



C M S A

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EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

FC Path(SA) Oral Part I and Part II Blueprint

PART I EXAMINATION

The Part I examination, both the written and practical components, will be identical to those which are set for the FC Path(SA) Anat Path Part I exam.

PART II EXAMINATION

The two theory papers, a light microscopic practical examination and an interactive examination will be conducted at higher cognitive levels, i.e. understanding of acquired knowledge and ability to apply information to solve problems. This will be based on the core curricula and recommended competencies:

In surgical Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology the candidate must demonstrate:

- An appropriate understanding of the type of specimen submitted for histopathological investigation, the indications and contra-indications as well as the possible limitations of specific biopsy techniques prior to the gross macroscopic processing procedure. In addition, the candidate should demonstrate an understanding of the clinical relevance and significance of the clinical history or other information provided on the histopathology request form.
- The candidate must demonstrate a logical, methodical and standardised approach to the macroscopic description of specimens coupled with the skills to appropriately dissect and adequately sample specimens for representivity.
- The candidate should demonstrate proficiency and in-depth knowledge for the accurate diagnosis of all pathological lesions encountered in head and neck pathology. It is essential that the candidate be self-sufficient in formulating the most appropriate differential diagnosis based on examination of the routine formalin-fixed sections of tissue. Furthermore, insight into the request for additional histochemical, immunohistochemical, molecular and other adjunctive tests as needed for a definitive diagnosis are essential. The candidate should actively communicate with the clinicians with regards to clinical findings, medical history, radiological investigations as well as pharmaceutical history of the patient in rendering a diagnosis.
- Skills to determine the need for macroscopic and microscopic photography, tissue demineralisation, dental hard tissue examination, immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence, flow cytometry and other relevant molecular techniques.
- The ability to interpret all information together with the histological findings should be performed in an integrative manner and be professionally conveyed within an acceptable turnaround time.

- Candidates should.../

- Candidates should demonstrate the ability to routinely make clinical recommendations to facilitate therapeutic interventions by the inclusion of comments/addenda when reports are constructed as well as by verbal communication.
- The ability to prioritise cases based on the severity of pathology which should be timeously communicated to referring clinicians.
- The ability to prepare and evaluate frozen sections (both in the laboratory and in operating theatres), fine needle aspirates and exfoliative cytology whilst being mindful of the indications and limitations of such procedures.
- A style of reporting that includes accurate observations and conclusions, appropriate detail and an indication of the degree of confidence with which a diagnosis is made.
- An understanding of the use of information technology in diagnostic histopathology, the preparation of pathology reports and laboratory statistics.
- An understanding of the technical aspects of tissue fixation and processing, as well as cutting and staining techniques of histological sections and the discarding of chemical and other laboratory waste.
- The ability to interact professionally with laboratory personnel and colleagues regarding these technical aspects.
- Knowledge of health and safety regulations and quality control in the histopathology laboratory.
- The ability to advise on the principals of microscopic image analyses.
- Maintain the principles of good record keeping, patient confidentiality and human ethics.
- The ability to understand and interpret histopathological studies, research methodology and clinical significance.

FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The written component of the Part II of the examination will consist of two theory papers.

1.0 Theory papers

- Each of the theory papers will be of 3-hours duration.
- The papers will consist of a mixture of short answer questions, ultra-short answer questions and multiple choice questions to demonstrate integrative skills and factual recall, according to CMSA policy. Questions may require answers in different formats including short notes, analysis and discussion, and will be based on clinical or histological information to illustrate relevant facts and facilitate interpretation.
- The papers will be based on the principles and practices of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. This will include the classification, pathogenesis and epidemiology of diseases, molecular pathology and special techniques (electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, molecular techniques, morphometry and radiographic studies) needed for diagnosis.
- Questions based on laboratory management, accreditation, quality assurance as well as the ethical and moral practice of pathology may be included in the theory papers.
- A combined score of at least 50% for the two papers is needed to proceed to the practical examination. The combined weighting is 40%

