

# Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examination

## General Surgery

### Guide to the Scope and Format of the Examination

Candidates are advised to consult the General 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edn. National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), Philadelphia, USA.  
[www.nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting\\_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf](http://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.

The format will consist of clinical and oral examinations in all aspects of General Surgery. This will include the relevant aspects of anatomy, physiology and pathology, research methodology, levels of evidence and statistical analysis.

#### Clinical examinations

There will be two clinical examinations:

Clinical 1 – 4 Short Cases will be covered in 30 minutes

Clinical 2 – 4 Short Cases will be covered in 30 minutes

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

This will cover history taking, examination and planning of surgical care; relevant pathology, investigations and operative surgery will be included.

#### Oral Examinations

There will be three oral examinations:

- (i) Emergency Surgery Oral (30 minutes)

This will cover the subject of emergency surgery; relevant pathology investigations and operative surgery will be included.

- (ii) General Surgery Oral (30 minutes)

This will cover the subject of elective surgery; relevant pathology, investigations and operative surgery will be included.

- (iii) Trauma and Critical Care (30 minutes)

This will cover trauma surgery and the management of the critically ill patient; relevant pathology, investigations and operative surgery will be included.

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

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