

**Next  
Step**  
TEST PREP

# **CARS Super-Review**

# Today's Info Session

- ▶ Welcome to this Info Session!
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Subjects Tested on the MCAT
- ▶ CARS practice
- ▶ How Can Next Step Help?
- ▶ Questions?

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**MCAT**  
Medical College  
Admission Test

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?

# Introduction

**Hi, I'm Phil!**

- ▶ **MCAT Content writer**
  - ▶ **Tutored and taught for 9+ years**
  - ▶ **Attended University of Nebraska Medical Center as an MD/PhD student.**
- ✓ **Next Step is a team of test prep and educational experts committed to excellence.**



# Who Is Next Step?

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- Began in 2009 as a tutoring company
- Focus on graduate admissions tests only
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- First company to have materials built from ground up for 2015 MCAT format
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# Exam Overview

- ▶ **Four sections – three science, one verbal (CARS)**
- ▶ **Science sections all have same format/time constraints**
- ▶ **Passages and discrete questions alternate**
- ▶ **Some math required, but no calculator is provided**

Section	Time Allowed	Number of Questions	Question Format
Chemical and Physical Foundations	95 min	59	10 passages, 15 discretés
Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills	90 min	53	9 passages
Biological and Biochemical Foundations	95 min	59	10 passages, 15 discretés
Psychological and Sociological Foundations	95 min	59	10 passages, 15 discretés

# Subjects Tested

## Chemical and Physical Foundations

30% general chemistry

25% physics

25% biochemistry

15% organic chemistry

5% biology

## Bio and Biochemical Foundations

65% biology

25% biochemistry

5% organic chemistry

5% general chemistry

## Psychological and Sociological Foundations

65% psychology

30% sociology

5% biology

# CARS Strategy Overview

- Find your optimal strategy (highlighting, note-taking, etc.)
- Focus on concepts that are likely to appear in questions      Within the te

*Opinions (author's and others')*

*Contrast*

*Cause and effect relationships*

- Most importantly, review! Ask yourself:

*Did what I highlighted or wrote down actually end up being important?*

*Did I miss any important points or opinions?*

*What types of questions did I miss? Any common theme?*

*What wrong answers did I pick, and why was I tempted by them?*

## Reasoning within

1. Main idea-

100%

2. Detail - Where's Waldo.

3. Function - WHY did the author say "x"

## Reasoning beyond

1. Deduction - What is implied, inferred, assumed

2. Str/Wea

3. Application ?How would the author feel about X? (kids fighting at recess)

## Wrong answers

1. Out of scope.
2. Distortion ( extreme)
3. Opposite
4. True but wrong.

# CARS Strategy Overview

- Why did I miss a question?

- Things you can rule out:

*miscalculation*

*Didn't know a fact*

*Misinterpreted Data*

- What COULD be the problem?

*Timing*

*How I tackled the passage*

*Question strategy*

*Fell into a “trap” answer.*

# CARS Practice Passage 1

The San Francisco Ballet (SFB), the oldest professional ballet troupe in the US, is lauded the world over for its masterful execution of ballet in the neoclassical “Balanchine aesthetic.” The San Francisco Ballet School (SFBS) is one of the most competitive dance programs in the world, with even the Level One program (for dancers aged 7-8) rejecting over 85% of auditioners. Certainly the raw athleticism, coordination, and grace of the dance students in the SFBS is remarkable, although in this regard the SFBS does not stand out from its peer institutions in New York, Moscow, Tokyo, and elsewhere around the world. But what makes the SFB and the SFBS unique is its especially strong adherence to the uniformity of body type demanded by the Balanchine aesthetic.

George Balanchine was at the forefront of the neoclassical emphasis on movement itself as the key expressive element of ballet as a medium. He stripped away props, sets, and even costumes and haircuts. Dancers wore plain leotards, kept their hair in a tight bun, and were encouraged to have no facial expression at all - nothing to distract from the pure expression of movement. In his later years, Balanchine continually revised his works to simplify everything but the movement and music, and demanded ever more rigorous uniformity in the look and bodies of the dancers themselves. To those who continue the Balanchine approach into the 21st century, classical ballet all but demands a dancer have a height as near as possible to 5’ 8”, an exceptionally slim build, a small head and bust, and long, willowy arms and legs.

