



INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL ETHICS

F1 and F2 Doctor Essay Competition - Marking Scheme and Timeline

Thank you for taking time to judge the competition essays. The essay is intended to be in the format of a reflective account and the marking schedule is outlined below.

The word limit is 1500 words, excluding references and title. The word count should be given at the end of the essay.

Marks 1-5 are awarded for general presentation ie use of language, grammar, etc.

Poor - 1 Standard - 2 Good - 3 Very Good - 4 Exceptional – 5

Marks 2-10 are awarded for each of the following areas which reflect the most substantial part of the essay. Please note that particular emphasis should be placed on the ethical analysis of the case.

1 Description of the doctor's own experience.

2 Application of academic learning to the case discussed. This should include ethical analysis, the law and professional guidelines. References should be included.

3 Degree of reflection and criticism that integrates ethical analysis, law and professional guidelines. To gain a mark of 6 or above, critical analysis of views opposing those of the essay writer should be included.

Poor – 2 Standard – 4 Good – 6 Very Good – 8 Exceptional – 10

Thus, each paper receives a mark out of 35. Please try to avoid tied marks.

Each of the 6 essays with the highest marks and the top essay from each marker (if not already included) will be allocated to two markers. They will be asked to discuss their marks and agree a final mark for each of their essays.

The 5 essays with the highest total scores will be the prize winners. This process aims to reduce the effect of marking disparity between individuals and allows for a clearer top five and overall winner.

We aim to provide feedback so please write a couple of sentences which we can send to the essay writer. Feedback is not needed when you are marking the second round of essays.

We will award 5 prizes of £300 each, and the best of the winning entries receives the Robert Hillman Prize of £250 in addition.

Timeline 2027

Thurs 04/02/27	Deadline for submission of essays
Fri 12/02/27	Essays received electronically by markers
Fri 12/03/27	Submission of primary essay marks – top essays will be sent to everyone when all marks collected
Fri 09/04/27	Submission of second round essay mark
Fri 30/04/27	Winners announced

Thank you again