punjab, the MDCAT-2024 shall be conducted in the following Twelve (12) cities:
Bahawalpur, D.G. Khan, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Gujranwala Lahore, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Sargodha and Sialkot.
- 4.2 The candidates have already opted the city of their choice for taking the test while registering themselves for MDCAT at the PM&DC portal. The University shall allot a centre to a candidate in the city of his/her choice as given on his/her online registration form on the PM&DC portal.

5. Test Date and Duration

- 5.1 The MDCAT-2024 shall be held on **Sunday, 22nd September, 2024.**
- 5.2 The test centres shall be open for entry of the candidates by **8:00 AM** and the center will be closed and sealed at **9:00 AM**. No candidate shall be allowed to enter the Examination Centre after **9:00 AM**.
- 5.3 The test will be of three hours duration. It will **start at 10.00 AM sharp and conclude at 01:30 PM**.
- 5.4 Total/ maximum marks of the test shall be **200**.

6. Before the Test:

6.1 Download Your Admittance Cards

- 6.1.1 All the candidates who have registered themselves on the PM&DC portal for appearing in MDCAT-2024 from Punjab can download their Admittance Cards from the University website (www.uhs.edu.pk) with effect from **12th September 2024 at 9:00AM**.
- 6.1.2 *To access and download their Admittance Card, the candidates will have to enter their Full Name and Last Four Digits of the same ID (i.e. CNIC/Passport/B-Form) that they have used for registration on the PM&DC portal for MDCAT-2024.*
- 6.1.3 The candidates are advised to take a clear print of their admittance card on white, plain, A4 size paper.
- 6.1.4 The Admittance Card is issued provisionally to the candidates, subject to the fulfillment of the eligibility conditions. Any false statement found at any stage before or after the conduct of the test, will lead to cancellation of the candidature.
- 6.1.5 In case of any discrepancy in the particulars of the candidate or his/her photograph as shown on the Admittance Card, the candidate must immediately approach the PM&DC with relevant documents. UHS shall not change any data on the Admittance Card, unless a written information for the same is received from PM&DC.

6.1.6 For any query/complaint regarding access or downloading the Admittance Card from UHS website, please send an email at mdcat2024@uhs.edu.pk

6.2 Read the Instructions Carefully:

6.2.1 Candidates are advised to carefully read and understand the instructions given on the Admittance Card and follow these during the test.

6.2.2 Further candidates are advised to read and understand the important instructions and public notices that UHS will publish on the print and social media from time to time

6.3 Guidelines to Parents/Guardians

6.3.1 It is in the benefit of the candidates that the parents may visit the center of the candidate at least one day prior to the test to recognize the exact location and route. No excuse will be accepted in case of arrival of the candidate later than the reporting time on the test day i-e after **9:00 AM**.

6.3.2 Because of imposition of Section 144 by the Government of the Punjab, no gathering is allowed near the test center. Furthermore, there shall be no arrangements for the stay of parents/ guardians outside the centre due to security reasons. Parents are advised to drop their children at their respective centres within the reporting time, leave the premises immediately and pick them up after the conclusion of test at **1:30PM**.

6.3.3 Parents must ensure that the candidates must not bring with them mobile phones or any other barred item as mentioned at para 7.2 on the test day.

7. On the Test Day i.e. 22nd September, 2024

7.1 Essential Requirements

7.1.1 The candidates must bring the following documents/ items for the test:

- (a) Original photo IDs including CNIC/NICOP/JC/Passport/B-Form/FRC (Photocopies or any other document for identity shall not be acceptable);
- (b) A clear print-out of Admittance Card issued by the University;
- (c) **A candidate who fails to bring Original Photo ID including CNIC/NICOP/JC/Passport/B-Form/FRC and print-out of his/her Admittance Card shall NOT be allowed to appear in the test.**
- (d) A clean and transparent clip board with nothing written on it;

- (e) Two **blue** ball point pens (not pointers, markers, pencils, jell pens, ink pens, etc.);
- (f) A small, transparent bottle of drinking water (any other drinking or eatable item is strictly prohibited in the center).