# CARS Practice Passage 1

An adherence to this look landed the SFBS in hot water in 2001 when it found itself subject to a lawsuit by Krissy Keefer on behalf of her 8 year-old daughter, Fredrika Keefer. Krissy is herself a classically trained dancer and knows, better than most, the rigors of a classical ballet education. Several members of the SFBS faculty suggested to her that it would not be worth Fredrika's time to audition as she would be unlikely to be selected. Nonetheless, Krissy persisted and the school permitted Fredrika to audition. Afterwards, when 18 of the 22 auditioners were rejected, Fredrika found herself as one of them.

This would normally be the end of the story, but for a then very-recently enacted municipal statute in San Francisco which barred employer discrimination on the basis of height or weight (expanding the existing statute covering usual things like race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) Given the ridiculously overbroad language in the statute, even a privately-funded school selecting dance students on the basis of bona fide occupational qualifications (the usual legal test for discriminatory action) would fall under the rule's purview.

# CARS Practice Passage 1

The media attention the case received has, unsurprisingly, prompted a large response from across the spectrum in both the dance and legal communities.

Many correctly point out that it seems long past time to move beyond the strictures of neoclassical ballet and Balanchine's increasingly-outdated 1930's worldview about what makes for an exceptional ballet dancer. Critics point out that even companies doing revivals of Balanchine classics like *The Firebird* or *Swan Lake* always include embellishments in the sets or costumes that would have made Balanchine himself livid. In a world where Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, with its dancers of various shapes and sizes, commands more respect, bigger audiences, and more imitation than any neoclassical work, it is time we free ourselves from the shackles of a 111 year old Russian's view as to what comprises ballet. This view is limiting and in dancers' efforts to achieve some perfect look they often end up with eating disorders and doing long-term damage to their bodies.

Yet is it appropriate to put this eight year-old girl in the crosshairs of this debate? And is the legal system the appropriate venue for ballet to carry out this necessary soul-searching? If the San Francisco ballet, of anyone, cannot make its own decisions about who is and who is not qualified to meet its own particular artistic requirements, one fears for a future in which any institution must keep a federal district judge on staff to guide its artistic decision-making.

# CARS Practice Passage 1: Questions

1. Balanchine would most likely approve of which of the following artistic works?
  - A. A modern dance depicting the effect that technology has had on social isolation, using modern lighting and projection techniques to provide context for the dancers' movements
  - B. The sculpture *Bird in Space* renowned for its elegance in evoking the puffed chest and upward movement of a flying bird while stripping away elements extraneous to the expression such as the tail and wings
  - C. A revival of a classic Greek dance in which the story-telling of the chorus is replaced by a group of dancers using only movement to express the dramatic beats of the narrative
  - D. A combine in the style of Rauschenberg that manages to masterfully evoke the paintings of Kirchner and the sculpture of Donatello
2. The author would most likely disapprove of which one of the following as a basis for a lawsuit?
  - A. A modern dance company refuses to hire black dancers as a part of its debut season.
  - B. A highly respected sculpture school refuses to admit any student who is unwilling to invest six months in reproducing at least one work of a Renaissance master as part of the application process.
  - C. A new clothing store that seeks to appeal primarily to wealthy white suburban teenage girls refuses to hire homosexual or transgender employees for any position that involves customer contact.
  - D. An artist of Mexican nationality who grew up as an undocumented immigrant in Tucson sues the Phoenix Art Museum for excluding works by Latino artists in its "Voices of the Arizona Territory" special exhibit.

