EXAMINATION FORMAT

Primary and Fellowship Examination of the College of Critical Care Medicine

(under auspices of the Critical Care Education Foundation)
The Examination Process

This report is prepared to provide candidates, tutors and their Supervisors of training with information about the way in which the Examiners assess the performance of candidates in the Examination.

The examination is modelled on the Critical Care Examination conducted by Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, Australia. The examination is held once a year for both Part 1 (usually February) and Part 2 (usually December).

Examination consists of

Written Section:

A. Primary Examination: There are 100 MCQ questions where only one option is correct. There is no negative marking. Questions have to be answered in 120 minutes and answers are to be written in a separate answer sheet. A quarter of the questions cover physiology, another quarter of the questions cover pharmacology and remaining questions deal with clinical medicine.

B. Fellowship Examination: There are 70 MCQ questions. There are 2 sections, section 1 where only one option is correct and section 2 where many options may be correct. There is no negative marking. Questions have to be answered in 120 minutes and answers are to be written on separate answer sheet provided. All questions deal with clinical medicine.

Viva Section:

A. Primary Examination: There are 4 Viva stations covering different organ systems (e.g., respiratory, cardiac, trauma, post-surgical, neuro etc). Candidate reads the scenario on the door for exactly 2 minutes. They then are interviewed by the examiner for 7 minutes exactly. Lastly 1 minute is provided to move to next viva station.

B. Fellowship Examination: There are 6 Viva stations covering different organ systems (e.g., respiratory, cardiac, trauma, post-surgical, neuro etc), the last viva station focuses on a procedure that candidate would normally perform in the ICU. Candidate reads the scenario on the door for exactly 2 minutes. They then are interviewed by the examiner for 7 minutes exactly. Lastly 1 minute is provided to move to next viva station.

Objectives Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Section:

A. Primary Examination: There were 8 stations with 2 rest stations. At each station, the candidate gets exactly 2 minutes to read the questions and during these 2 minutes they CANNOT write. They then get exactly 10 minutes to write the answer to the questions at each station. Each station consists of usually 3-4 questions/ x-rays/ECGs. Candidates CANNOT write during the rest station. Following stations are faced by the candidate:
   1. ECG
   2. Biochemistry.
   3. 
   5. Hematology.
   6. Rest station
   7. Xrays
   8. CT Scans/ 

B. Fellowship Examination: There were 10 stations with 2 rest stations. At each station, the candidate gets exactly 2 minutes to read the questions and during these 2 minutes they CANNOT write. They then get exactly 10 minutes to write the answer to the questions at each station. Each station consists of usually 3-4 questions/ x-rays/ECGs. Candidates CANNOT write during the rest station. Following stations are faced by the candidate:
   1. ECG.
   2. Biochemistry.
   4. Rest station
   5. Xrays
   6. CT Scans/
Hematology.

Rest station

Equipments

Communication

Clinical Section: Candidates should listen carefully to the introduction given by the examiners and direct their examination accordingly. For maximal marks, candidates should demonstrate a systematic approach to examination, clinical signs should be demonstrated, and a reasonable discussion regarding their findings should follow. Exposing the patients should be limited to those areas that are necessary for that component of the examination, and in keeping with the modesty requirements of the patients. Cold cases are ward cases whereas Hot cases are ICU cases with acute problems. For each patient the candidate is independently marked by 2 examiners.

B. Primary Examination: Clinical section consisted of 1 cold case (20 minutes) and 1 hot case (20 minutes) per candidate.

C. Fellowship Examination: Clinical section consisted of 2 cold cases (15 x 2 = 30 minutes) and 2 hot cases (15 x 2 = 30 minutes) per candidate.

Log Book: All candidates will be required to maintain and submit a log book in the prescribed format. This log book must be submitted along with original Xrays/CT Scans and a CD as per the logbook format, at least 4 months before the examination. Only candidates who pass the logbook evaluation are allowed to appear for the theory and practical examination.

Marks Distribution and pass criteria:
The Total marks are out of 100.

1. Written section 30 marks (pass ≥ 15)
2. Viva section 20 marks (pass ≥ 10)
3. OSCE 20 marks (pass ≥ 10)
4. Clinical 30 marks (pass ≥ 15)

In order to be declared successful in this examination, a candidate must:
1. Pass in at least 3 sections. AND
2. Secure ≥ 50% marks in aggregate AND
3. Secured at least 9/30 in clinical section. Any candidate with < 9 in clinical will be declared failed irrespective of total marks overall.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS
1. The ICU BOOK by Paul Marino
2. TEXTBOOK OF CRITICAL CARE By Shoemaker / Fink / Vincent.
3. INTENSIVE CARE MANUAL By T. E. Oh
4. INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE By Irwin Rippe
5. PRINCIPLE OF CRITICAL CARE By Hall, Schmidt and Wood
6. DATA INTERPRETATION IN ICU by B. Venkatesh
7. SECRETS SERIES (critical care, medicine, neurology, nephrology, emergency medicine etc.)

Examiners meeting before the examination to discuss all aspects of the exam and review each question that the candidate will be asked. Only after unanimous agreement are the question and the expected answers included in the exam.

Candidates waiting in the quarantine area before the start of the practical examination.
Candidates reading the viva scenario for 2 minutes.

OSCE rest station. Candidate is not permitted to write at these rest station.

Examiners see the clinical cases hrs before the actual exam and agree on the questions to be asked.

In cold cases candidates are expected to be courteous, demonstrate signs and follow a systematic approach.

During the hot cases, the candidate is presented with a problem and gets 5-7 minutes to examine the patient, he/she is then given another 5-7 minutes to present their findings, suggest a diagnosis and answer questions of the examiners.

All the examiners enter their candidates marks on a computerized sheet at each step of the examination so that results can be declared within 1-2 hrs of the completion of the examination.

A small get-together with the successful candidates is held before everyone departs back to their home.

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