



## JOHANNESBURG ACADEMIC OFFICE

# CMSA

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## The New format FCA(SA) Part II Exam – Information for Trainees

In the semester one exam of 2019, the FCA 2 exam will take a new format. The new exam has been introduced to modernize the exam format and keep up to date with new knowledge evaluation methods. The FCA 2 exam aims to ensure that candidates are evaluated in the fairest way possible and to ensure that all candidates who demonstrate that they meet the knowledge standards of a specialist can pass the exam.

The examination comprises 2 components, which must each be passed independently.

### The Written Exam

#### What are the written papers?

- i) ONE written paper of THREE hours comprising a minimum of one hundred and twenty multiple choice/single best answer questions with a minimum of three choices per question. Please note that there may be more than three choices in the question.

These questions will be made up of a stem and question, which is followed by a number of possible choices. Please note that this is NOT a multiple-choice exam. More than one of the choices may be true. The candidate is expected to use their knowledge of the subject matter to determine what is the most appropriate answer in the specific scenario.

- ii) ONE written paper of THREE hours comprising a minimum of TWENTY short answer questions. These are questions which test theory and application of theory.
- iii) ONE written paper of THREE hours comprising a minimum of TWENTY questions requiring short answers with an emphasis on data interpretation. These questions will test understanding and application of theoretical and practical aspects of anaesthesia.

#### How do the marks for the written exam work?

- The three papers comprising the written examination are equally weighted.

- Marks for the...

- Marks for the written examination will be aggregated, analysed and the pass mark will be determined by the Cohen method of standard setting. To ensure a higher probability of a true pass, multiples of the Standard Error of Measurement (a marker of reliability of the examination) will be added to the Cohen pass mark to determine the final pass mark (standard) which will be used. Candidates must obtain an average mark greater than or equal to the final passing score, for all three written papers combined, to pass the written component of the examination.
- You must pass the written exam to be eligible to be invited to the next part of the exam.

## THE OSCE

An **Objectively Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)** consisting of a minimum of twelve (12) stations. There may be more than 12 stations.

The OSCE will be split into multiple parts and run over multiple days, for logistical reasons, and to ensure standardisation. This means that every candidate will write the exact exam. Practically it may mean that all the candidates will write the first half of the OSCE on day 1, and then everyone will return to write the second half of the OSCE on day 2.

Candidates who write the OSCE in the morning sessions will be isolated (with no access to cell phones or computers) until the last group of candidates have started the OSCE. Please be prepared to be at the exam venue for the full day.

The **OSCE** will test multiple competencies including but not limited to:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Health Advocacy
- Professionalism
- Scholarship
- Knowledge integration

All domains in the curriculum can be tested in the OSCE.

The paper-patient component of the previous exam format will be incorporated in the OSCE.

Other types of questions will be interactive and test the candidate's application of knowledge and their ability to interact with peers or patients.

The OSCE will be testing knowledge and skills that cannot be evaluated in a written exam.

### How will the OSCE be marked?

- All stations in the OSCE examination are equally weighted.
- The Borderline Regression method will be used to set the standard (pass mark) for each of the stations used in the OSCE. The overall OSCE standard will be calculated using the average from all the stations' pass marks in the OSCE.
- To ensure a higher probability of a true pass, multiples of the Standard Error of Measurement (a marker of reliability of the examination) will be added to the overall Borderline Regression OSCE pass mark to determine the final pass mark which will be used. Candidates must obtain an average OSCE mark greater than the final passing score to pass the OSCE.

**What do I need to do to pass the FCA 2 exam?**

- You need to pass the written to be invited to the OSCE exam.
- You need to pass the OSCE exam by getting a mark above the final passing score for the OSCE.

**JOHANNESBURG**

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