# CARS Practice Passage 1: Questions

3. The passage suggests that:

- A. had Fredrika been rejected from a similar program in another city, no lawsuit would have followed.
- B. George Balanchine's aesthetic views were informed by his political orientation.
- C. Alvin Ailey pursued a similar aesthetic to George Balanchine.
- D. the author believes that tort law in the U.S. has gotten out of hand.

4. The author would most likely agree with which one of the following statements?

- A. The lawsuit against the SFBS is a good thing because it will decrease the likelihood of future dancers damaging themselves in an effort to achieve a certain look.
- B. It is inappropriate to place children as young as 7 or 8 into rigorous classical ballet programs.
- C. More cities ought to enact laws like the one Krissy Keefer used to sue to SFBS.
- D. The view of ballet established by George Balanchine is outdated and merits significant revision.

# CARS Practice Passage 1: Questions

5. Which of the following arguments most closely parallels the main argument presented by the passage author?

- A. A hospital administrator believes that a pharmaceutical company has been engaging in price gouging towards urban hospitals and organizes a class-action lawsuit.
- B. A government contractor has a slow, cumbersome appeals process that provides a formal mechanism for censuring employees, and one manager at the company requires every disciplinary action against his subordinates to go through this process rather than a simpler informal discussion.
- C. A software development company discovers that a competitor has engaged in corporate espionage to beat them to market with a new piece of software and decides to sue for patent infringement.
- D. A school official argues against instituting a formal dress code with rules and punishments even though she agrees that some students currently dress in a manner that is unsuitable and that these students' behavior should change.

6. Which one of the following statements, if made by the author in another publication, would most contradict the views expressed here?

- A. Balanchine's view of ballet is outdated and should be revised by lawsuit or threat of lawsuit.
- B. Both ballroom dance and jazz dance, as media with more variety and fewer restrictions than classical ballet, are ultimately more expressive art forms.
- C. Dancers who join specialized troupes such as The Rockettes are often required to have even more strict physical uniformity than SFB dancers.
- D. Alvin Ailey was a much less prolific choreographer than George Balanchine, but he produced works of higher merit.

# CARS Practice Passage 2

## Passage 2 (Questions 7-12)

The German Empire existed for only 47 years and yet in that time did more to shape the nature of the 20th century than any other state in Europe (or possibly, the world). While most will only remember the end of the Empire - starting World War I and then being dissolved upon losing it - the German Empire should instead be remembered for its startling internal contradictions. It was a nation of impressive social, electoral, and economic advances but also a strictly authoritarian place. It is in this tension that Germany embodied much of the zeitgeist of the subsequent century.

In 1871, the newly-minted Empire enacted universal male suffrage. At a time when poll taxes and literacy tests were being aggressively used to disenfranchise black voters in the U.S. and while the U.K. still had property requirements for suffrage, the German Empire permitted every single male the right to vote. Germany also created Europe's first social welfare system, providing old-age pensions, sickness benefits, and accident and disability insurance for its industrial workers. The model set by the Empire saw increases in worker health and productivity that would not be rivaled for over a century (with the dawn of the information economy). This combination of expanding political participation, capitalist welfare systems, and freedom of the press set the tone for much of the political progress of the 20th century.

# CARS Practice Passage 2

In addition to these social reforms, the Empire experienced an unprecedented industrial and military expansion. Germany can rightly claim to be the first truly “urbanized” nation in the world. In 1870, Germany had almost no rail system to speak of and yet by 1913 had the largest rail network in the world, after the U.S. Germany’s dye and chemical industries grew exponentially in the decades prior to 1900, and expanded into pharmaceuticals, electrochemistry, and agricultural chemicals. This rapid industrial expansion had two significant corollaries: the development of the first class of industrial managers in the world - bureaucrats in the classic Song Dynasty sense who also embodied the scientific and technical know-how that created a strongly practical world-view; and second the research and development needed to drive this industrial expansion created a scientific Renaissance in German universities - over 1/3 of all Nobel prizes issued during the German Empire’s existence went to German scientists.

