An Investigation into the Use of Filmed Scenarios for the Testing of ‘Understanding People’ in Medical Selection Tests

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Abstract Themes
- Aptitude Testing

Background and Aims
The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) is moving towards computer-delivered testing so it is timely to investigate the potential offered for testing constructs such as Section 2 UMAT, Understanding People. This paper will report on a project that explores the viability of using filmed scenarios as stimulus for the Understanding People construct and explores the differences between a paper-delivered and a computer-delivered test.

Methods
Two versions of a test of ‘Understanding People’ were developed with identical questions. Version 1 was a conventional paper test. Version 2 was computer-delivered and the stimulus used for scenarios was filmed.

The two versions of the test were randomly distributed to a sample of 160 potential UMAT candidates. The students also completed a questionnaire that sought opinions about the mode of delivery of the test.

Results
Interim results suggest that the paper version of the test is marginally easier than the computer delivered version. Qualitative data suggest that students perceive the computer delivered scenarios to have good face validity, as they are thought to be more true to life.

Conclusions / Recommendations
Analysis of more data, being collected in 2015, will indicate whether there is a significant difference in performance on a computer-delivered, compared to a paper delivered version, of this test. It is evident that filmed scenarios can be successfully incorporated into a computer delivered test.