



CMSA

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JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

FC PATH(SA) MICRO PART II PRACTICAL BLUEPRINT

EFFECTIVE FIRST SEMESTER 2024

FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The examination is held over a 3-day period

The Practical examination constitutes 50% towards the final examination

A pass mark of 50% is required to pass the practical examination

The practical examination is divided into two components:

1. The case-based assessment consisting of a decentralised on-site practical session, followed by an online oral examination
2. The OSCE assessments, consisting of three separate online sessions.

1. Case Based Assessments

- a. The on-site assessment will be on day 1
- b. The oral assessment will on the morning of day 2

1a. Day 1 (full day): On-site case-based assessment:

- Will be conducted in a decentralised fashion – candidates will be assessed in a laboratory designated by the examination team
- Will take place over the course of a full day (6-8 hours) and consist of a morning session and an afternoon session
- Will count a total of 200 marks.
- Will comprise of four clinical cases with their specimens and / or isolates.
- Aims to assess the candidate's ability to process a specimen, provide guidance to laboratory staff, provide a provisional diagnosis to clinicians, interpret the results to determine a definitive diagnosis and provide clinicians with advice on patient management.

1b. Day 2 (morning): Structured Oral case-based assessment:

- Will be conducted using an online platform, at a venue arranged by the CMSA
- Will be approximately 30-40 minutes duration per candidate
- Will count a total of 50 marks
- Will be attended by at least 2 examiners per candidate
- Will consist of in-depth and broader discussion of the four clinical cases from day 1.

Mark breakdown for case based assessment

The final mark for the case-based assessment will be the mark (out of 200) for the onsite component plus the mark (out of 50) for the oral component. The onsite component thus contributes 80%, and the oral component contributes 20% to the final case-based assessment mark

2. OSCE assessments

2a. Day 2 (afternoon):

- Bacteriology OSCE

2b. Day 3 (morning)

- Virology OSCE

2c. Day 3 (afternoon)

- Mycology and parasitology OSCE
- Each OSCE will be conducted using an online platform for a duration of 2 hours, at a venue arranged by the CMSA
- All three OSCEs will consist of a mixture of clinical scenarios, laboratory results, EQA results, instrument printouts etc. These are designed to test the candidate's ability to solve problems, trouble shoot, and provide advice to both laboratory staff and clinicians.
- While the OSCEs will focus on specific themes as outlined above, some cross cutting questions will be included (related to infection prevention and control, or quality management, for example)

Mark breakdown for OSCE assessment

Each OSCE will count 100 marks

Each OSCE will contribute 15% towards a final mark for the OSCE assessment

Weighting and determination of final mark for practical examination:

For the final mark, the case based assessment (onsite practical plus oral) will count 55% and the combined mark for the three OSCEs will count 45%