# CARS Practice Passage 2

The strong investment in industrial and scientific expansion was not without a significant dark side. The authoritarianism that quickly built an impressive industrial base also lent itself to disastrous social policies. Extending the vote to every adult male meant that suddenly, repressed Catholic and Polish minorities had a voice in the government. In response, Bismarck carried out two campaigns: the *kulturkampf* and Germanization. In the former, the Imperial government attempted to seize control of all Catholic churches. Over the course of a decade, every single Catholic bishop was imprisoned and as many as 1/4 of parishes found themselves without a priest. In line with government efforts to spread Lutheranism were the efforts to get every single person in the Empire to speak German. Significant minorities spoke French, Polish, and Lithuanian and efforts to force such groups to adopt German backfired spectacularly. In one province, the percentage of German-speaking citizens actually dropped by over 10% in the decade during which Germanization was being most aggressively pursued. The authoritarianism that failed so markedly in social policies had an even more impressively negative effect in foreign policy . . .

This set of contrasting, yet complementary, approaches to authoritarianism is best revealed by the incident which led to Chancellor Bismarck's resignation. Near the end of 1889, a group of coal miners in the German region of Silesia went on strike. Bismarck's reaction was swift: he began mobilizing the Army to go in and crush the strike. Emperor Wilhelm, however, stopped him and sent an official to negotiate with a delegation from the miners. The strike ended without violence and Bismarck resigned months later. Wilhelm is reputed to have said, "I do not wish to stain my reign with the blood of my subjects." Yet such measured non-violence obviously did not stay the Emperor's hand in dealing with the Empire's colonies.

# CARS Practice Passage 2: Questions

7. The author would most likely approve of which one of the following policies enacted by the German Empire?

- A. Shortly after enacting universal male suffrage, the empire enacted a policy requiring any legislation passed by elected members of the Reichstag to be approved by the Bundesrat, a legislative body consisting of un-elected landowning nobles.
- B. The imperial treasury paid companies for expenses incurred providing free housing to workers.
- C. Males living in Kingdoms, Grand Duchies, and Duchies of the Empire could vote, but those living in Principalities and Free Cities could vote only in local politics and had no representation in Imperial assemblies.
- D. Areas which embraced Germanization and had near-100% adoption of the German language for schools and businesses saw significant improvements in quality of life due to subsidized investments by large industrial firms.

8. The passage suggests that the Empire's violent authoritarianism in foreign policy was:

- A. primarily due to Emperor Wilhelm.
- B. primarily due to Chancellor Bismarck.
- C. crafted by Chancellor Bismarck and executed by Emperor Wilhelm.
- D. an outgrowth of policies of worker support and control in domestic policy.

# CARS Practice Passage 2: Questions

9. The author of this passage is most likely:

- A. a social conservative who favors limiting entitlement spending.
- B. a historian discussing his area of expertise.
- C. a journalist who specializes in studying the after-effects of European colonialism.
- D. a Catholic scholar who examines the suppression of the Catholic faith around the world.

10. The passage suggests that Chancellor Bismarck's role in aggressive domestic policies like the *kulturkampf* and Germanization was:

- A. at least passive approval, if not active support and direction.
- B. ignorance, as the Chancellor was only concerned with foreign policy.
- C. one of active disapproval, with the Chancellor using his political influence to oppose the Emperor.
- D. nonexistent, as Bismarck was not Chancellor of the German Empire during those two initiatives.

# CARS Practice Passage 2: Questions

11. The author discusses the rail system in order to:

- A. demonstrate the superiority of the German industrial base as compared to its continental neighbors.
- B. provide proof that had the German Empire continued into the twentieth century, it would soon have out-stripped even the U.S. in its advancement.
- C. compare Germany's successes at expanding its rail system with its failure to develop other technologies.
- D. provide supporting detail about the swiftness of Germany's industrial expansion.

12. The author's respect for the achievements of the German Empire is:

- A. founded in an ideological respect for the top-down organization of the various Germanic kingdoms into a single quasi-federal Empire.
- B. unreflective and thoughtlessly positive, suggesting that the author himself is a German nationalist.
- C. tempered by an appreciation for the negative consequences that came with achievements made possible by strong authoritarian control.
- D. balanced by his awareness that the authoritarian style of German governance paved the way for the atrocities of World War II.

