

HESI Admission Assessment (A2)

Quick Review and Complete Academic Topic Checklist

First, check your program's version

HESI A2 is configurable by institution. Programs choose which sections students take, how scores are used, and which score threshold applies. This guide covers the seven academic areas in Elsevier's current Admission Assessment Exam Review, sixth edition. It does not mean every student must take every section. Confirm required sections, score rules, calculator policy, and total appointment time with your own program.

Seven academic sections

All-section practice composite

Section	Main focus	Our practice form
Reading Comprehension	Main idea, context meaning, passage comprehension, inference	55 items
Vocabulary and General Knowledge	General and health-care vocabulary	55 items
Grammar	Grammar terminology, parts of speech, usage, common errors	55 items
Mathematics	Basic operations, fractions, decimals, ratios, measures, practical calculations	55 items
Anatomy and Physiology	Terminology, structures, organ systems	30 items
Biology	Cells, biological molecules, metabolism, photosynthesis	30 items
Chemistry	Matter, atoms, periodic table, bonding, reactions	30 items
All seven	Full-coverage practice battery	310 items

About the counts

These counts describe this original practice battery only. HESI A2 is configured by the school administering it: sections, item counts, time limits, calculator settings, score requirements, and total appointment time can vary. The composite is not a fixed official exam form or score predictor.

1. Reading Comprehension

55 practice items

Tested work: Read short and longer passages, identify the main idea, understand a word in context, comprehend details, and draw logical inferences. Scenarios need not be health-related.

- Main idea and purpose: summarize the passage in a sentence before looking at choices.
- Supporting details: return to the sentence or paragraph that contains the evidence.
- Context vocabulary: test the word's role and surrounding clues instead of relying on a memorized definition.
- Inference: select only what follows from the passage; avoid outside assumptions.

- Cause, sequence, comparison, and contrast: track transitions and relationships among ideas.
- Author point of view and tone: distinguish the author’s claim from a view merely reported.
- Passage organization: recognize examples, explanations, qualifications, and conclusions.

Question form: Practice items in this package use single-best-answer multiple choice. Official delivery details and program options can vary by testing setup.

2. Vocabulary and General Knowledge

55 practice items

Tested work: Recognize general vocabulary and terms often used in health-care settings. No fixed, exhaustive official public word list is claimed here.

- Word meaning in ordinary and health-care contexts.
- Common roots, prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms as clues to meaning.
- Synonyms, antonyms, and distinctions between near-synonyms.
- Use a sentence’s grammar and context to identify the best meaning.
- Distinguish a term’s general meaning from a more specific medical use.
- Review frequently confused word pairs and spelling only when spelling changes meaning.

Question form: Select the word or meaning that best fits the prompt or context. The practice deck uses original terms and definitions, not a copied commercial list.

3. Grammar

55 practice items

Tested work: Parts of speech, grammar terms and use, and common grammatical errors.

- Parts of speech and their role in a sentence: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: subjects, predicates, independent and dependent clauses, fragments, and run-ons.
- Agreement: subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
- Verb use: tense, form, and consistency.
- Pronoun case and clear reference.
- Modifiers: correct placement and avoiding dangling or misplaced modifiers.
- Parallel structure and clear comparisons.
- Common punctuation and capitalization.
- Commonly confused words and standard written usage.

Question form: Choose the grammatically correct form or identify the error/repair requested by the item.

4. Mathematics

55 practice items

Tested work: Basic operations and practical mathematics for health-care fields, including medication or solution calculations.

- Whole-number addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Order of operations and estimation.
- Fractions: equivalent forms, simplification, comparison, and four operations.
- Decimals: place value, comparison, four operations, and decimal-fraction conversion.
- Percents, ratios, rates, proportions, and unit rates.
- Household and metric measures; conversion among common units.
- Time, money, and practical word problems.
- Tables, schedules, and simple numerical interpretation.
- Health-care arithmetic: dosage, amount, and solution calculations using only the values and units given.
- Check reasonableness, labels, units, and decimal placement before submitting.

Question form: This practice form uses multiple-choice items with one best answer. Unless the candidate's program confirms otherwise, practice without assuming calculator access.

5. Anatomy and Physiology

30 practice items

Published scope: General terminology, anatomical structures, and body systems. The system list below is an expanded study map for those broad outcomes, not an official percentage blueprint.

- Anatomical position, directional terms, planes, cavities, and organization.
- Cells, tissues, organs, and homeostasis.
- Integumentary system.
- Skeletal system and joints.
- Muscular system.
- Nervous system and special senses.
- Endocrine system and hormone regulation.
- Cardiovascular system and blood flow.
- Lymphatic and immune systems.
- Respiratory system and gas exchange.
- Digestive system and nutrient absorption.
- Urinary system and fluid balance.
- Reproductive systems.

Question form: Focus on structure, location, system function, and relationships. Do not infer a diagnosis from a symptom unless the item supplies the needed evidence.

6. Biology

30 practice items

Published scope: Biology basics, water, biological molecules, metabolism, cells, cellular respiration, and photosynthesis.

- Characteristics of living things; levels of biological organization.

- Water's polarity, hydrogen bonding, and importance to biological processes.
- Carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, nucleic acids, and their building blocks/functions.
- Enzymes, energy, metabolism, and the role of ATP.
- Cell structures and functions; prokaryotic/eukaryotic and plant/animal comparisons.
- Cell membrane and movement of materials, including diffusion and osmosis.
- Cellular respiration: overall purpose, major stages, and energy transfer.
- Photosynthesis: inputs, outputs, and relationship to cellular respiration.

7. Chemistry

30 practice items

Published scope: Matter, chemical equations and reactions, periodic table, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, and chemical bonding.

- States and properties of matter; physical versus chemical change.
- Elements, compounds, mixtures, and separation concepts.
- Atomic structure: protons, neutrons, electrons, atomic number, and mass number.
- Periodic table organization and broad element families.
- Ions, valence electrons, and ionic versus covalent bonds.
- Chemical formulas, equations, reactants, products, and conservation of atoms.
- Common reaction patterns and balancing simple equations.
- Acids, bases, and pH at an introductory level.
- Nuclear chemistry: isotopes, radioactivity, and nuclear change.

How the composite differs from some school forms

This seven-section form leaves out institution-specific Critical Thinking configurations and profile questionnaires. Learning Style and Personality Profile items are preference inventories without right or wrong answers, so they are not included in an academic score. Check your own admission program's instructions before taking the full composite.

After a practice session

Turn each miss into a specific next step

Review results separately for each section. For every missed or guessed item, write down the topic, what made the distractor attractive, and the reasoning that supports the correct answer. Sort errors into content, reading the prompt, unit conversion, calculation, vocabulary context, grammar rule, and pacing. Rework the item without looking at its explanation.

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