

Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examination

Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery

Guide to the Scope and Format of the Examination

Candidates are advised to consult the Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery Syllabus as published on the JSCFE website

Section 1 is a written test* composed of two Single Best Answer papers. These papers are carefully prepared to cover the curriculum content which can be best assessed in this way. A process of standard setting is performed by trained and experienced examiners to set the eligibility to proceed mark. Section 1 examinations are delivered via computer based testing at pre-selected world-wide Pearson VUE Test Centres.

Candidates must meet the required standard in Section 1 in order to gain eligibility to proceed to Section 2.

Paper 1 120 Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours 15 mins)

Paper 2 120 Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours 15 mins)

* Case, S.M. & Swanson, D.B. (2001). Constructing written test questions for basic and clinical sciences. 3rd Edn. National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), Philadelphia, USA.
www.nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf (retrieved on 15/12/2006).

Section 2 is the clinical component consisting of a series of carefully designed and structured scenario-based interviews. The Section 2 examinations will be held in pre-selected world-wide host centres.

Clinical examinations

Clinical Intermediate Case (1 case will be discussed in 20 minutes)

Clinical Short Cases (4 cases will be discussed in 20 minutes)

No patients will be present. Clinical Scenarios are used for each Case.

Oral examinations

Four 30 minute orals in:

- Adult elective orthopaedics including spine
- Trauma including spine
- Children's orthopaedics / Hand and upper limb
- Applied basic sciences related to orthopaedics, including anatomy and surgical approaches, pathology, biomechanics, audit, methodology & outcome based medicine

A. Elective Orthopaedics

1. A wide knowledge of orthopaedic disease in both children and adults which includes congenital and genetically determined disorders, metabolic disorders, degenerative diseases and disturbances, and disabilities resulting from disorders of the central and peripheral nervous systems. This knowledge should extend from clinical diagnosis through management to rehabilitation.
2. A sound knowledge of the standard operative procedures used and their complications.
3. A knowledge of the standard investigative techniques used in orthopaedics.
4. A knowledge of specialised areas such as the spine, the hand, etc.

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B. Trauma

1. A sound knowledge of the care of musculoskeletal trauma from the initial resuscitation through reconstructive surgery to complications and their management, and relevant aspects of rehabilitation. Musculoskeletal trauma includes fractures of limb bones, joint injuries, spinal injuries including neurological damage, pelvic fractures, injuries to muscle, tendon, ligament and nerve, hand injuries, multiple injuries and the principles of shock and resuscitation.
2. An adequate knowledge of visceral, neurosurgical and skin trauma, such as would enable an orthopaedic surgeon to undertake primary diagnosis and treatment of these injuries if specialist expertise were not immediately available.

C. Basic Science

1. A knowledge of surgical anatomy relevant to the practice of orthopaedic and trauma surgery.
2. The development of the musculoskeletal system.
3. The physiology and biochemistry of musculoskeletal tissues.
4. The pathology of common conditions including tumours, degenerative and inflammatory arthritis, metabolic bone disease and fracture healing.
5. Bacteriology encountered in orthopaedic practice including operating theatre design and the role of antibiotics.
6. Tissue transplantation in orthopaedic and trauma practice.
7. The principles of genetics as applied to the musculoskeletal system.
8. The science of investigative techniques, including the principles of radiography and the effects of radiation on the skeleton, the physical basis of computerised tomography, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging, the scientific basis of electrophysiological investigations.
9. Biomechanics relevant to the musculoskeletal system. This would include the physical properties of the tissues we deal with (bone, cartilage, and implants for reconstructive surgery and fracture fixation), patterns of gait and limb movement and the effect of forces acting on the skeleton.
10. A sound knowledge of prosthetic and orthotic practice including the principles of design, prescription and fitting of standard prostheses, and the principles of orthotic bracing for the control of disease, deformity, and instability.
11. A working knowledge of statistics relevant to orthopaedic practice.

The Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery reserves the right to modify the format of the examination.