# CARS Practice Passage 3

## Passage 3 (Questions 13-18)

Olav Hammer’s scathing critique of anthroposophy centers primarily on his assertion that anthroposophy is not science, but scientism - the inappropriate application of the methods of empirical science to all areas of life and the assertion that the only true knowledge or facts that can be discovered are those revealed through typical scientific methods. Both in subsuming the natural sciences under the umbrella of spiritual “science” and in its unjustifiable defense of fringe sciences such as biodynamic agriculture, anthroposophy places itself firmly in the realm of the delusional, holds Hammer.

Anthroposophy is a philosophy founded at the start of the 20th century by Austrian philosopher and social reformer Rudolf Steiner. The core mission of anthroposophy is to help individuals develop imagination and intuition, and to study the spiritual world with the same objective rigor as the natural sciences. People were expected to develop a super-sensory consciousness which could then be used to study the spiritual realm and report back in a way intelligible to those who had not yet developed such consciousness. Steiner believed that the spiritual realm was real, and had the same objective existence as our material one.

# CARS Practice Passage 3

Steiner defined human nature as existing of four different components - a physical body that is created from and returns to the inorganic world; an etheric body (similar to all living things); an astral body (similar to all sentient beings); and a unique self-aware component called the ego. Humans reincarnate as part of a karmic cycle and are a higher life-form because they are less specialized. This last point reflects anthroposophy's odd view of evolution: a single unspecialized archetype was the progenitor of all animal life and organisms are devolved from this state, rather than evolved towards increasing complexity as in Darwinism.

It was in this discussion of anthroposophical evolution that Steiner's work drew the attention and ire from so many in both philosophical and scientific circles. Steiner's defenders in the middle and later parts of the 20th century emphasized that such criticism ultimately missed the point. While any number of esoteric traditions flourished at the end of the 19th century (most prominently the Theosophy from which anthroposophy derived), none of them come in for the same criticism as anthroposophy. Defenders such as Herbert Hahn counter that we ought to look at the practical application of anthroposophic ideas and judge the philosophy not on its rarefied esoteric principles, but on its effect in the real world. "Christianity is not to be judged through a meditation on the paradox of how a being, Jesus, could be both fully man and fully God, but rather on the great works and good charity actually demonstrated by Christians," held Hahn. "We only ask the same."

# CARS Practice Passage 3

Hahn points out the Waldorf schools around the world which focus on holistic, developmentally-appropriate education for students at all levels. Waldorf schools typically produce young adults that are far more well-rounded and creative, and who excel at lateral thinking and problem solving, they assert. Biodynamic agriculture, developed in the early 1920's, laid the foundations for both modern organic farming and what would eventually become Integrated Pest Management, the gold standard in sustainable agriculture. Finally, Steiner's ideas about socially responsible financial associations set the framework for Social Finance that began with the *Gemeinschaftsbank* in Germany in the 1970's.

Both critics and defenders of Steiner's work have valid points, so far as they go, but ultimately end up speaking past one another.

# CARS Practice Passage 3: Questions

Olav Hammer's scathing critique of anthroposophy centers primarily on his assertion that anthroposophy is not science, but scientism - the inappropriate application of the methods of empirical science to all areas of life and the assertion that the only true knowledge or facts that can be discovered are those revealed through typical scientific methods. Both in subsuming the natural sciences under the umbrella of spiritual "science" and in its unjustifiable defense of fringe sciences such as biodynamic agriculture, anthroposophy places itself firmly in the realm of the delusional, holds Hammer.