7.2 Barred Items

- 7.2.1 The candidates are strictly prohibited to carry the following items along with them inside the examination centre under any circumstances:
- 7.2.2 Any stationery item like textual material (printed or written except the Admittance Card and original CNIC/NICOP/JC/Passport/B-Form/FRC), bits of papers, Geometry/Pencil Box, Plastic Pouch, Calculator, Pen, Scale, Writing Pad, Eraser, Calculator, Log Table, etc.;
- 7.2.3 Any technology assisted cheating device like Mobile Phone, Bluetooth, Pen Drives, Earphones, Microphone, Pager, Electronic Pen/Scanner, Digital/ Smart Wrist Watch, Camera, Health Band etc.; Other items like Wallet, Goggles, Handbags, Caps, Jewelry items etc.;
- 7.2.4 In case, during frisking or otherwise, if any candidate is found in possession of any of the barred items inside the centre, it will be considered as use of unfair means and action will be taken against the candidate in accordance with the University Regulations for the Use of Unfair Means During Examination.

7.3 From 9:00 AM to 10:AM (Between End of Reporting Time and Start of Test)

- 7.3.1 All candidates shall be subject to the process of checking or frisking and verification of their identification by the invigilation staff appointed by the University. In case, biometric verification of any candidate by NADRA team is required, the candidate will bear the verification charges i.e. Rs. 120/- to be paid directly to NADRA officials available at test center.
- 7.3.2 The candidates shall reach their allocated examination hall /room by following the sign postings displayed at prominent places in the examination centre.
- 7.3.3 The invigilation staff shall ensure seating the candidates according to their roll numbers as pasted on the desks /chairs. The candidate must ensure cross verification of the allocated seat with their roll number. If a candidate is found

appearing from a seat or hall /room other than the one allotted on the admittance card, his/her candidature shall be cancelled.

7.3.4 Once properly verified and seated, the Examination staff shall distribute the answer sheets to the candidates with the announcement of clear instructions as laid down by UHS for attempting the paper.

8. During the Test:

8.1.1 A few minutes before the commencement of the test, each candidate will be given a specialized, double-sheeted, pre-printed and bar-coded Response Form (Bubble Sheet) to mark his/her answers. Each candidate shall be issued only one response form.

8.1.2 On receipt of the Response Form, the candidate will carefully read the instructions printed on it and accordingly fill his/her Roll Number, enter his/her particulars and put his/her signatures on the Response Form at the specified space only.

8.1.3 The candidate shall fill his / her roll number on the Response Form in the following manner:

Blank Response Form

Roll No.						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Examples of filling the roll number on Response Form

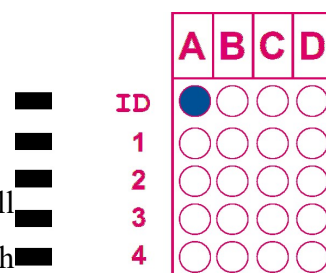
Roll No.						
0	1	0	0	0	0	1
●	0	●	●	●	●	0
1	●	1	1	1	1	●
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Roll No.						
1	1	0	0	8	4	1
0	0	●	●	0	0	0
●	●	1	1	1	1	●
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	●	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Roll No.						
0	7	5	3	9	7	0
●	0	0	0	0	0	●
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	●	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	●	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	●	7	7	7	●	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	●	9	9

8.1.4 The candidates are advised to practice at home how to fill in their roll numbers on the Response Form so that there is no mistake at the time of the Test. In case of wrong filling of roll number University shall not be responsible and no extra sheet shall be provided.

- 8.1.5 The candidate shall answer the test by filling the circles on the upper colored sheet with a **blue ball point pen only**. The impression of the circle filled on the upper sheet will be automatically transferred to the lower carbonized sheet.
- 8.1.6 The candidate is NOT allowed to detach the two sheets of response form before the test is over.
- 8.1.7 Don't fold or tear the response form.
- 8.1.8 At **9:50 a.m.**, the Question Papers will be distributed.
- 8.1.9 There shall be Question Paper with different codes/IDs (e.g., A, B, C, and D) in which the questions and their responses are shuffled.
- 8.1.10 The first page of the Question Paper will contain important instructions for the candidates and the Question Paper ID/Code. The candidates are advised to carefully read and strictly follow these instructions.
- 8.1.11 On receiving the Question Paper, the candidate is required to immediately enter his/her Roll Number and put his/her signatures on the front page of Question Paper at the designated space. Furthermore the candidate shall write his roll number and sign on each page of the question paper at an appropriate space.
- 8.1.12 The candidates are only required to fill the correct circle in the Response Form against the first row of circles marked as ID as indicated in the figure:
- 8.1.13 Failure to fill the ID properly as per the instructions shall lead to incorrect evaluation of the Response Form for which the University shall not be responsible.
- 8.1.14 The question paper must have 200 questions. It shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate to check the question paper before attempting to answer any question. Where a question paper has any missing page, blank page, missed question or damaged or defaced page or printing, it shall be the responsibility of the concerned candidate to bring it into the notice of the concerned invigilator and get it replaced by a new paper of the same code/ID immediately after the start of



the test. No complaint in this regard shall be entertained after **15 minutes** from the start of the test.