2.0 PART II CURRICULUM

- Laboratory management, including safety issues, accreditation and quality control
- Applied bioethics and legal issues pertinent to Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Gross techniques in surgical pathology
- Frozen sections and other intraoperative procedures
- Principles of special techniques
 - Special stains
 - Immunohistochemistry.../

- Immunohistochemistry
- Immunofluorescence
- Electron microscopy
- Morphometry
- DNA flowcytometry
- Cytogenetic analysis
- Molecular pathology
 - In-situ hybridisation
 - Polymerase chain reaction
 - Next generation sequencing and related technologies
- Surgical pathology and cytopathology, including epidemiology, aetiopathogenesis, clinical features, basic imaging, definitions, classification, grading, staging, morphology, workup of differential diagnosis, complications and basic treatment modalities of diseases
 - Skin
 - Dermatoses
 - Tumours and tumour-like conditions
 - Oral cavity and oropharynx
 - Teeth
 - Mandible and maxilla
 - Respiratory tract
 - Nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses and nasopharynx
 - Larynx
 - Major and minor salivary glands
 - Lymph nodes
 - Bone and joints
 - Soft tissues
 - Arteries
 - Veins
 - Lymph nodes and vessels

The short and multiple choice questions in Paper 1 will be distributed as follows:

- Epithelial disorders of the head and neck: approximately 20% of the marks allocated
- Odontogenic tumours and cysts of the head and neck: approximately 15% of the marks allocated
- Bone lesions of the head and neck: approximately 10% of the marks allocated
- Salivary gland disorders: approximately 15% of the marks allocated
- Infections of the head and neck: approximately 10% of the marks allocated
- Soft tissue tumours of the head and neck: approximately 10% of the marks allocated
- Hematopoietic lesions: approximately 5% of the marks allocated
- Developmental disturbances of the head and neck, abnormalities of teeth, pulpal, periapical and periodontal diseases: approximately 10% of the marks allocated
- Immune-mediated disorders of the head and neck: approximately 5% of the marks allocated

The short questions in Paper 2 will evaluate the integrative skills, knowledge and understanding of the core competencies listed above. There will not be more than 20% of allocated marks per disease or tumour category (for example salivary gland tumours or odontogenic tumours). Questions based on laboratory management, accreditation, quality assurance as well as the ethical and moral practice of pathology will be included in Paper 2.

3.0 FORMAT OF THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

- A 3 to 4 hour closed book histopathology practical examination, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.
- All questions will have to be answered
- An H&E-stained section from each of 30 different histopathological cases (including surgical cases). Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided. A diagnosis must be provided for each case.
- The candidate must pass this part of the examination

PART II SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SLIDES EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT (Weighting = 30%; Pass mark determined by standard setting procedure)

	Congenital	Traumatic	Infective	Inflammatory	Vascular	Developmental	Neoplastic	Mechanical	Degenerative
Salivary glands	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oral cavity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Odontogenic tissues	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bone	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sinonasal tract	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TM joint	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lymphoid tissue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Soft tissue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peripheral nervous system	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Skin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Thirty H&E-stained histopathology sections (including surgical and autopsy pathology) in 3 to 4 hours, to be spread across the above areas.

Candidates may be required to type their answers for the practical examination using a computer, which will then be shared electronically with the examiners at the end of the examination

5.0 FORMAT OF THE INTERACTIVE EXAMINATION

The ability of the candidate to practice safely as an Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologist in a private practice setting will be assessed. This examination will be interactive and may include stations with histology sections, clinical photos, macroscopic specimens, radiographs or a combination of these.

The pass mark will be determined by standard setting procedure.

6.0 BLUEPRINT OF THE INTERACTIVE EXAMINATION

The candidates will be evaluated on any aspect of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology including:

- Differential diagnoses
- Theoretical considerations
- Ability to evaluate the applicability of published literature
- Ability to deal with complex diagnostic problems
- Use of special investigations (laboratory-based and/or clinical)
- Laboratory management (including safety issues and troubleshooting)
- Accreditation matters
- Ethical, legal and moral issues pertaining to the practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology, including including professionalism