14. Which of the following would be an example of scientism, as the word is used in the passage?
- A. A behavioral economist thinks the best way to assess how effective a product's packaging is as a marketing tool is to empirically observe actual shoppers and whether they look at or reach for a type of package, rather than through surveys or focus groups.
  - B. A psychic claims he is able to channel the spirit of Albert Einstein because he is able to relate minor details about Einstein's life and able to answer questions about physics that he would otherwise not know.
  - C. A psychologist believes cognitive behavioral therapy is the most effective therapy technique for treating a certain mental illness based solely on data about reduced need for medication rather than any subjective feedback from patients.
  - D. A researcher believes the only true way to measure the value of poetry is to do brain scans of people while they read the poem and measure the level of activity in the brain's pleasure center.

# CARS Practice Passage 3: Questions

15. Hahn and Hammer would most likely disagree about which of the following?
- A. Anthroposophy has had at least some positive impact on the world through its effective education.
  - B. Biodynamic agriculture laid the groundwork for subsequent developments in organic farming.
  - C. The methods and worldview of empirical science should remain tightly confined to the ambit of the classic natural sciences such as physics, chemistry, and botany.
  - D. When evaluating a certain intellectual position, one should consider only the principles and assumptions of the position itself.
16. The author would describe which of the following as an example of people who are “speaking past one another”?
- A. A parent and teenager fight over whether the teenager should get to drive the family’s car, with the teenager pointing out how many of her peers get to drive their family car.
  - B. Two political candidates discuss foreign policy in a debate, with one candidate focusing on the political interests of U.S. allies overseas and the other candidate emphasizing the need to spend more government money on solving domestic issues.
  - C. Two chemists have different theories about a proposed mechanism for a chemical reaction and are each able to produce and publish data supporting their hypotheses.
  - D. Two children on the playground get in a fight about whether one superhero could beat up another superhero, each supporting his argument with reference to the superpowers possessed by the superhero.

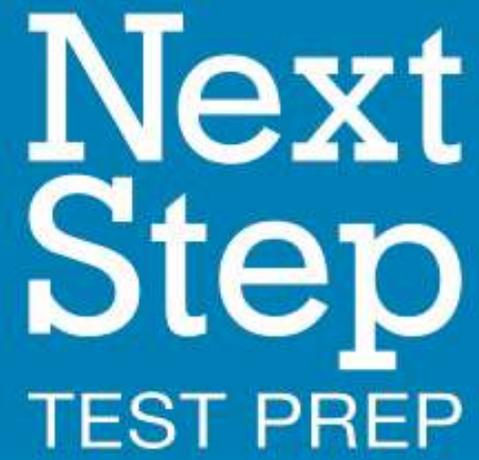
# CARS Practice Passage 3: Questions

17. The passage mentions Christianity in order to do which of the following?

- A. Provide an example of one means used by defenders of anthroposophy to bolster their position against critics.
- B. Prove that anthroposophy is not an example of scientism.
- C. Demonstrate that anthroposophy's positive effects through Waldorf schools and organic farming make anthroposophy a valuable philosophy.
- D. Imply that Christianity itself is an example of scientism and point out the hypocrisy of those attacking anthroposophy.

18. Those who defend anthroposophy rely on each of the following EXCEPT:

- A. Reasoning by analogy based on other worldviews
- B. A demonstration of apparent hypocrisy by critics
- C. A proof that scientism is irrelevant to the good works done based on a view
- D. A utilitarian argument about positive outcomes

The logo for Next Step Test Prep is centered in a blue square. The words "Next" and "Step" are stacked vertically in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below them, the words "TEST PREP" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font. The background of the slide is dark blue with a repeating pattern of small white plus signs. A large white inverted triangle is positioned at the bottom of the slide, pointing upwards towards the logo.

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**Q&A**

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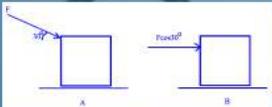
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### Question of the Day

Two people push a box along a frictional surface. One pushes the box at an angle of  $30^\circ$  to horizontal with force  $F$  while the other pushes the box horizontally with force  $F\cos 30^\circ$ . Which person does the most work?