8.2 Important Instructions for Marking the Responses

- 8.2.1 Use blue ball point pen only to fill the appropriate circle on the Response Form.
- 8.2.2 The candidates must not mark answers on the Question Paper.
- 8.2.3 There will be four (04) responses for each of the question numbering 1 to 200 in the test. The candidate will indicate his / her response to the question by filling the appropriate circle completely with blue ball point pen. For example, if question number 1 in the question paper reads as follows:

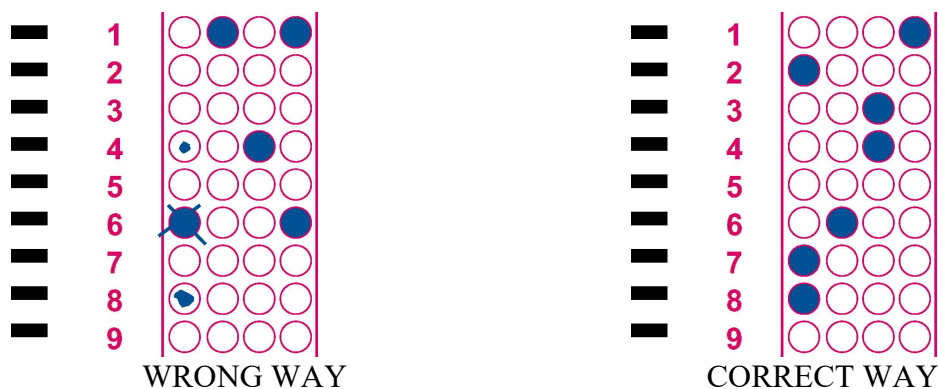
- Q.1 The branch of Biology which deals with the study of use of living organisms, systems and processes for the benefit of people is called
- A) Environmental Biology B) Biotechnology
- C) Social Biology D) Microbiology

The correct response to this question is (B). The candidate will locate Question Number 1 in the Response Form and fill the circle (B) as shown in the figure:

		A	B	C	D
■	ID	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	1	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	13	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
■	14	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 8.2.4 Marks should be dark and should completely fill the circle.
- 8.2.5 **Fill only one circle for each entry** as the answer once marked is not liable to be changed.
- 8.2.6 A lightly or faintly filled circle will be treated as a wrong method of marking and will be rejected by the Optical Mark Reader.

- 8.2.7 The candidates must fully satisfy themselves about the accuracy of the answer before filling the appropriate circle. Use of eraser or white fluid on Response Form is **NOT** permissible as the Response Forms are machine readable and it may lead to wrong evaluation.



- 8.2.8 Rough work must NOT be done on the Response Form. It should be done at the end of the Question Paper on the blank page(s) specifically provided for the rough work.
- 8.2.9 The candidate shall be given attendance sheet twice by the invigilator during the test. Attendance should be marked carefully at the appropriate place, first time immediately after the commencement of examination and second time at the time of the conclusion of the test.

8.3 At the End of the Test

- 8.3.1 At 1:30 pm, the test time shall end.
- 8.3.2 When the Superintendent says STOP, the candidates must stop writing and turn over their questions papers and response forms.
- 8.3.3 It is mandatory for the candidate to return the upper, colored sheet of Response Form and the first page of the Question Paper to the invigilation staff. Failure to comply with this requirement shall lead to disqualification of the candidate.
- 8.3.4 The candidate can take the lower, carbonized sheet as well as the question paper with him / her.
- 8.3.5 The candidates should remain seated till the response forms and the first pages of the question papers have been collected from all the candidates in the examination

hall/room. Once the counting is completed, the candidates shall be allowed to leave after the announcement by the Examination staff.

