

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR EXIT ASSESSMENT (October 2004)
(Implemented from December 2007) amended in October 2009
further amended in March 2022

A. Areas of Assessment

The assessment consists of 4 parts

(1) Dissertations

- (a) **Two** papers are required, with one from each of the following 2 categories:
 - (i) research project/study
 - (ii) case report and review of literature of a clinical problem related to the case
however, full research study can replace the case report/review of literature. Research protocols are not acceptable as submission for the purpose of the Exit Assessment.
- (b) The candidate must be the **major contributor and** first author of **both** papers.
- (c) The two dissertations should not be on the same disease condition.
- (d) An original thesis written for a postgraduate degree is not allowed
- (e) The papers are expected to be written up within the higher training period. For published papers, those which are accepted prior to the commencement of the higher training period cannot be submitted.
- (f) Candidates are advised not to submit more than 2 papers. If so, he/she would be requested to choose only 2 papers for assessment.
- (g) Dissertation submitted after the deadline for application will not be accepted. Candidates who fail to submit the required number of dissertations will not be able to present themselves for the Exit Assessment.
- (h) If any one of the dissertations submitted by the candidate is considered as **exceptionally unacceptable** by the panel of the assessors, the candidate will fail the Exit Assessment irrespective of his/her overall score.

(2) Clinical Experience/Competence

Candidates would be assessed on the approach to problem formulation and clinical management, more than on book-knowledge and minute details. They would be assessed on their clinical judgement and competence in dealing with clinical problems.

- (3) **Service Related Issues**
Candidates would be assessed on how their clinical experience enables them to handle service related matters, e.g. medical legal problems, ethical issues, risk management, communication skills, doctor-patient relationship, clinical audit, quality assurance programmes, training and supervision of staff, etc.
- (4) **Critical Appraisal of Scientific Publication**
Candidates will be assessed on how to read a paper regarding methodology, evaluation of results and clinical relevance.

B. Format

- (1) **Duration:-**
(a) 60 minutes for reading a paper selected from a recent journal for critical appraisal and to discuss with assessors during the Exit Assessment
(b) 60 minutes for assessment in the form of an interview by 2 panels of 3 assessors each; one for the section on clinical competence and critical appraisal and another panel for the section on service related issues and dissertations.

- (2) **Assessors**
Each candidate will be assessed by 6 assessors among whom there is a senior assessor who will review the higher training program of the candidate.

- (3) **Schedule**

1 st panel	Clinical competence	(25 minutes)
	Critical Appraisal	(10 minutes)
2 nd panel	Service Related Issues	(10 minutes)
	Dissertations	(15 minutes)

From June 2010, the schedule will be changed to the following:

1 st panel	Clinical competence	(25 minutes)
	Critical Appraisal	(10 minutes)
2 nd panel	Service Related Issues	(15 minutes)
	Dissertations	(10 minutes)

C. Marking

- (1) For each section, each candidate will receive an independent score from each assessor according to the following scoring system:

Good Pass	6
Clear Pass	5
Bare Pass	4
Bare Fail	3
Clear Fail	2
Bad Fail	1

- (2) The Weighting for the section on Clinical Competence is double that of the other 3 sections (namely service related issues, dissertations and critical appraisal)

Thus the marks for the Clinical Competence section

Good Pass	6 x 2	= 12
Clear Pass	5 x 2	= 10
Bare Pass	4 x 2	= 8
Bare Fail	3 x 2	= 6
Clear Fail	2 x 2	= 4
Bad Fail	1 x 2	= 2

- (3) The overall mark of each section will be the sum of the individual marks of the 3 assessors. There will be no decimal marks from individual assessors

e.g.	Assessor 1	Pass	4
	Assessor 2	Pass	4
	Assessor 3	Bare Fail	3
	Overall section mark		11

- (4) Each dissertation will be separately assessed and given a score by each assessor (using the same scoring scale of 1 to 6). The mark on the section on dissertations will be the sum of the marks of all the two dissertations given by the 3 assessors divided by 2.

e.g.	Paper 1	Paper 2
Assessor 1	4	4
Assessor 2	4	4
Assessor 3	3	3
Total	11 +	11 = 22
Overall section mark	= 22 / 2 = 11	

- (5) Pass Mark for each section

	Service related issues, dissertations and appraisal	*Clinical competence
Good Pass	18 (6,6,6)	36
	17 (6,6,5)	34
Clear Pass	16 (6,5,5)	32
	15 (5,5,5)	30
	14 (5,5,4)	28
Bare Pass	13 (5,4,4)	26
	12 (4,4,4)	24
	11 (4,4,3)	22
Bare Fail	10 (4,3,3)	20
	9 (3,3,3)	18
	8 (3,3,2)	16

Clear Fail	7	(3,2,2)	14
	6	(2,2,2)	12
	5	(2,2,1)	10
Bad Fail	4	(2,1,1)	8
	3	(1,1,1)	6

*For clinical competence section, the marks are doubled

(6) Passing the Exit Assessment

A candidate will need a score of 55 out of a possible score of 90 to pass the Exit Assessment

and no bare fail / clear fail / bad fail in 2 or more sections
and no clear fail / bad fail in clinical competence