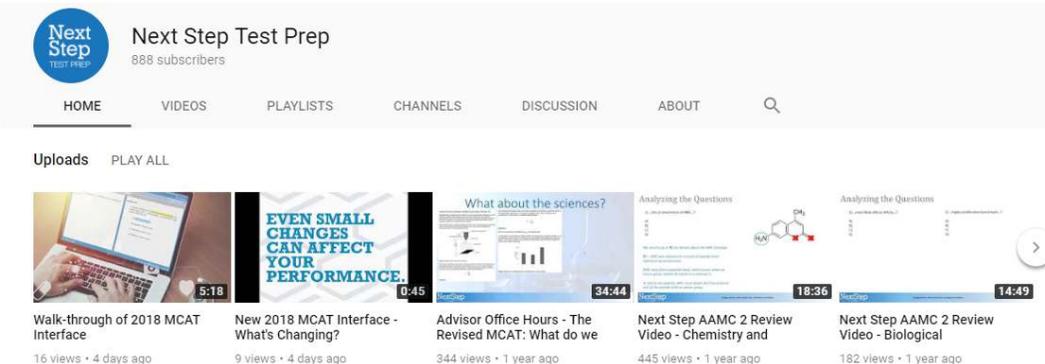


A) Person A  
B) Person B  
C) Person A and B do equal amounts of work  
D) cannot be determined

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- New highlighting features
- New strikethrough features
- New keyboard shortcuts
- New Navigation/Review Screens

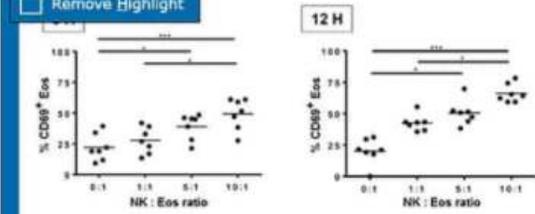
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Highlight Strikethrough

Remove Highlight

Pause



**Figure 1** Eosinophil activation as measured by percent of CD69-positive cells after 3 and 12 hours of co-culture (\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ )

Next, researchers aimed to assess the effect of NK co-culture on eosinophil degranulation. After 3 and 12 hours of co-culture, samples were centrifuged at 1500 rpm, and ECP levels were measured in the supernatants (Figure 2). No ECP was detected in supernatant culture of NK cells alone.

**Question 18**

Which of the statements below is supported by the experimental results, as shown in Figures 1 and 2?

- A. The duration of Eos co-culture with NK cells directly and linearly correlates to the amount of ECP found in the supernatant after centrifugation.
- B. Cells cultured with a 1:1 NK-to-Eos ratio displayed statistically similar levels of activation to cells cultured with a 5:1 NK-to-Eos ratio, as measured by CD69 expression.
- C. NK co-culture stimulates Eos activation while inhibiting degranulation.
- D. Co-culture with NK cells significantly increased Eos degranulation in all groups, as compared to Eos cells cultured alone.