9. Unfair Means Practices and Breach of Examination Rules

9.1 DEFINITION: Unfair means practice is an activity that allows a candidate to gain an unfair or illegal advantage or benefit over other candidates during the examination. It includes, but is not limited to:

- (i) Being in possession of any barred item as given at 7.2.
- (ii) hiring someone to take the test on his/her behalf (impersonation), misrepresenting or falsifying the identity
- (iii) Manipulation & fabrication of online documents viz. admittance card, photograph, application form, scanned certificates/documents, photograph, etc.;
- (iv) Providing wrong information on the question paper, response form and/ or attendance sheets;
- (v) Marking answers on any material other than the response form given by the Centre Superintendent;
- (vi) Tearing of response form, the question paper or attendance sheet etc.;
- (vii) Taking away the upper color sheet of response form out of the examination hall/room;
- (viii) Smuggling out question paper or its part or smuggling out response form or part thereof during the test;
- (ix) Erasing, obliterating or tempering any information printed on the Response Form and/or Attendance Sheet;
- (x) Contacting or communicating or trying to do so with any person, other than the Examination Staff, during the examination time in the examination centre;
- (xi) Assisting other candidate or engage in malpractice, giving or receiving assistance directly or indirectly of any kind or attempting to do so;
- (xii) Exchanging your Question Paper or Response Form with some other candidate;
- (xiii) Borrowing anything from other candidates during the test;
- (xiv) Creating obstacles in smooth and fair conduct of examination;

- (xv) Forceful entry/exit in/from Examination Centre/Hall or leaving the Centre/Hall without permission;
- (xvi) Failing to follow the instructions of the supervisory staff at all times;
- (xvii) Making fake claims by manipulating the responses in carbon copy of the response form for challenging the scores before or after declaration of result.

9.2 Punishment for Using Unfair Means Practice

- 9.2.1 During the course of examination, before or after the examination if a candidate is found indulged in any of the above or similar practices, he/she shall be deemed to have used unfair practices and booked under UNFAIR MEANS (U.F.M.) case. The examination of such person shall be cancelled and his/her case shall be dealt according to the Examination Regulations of the University.

10 Challenging the Questions of Paper/ Answer Key

- 10.1 The candidates can challenge one or more MCQs of MDCAT-2024 question paper by submitting complaint on the online portal at UHS website www.uhs.edu.pk by registering through the same email ID with which he/she was registered for MDCAT-2024 test. The candidates are advised to fill in and submit the prescribed online proforma complete in all aspects between 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm on the test day i.e. 22nd September, 2024.
- 10.2 To challenge the Answer Key of any MCQ of MDCAT-2024, the complaint can be lodged on the same portal from the time of release of “Official Keys” on UHS website till 6:00 PM on 23rd September, 2024.
- 10.3 No manual complaint or complaint in deviation with the prescribed guidelines available on the website or complaint submitted after the above given deadlines will be entertained.

11 Scoring

- 11.1 Total marks of the Test are 200. Each question carries 01 mark. For each correct response the candidate will get 01 mark.
- 11.2 There shall be no negative marking in MDCAT-2024.

- 11.3 Improper filling of the bubble will be deemed as incorrect response and no mark will be given.

12. Answer Key and Self-Scoring

- 12.1 The University will display the Answer Keys to the question papers of all the codes/IDs on its official website (www.uhs.edu.pk) on the same day after the test.
- 12.2 Once the keys are released, the candidates can calculate their score themselves on the carbonized copy of response form with the help of respective key.
- 12.3 The official result of the Test shall be declared by the University on its website within 7 days from the day of its conduct.

13. Declaration of Result

- 13.1 The candidates shall be able to download their MDCAT results from the UHS website once declared.

14. Rules regarding Re-Checking

- 14.1 A group of subject experts shall validate the queries on the test day. Any MCQ found inappropriate or invalid for assessment shall be deleted and its score shall be adjusted in the total score of each candidate as per the university policy.
- 14.2 Candidates will be given an opportunity to submit representation against the final test score as declared by UHS. The candidate can submit the complaint regarding the recounting of scores at **rechecking.mdc2024@uhs.edu.pk** **within 05 days after the display of official result of the Test on UHS website.** No complaint shall be entertained before or after that. The result, if updated, shall be notified on UHS website.

15. Validity of MDCAT Scores

- 14.1 As per Section 17(4) of PM&DC Act, 2022, the MDCAT-2024 scores shall be valid for **three years** from the date of its examination.

16. Weeding out Rules

- 15.1 The record of MDCAT-2024 shall be preserved for 12 months from the date of declaration of result.

UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES LAHORE

