

To all FFPMRCA Candidates attending oral examinations

Access:

Reception will open from 0730. Please note that there is no access to the College for candidates before 7:30am.

Dress:

The same dress code will apply for FFPMRCA examinations as it does for day to day clinical practice/contact with patients: this means that forms of dress should not constrain the candidates' ability to demonstrate recognised skills. Forms of dress that cover the face will normally be deemed inappropriate in such examinations. (See Appendix 5 of FFPMRCA Examination Regulations).

Mobile Phones and Electronic devices and misconduct

Mobile phones must be switched off on arrival at the College and left in lockers or secured baggage. Phones and electronic devices, such as computer tablets, bleepers or calculators are not allowed on the exam floor. Candidate's results may be declared void if found in their possession of mobile phones or electronic devices during the examination. (Examination Regulations refer).

Complaints

The Faculty recognises that on occasion candidates may wish to express their dissatisfaction with the way in which something has been done and feel confident that any such complaint is handled in a fair and consistent way. Candidates who consider they have grounds for complaint, regarding the provision of a service by the Faculty/College that does not amount to a request for a 'Review', (see paragraph 12 of the Examinations Regulations and Appeals) should follow the policy at paragraph 15 of the Regulations. Candidates should note that complaints should be brought to the attention of a Faculty/College officer as soon as possible. Complaints given orally at the time of the examination taking place will be logged on an incident report form by the Faculty/College Officer. Immediate action to resolve issues as they arise will be taken wherever possible and the complainant will be advised accordingly

Security:

Candidates need to be aware that security of personal property is their responsibility. We advise that candidates do not bring valuables to the College, but where this is unavoidable, to carry on person or place in locker. Lockers are available in the cloakroom area in the basement. **You will require a £1 coin (refundable) to use the lockers.** These are not very big if you bring a suitcase or large bag you are advised to have locks on it.

Photographic proof of identity:

See note at foot of page.

Between exams:

The receptionist will tell you know when you should be in reception prior to your exam call. Try not to be late. In winter months it can be cold in reception although we will make every effort to keep it as warm as possible by adding screens and extra heaters if required.

The Toilets and changing rooms are on the lower ground there are some seating areas on this floor too. You can also use the lecture theatre to sit and read etc but this will need to be vacated by 1300 as the examiners use this for the call over results meeting. There are no coffee facilities available in the College but there are plenty of coffee shops just outside the College. It is advisable to go out and get some fresh air between exams.

FFPMRCA Oral Examination – Format:

Your first (Clinical Pain Medicine) oral consists of studying, on your own, a clinical scenario and accompanying artefacts for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes you will go to the examination table where you will be questioned on that case for 21 minutes. There will then be a further 21 minutes of questioning on clinical topics unrelated to the case that you had observed.

Your second (Clinical Science) oral consists of 30 minutes, divided into two periods of 15 minutes of questioning on clinical science and applied basic science associated with Pain Medicine. At each examination table there are two examiners. Should either of the examiners be personally known to you, then you will be moved to another table.

On occasion there may be a third person sitting at the side of the table. These are Consultants in Pain Medicine involved in training and other invited people who attend to observe the examination. They will be wearing a clearly labelled visitor badge. This visit enables them to prepare other trainees for the examination and to satisfy themselves that the examination is conducted in a fair manner. These visitors have no influence in the way that you are examined nor do they affect any marks or discussion pertaining to your performance as a candidate. If they recognise you they are obliged to leave the table. **You have the right to ask them to leave at any time and for any reason.** For example you may recognise them, (although they may not recognise you) or you may feel exceptionally uncomfortable with their presence. **Exercising this right will not affect the assessment of your performance as an examination candidate.** It is also possible that the third person may be another examiner auditing the performance of those conducting the interview but the same rules that apply to the visitors also apply to the auditing examiner.

The SOE marking system:

The SOE is pass or fail, all marks for both parts of the SOE are put together to give one score. Two examiners mark each part of the SOE. Both examiners independently mark every question. There are 10 questions, (3 questions for the long clinical pain medicine case, 3 questions for the clinical topics and 4 questions make up the science part).

2 marks are given for a pass, 1 mark for a borderline performance and 0 marks for a fail, giving a maximum total score of 40 marks. The pass mark will be arrived at on completion of the exam using standard setting methods approved by the GMC.

Results

Results in the form of a Pass/Fail list will be posted on the Faculty Examination pages of the website from 2pm on the Thursday or Friday following the exam (as set out in your Admission notice) although this cannot be guaranteed. Official result letters giving further break down will follow by post within the next 5 working days following the publishing of the result list. Result letters will give a breakdown of scores in each part of the examination. Examiner comments can be requested after receipt of result letters if required, requests should be sent by email to exams@rcoa.ac.uk

EXAMINATION CANDIDATE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF OF IDENTITY AT ALL FFPMRCA EXAMINATIONS

All candidates for examinations of the Faculty of Pain Medicine are required to have with them, at the time of taking the MCQ or SOE components of their examinations, photographic identity. This should be in the form of a passport or photo driving licence. The candidate must be able to produce this when requested by a Faculty Officer or security staff working on behalf of the Faculty of Pain Medicine/Royal College of Anaesthetists. Hospital ID is not acceptable. Where the name on the photographic identity being used is not identical to that given on a candidate's application form, due to marriage etc, then the original marriage certificate or solicitor's letter, as appropriate, must also be produced. The College should be informed in advance of attendance where this is the case. (020 7092 1528)

FAILURE TO PRODUCE A FORM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTITY MAY RESULT IN THE CANDIDATE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH THE EXAMINATION.

Mr Russell Ampofo
Director of Training and Examinations