



# CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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**JOHANNESBURG  
ACADEMIC OFFICE**

## FC PSYCH(SA) PART II

### OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) is a reliable, valid assessment method that has become an integral part of clinical examinations. It complements other assessment methods and measures specific skills and competencies in a consistent, uniform and objective manner.

As from July 2015, the OSCE complement the long case presentation for the clinical component of the FC Psych II examination. Note that the oral/viva previously conducted has discontinued and that the OSCE will include both neuropsychiatry and general psychiatry stations.

#### COMPETENCIES EXAMINABLE IN AN OSCE

OSCE stations could assess any of the following competency domains:

- History taking
- Physical or mental state examination
- Interpretation of the aforementioned and/or investigations
- Making a diagnosis or communicating a diagnosis, including counselling
- Describing or communicating a management plan
- Advocacy (eg, talking to a newspaper reporter)
- Education (eg, of junior staff, students, patient, family, community)
- Addressing an ethical dilemma

#### CONTENT EXAMINABLE IN AN OSCE

Please refer to the FC Psych Regulations on the CMSA Website for a detailed blueprint of required content and competencies. ([http://www.collegemedsa.ac.za/view\\_exam.aspx?examid=41](http://www.collegemedsa.ac.za/view_exam.aspx?examid=41))

#### ADMINISTRATION AND FORMAT OF THE OSCE EXAMINATION

1. Examinations take place twice a year as determined by the CMSA.
2. Each OSCE will comprise twelve (12) active stations; additional rest stations will be determined by the number of candidates for that examination. Each station will be 12 minutes in duration with a preceding 3 minute interval to allow candidates to rotate and prepare for the next station. i.e a total of 15 minutes per station. During this interval, examiners will also have an opportunity to finalise their marking.
3. From a **content** perspective, each OSCE will have:
  - 4 neuropsychiatry and/or old age psychiatry stations,
  - 1 Child and Adolescent station,
  - 1-3 stations from forensic, psychotherapy, public mental health, ethics, research and socio-cultural psychiatry, and
  - 4-6 stations from general psychiatry, addictions, emergencies, intellectual disability and psychopharmacology
4. From a **competencies** perspective, no more than three stations will assess the same skill or construct category (as described above). However, it is very important to note that stations will most often test a combination of content and/or skills. The aforementioned should, therefore, be interpreted as a guide rather than an absolute.

5. Stations may use actual patients or simulated participants. Other material such as video recordings, special investigation results, scans and photographs may also be used.
6. For each station, a candidate instruction sheet will be provided.
7. NB. No personal belongings are permitted except for your student identification card, and pen. Should you be required to carry any additional equipment, you will be informed accordingly when being invited to the examination.
8. Depending on the number of candidates sitting the examination, two sessions of the same OSCE may be conducted on the day of the examination. Those invited to attend the second OSCE of the day will be required to arrive prior to the conclusion of the first OSCE. For security reasons, the candidates from the first OSCE session will be required to wait until all the candidates for the second OSCE have been received.

### **MARKING SYSTEM**

The OSCE will be pitched at the level of a specialist NOT a subspecialist

1. Using a structured mark sheet, examiners will focus on:
  - Your communication skills, professionalism and approach to the interviewee (eg, patient, carer)
  - Your demonstrated mental state examination and physical examination skills
  - Your demonstrated ability to interpret information for diagnostic and management purposes
  - The appropriateness (eg, evidence-based effectiveness and safety) and inclusiveness of your management approach
2. Each station will have one or two examiners. Where there are two examiners, each examiner will score your performance independently.
3. No station will serve as a “trap-door station” and each station will contribute equally towards the final OSCE mark.
4. In order to pass the OSCE candidates must score  $\geq 50\%$  in total AND pass  $\geq 7/12$  stations.
5. The examination proceedings will be recorded unless the candidate refuses in writing.

**JOHANNESBURG**  
**November 2017**