

Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examination

Neurosurgery

Guide to the Scope and Format of the Examination

Candidates are advised to consult the Neurosurgery 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

The Long Cases - will be structured with approximately 5 minutes for history, examination and presentation of salient points, 5 minutes for interpretation of findings, differential diagnosis and investigation plan, and 5 minutes for the treatment options, and potential complications. (2 cases in 30 minutes).

The Short Cases - will test categories such as: History taking and examination; Interpretation and differential diagnosis; Management plan / additional investigations and complications. (4 cases in 30 minutes).

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

Generic assessment of information gathering and giving, professionalism and clinical conduct, structured approach and logical order, and clinical reasoning and judgement will also be assessed for long and short cases.

Oral examinations

Three 30 minute orals in each of the following:

- Operative Surgery and Surgical Anatomy (30 minutes)
- Investigation of the Neurosurgical patient including Neuro-Radiology (30 minutes)
- The Non-Operative Clinical Practice of Neurosurgery (30 minutes)

The Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Neurosurgery reserves the right to modify the format of the examination.