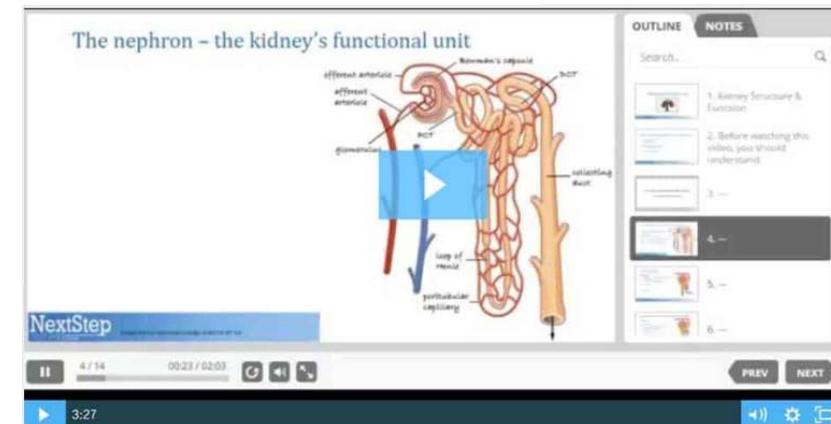
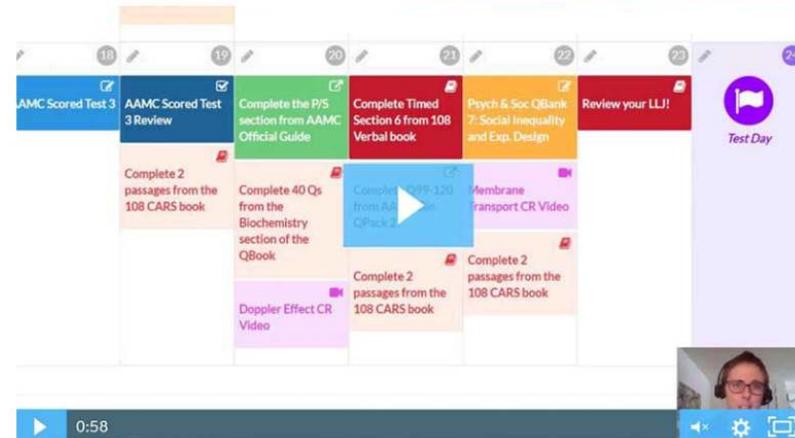
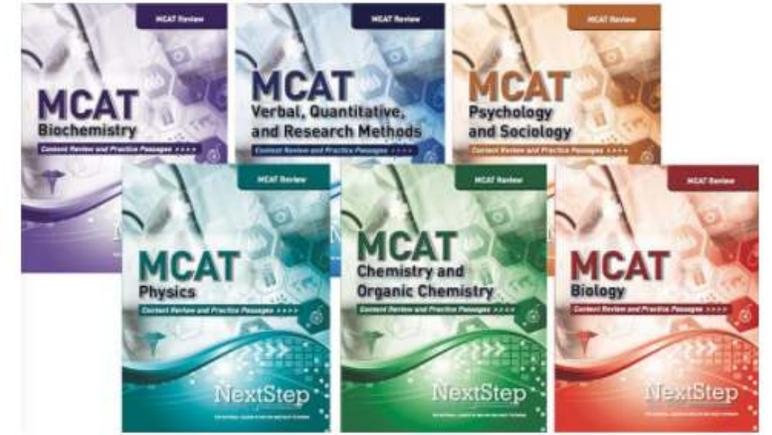
Periodic Table Review Screen Previous Next

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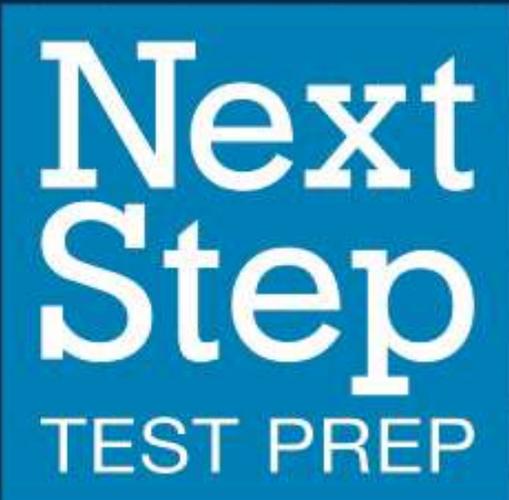
# MCAT Study Options

- **Best-in-Class MCAT Tutoring Packages**
  - Variety of packages: Crash Course to Elite
  - Choices include our MCAT Online Course
  - Personalized Study Plan for each student
  - Top-scoring tutors
- **Most up-to-date MCAT Course**
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  - 10 full-length exams aligned to new interface
  - Live online office hours for any Q&A held 5 days per week
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- **MCAT Practice Test Bundles**
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The logo for Next Step Test Prep is centered in a blue square. It features the words "Next Step" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with "Next" on the top line and "Step" on the bottom line. Below "Step", the words "TEST PREP" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Next  
Step  
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— — — — —

**Step**

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