

# August 2022 CEQ Examination

## Post-examination Report



### **Critical Essay Question (CEQ)**

The purpose of the CEQ assessment is to test skills considered essential for consultant psychiatrists. The skills align with CANMED roles, and allow candidates to demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critically appraise a proposition relevant to psychiatry, apply evidence-based assessment, and demonstrate a capacity for balanced reasoning.

As usual, the candidates were provided with a prompt in the form of a quote. They were expected to address the quote, critically discuss it in essay form (including a consideration of contrasting viewpoints), and provide a conclusion.

The Committee for Examinations followed established procedures to set the August 2022 CEQ Examination and to determine the pass mark. Standard setting to determine the pass mark involved Fellows from around Australia and New Zealand.

The quote used for the August 2022 CEQ examination was thought provoking about an important ethical issue which has clinical relevance. The quote was very pertinent for our times and provided an opportunity for a breadth of responses. This quote was considered to be of immense clinical relevance to the day-to-day workings of a psychiatrist.

Candidates' responses were assessed across six domains of the CEQ Marking Guide. High quality essays were wide-ranging in scope, reflective and, provided balanced appraisals of all aspects of the quote. While there was evidence of critical thinking in many of the essays, of concern to the committee, many candidates did not address the question. Some candidates conflated the principle of first-do-no-harm with beneficence.

The Committee for Examinations reviewed the performance of borderline candidates across the examination, in line with accepted procedures. We were pleased with the trend of improving CEQ pass rates subsequent to the decoupling of the essay style paper. Please note that, as candidates' performance is carefully scrutinised by the committee, results are final and will not be reviewed.

Candidates are provided feedback as to their performance in identified curriculum areas taken from the syllabus; this appears in their result letter. Candidates were informed on 9 November 2022, earlier than scheduled, of the outcome of their attempt. Result letters were released via InTrain, and MY RANZCP website, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 for trainees and SIMG candidates respectively. Given below is a summary of data from the August 2022 CEQ examination.

### **Summary – August 2022 CEQ**

	Candidate Nos
No. of candidates enrolled in the CEQ examination	250
No. of candidates successful	180 (72%)
No. of candidates passing on their first attempt	75.96%
No. of candidates who elected to sit the CEQ and MEQ papers on the same day	115
No. of these candidates who were successful in both the CEQ and MEQ papers (%)	63%
No. of SIMG candidates passing	41.67%
No. of trainee candidates passing	75.22%

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The committee were pleased to see well-constructed essays with clear paragraphs and debate. Markers highlighted the broad scope of essays, with many addressing service management, governance and historical context of the question which suggested broader reading and/ or experience.

The ability to communicate clearly in terms of appropriate grammar and vocabulary was at a similar level to previous examinations (63.2% average score). The ability to identify and develop lines of relevant argument also performed at a similar level (62.1% average score). In comparison, the average performance level in the domain related to the understanding of patient-centred care, recovery model, and the role of carers was slightly lower at 60.1%.

College is mindful are there a significant period of time between an exam and the release of results. Each candidate's CEQ paper is marked at least twice by two separate volunteer markers, with some assessed by a third marker. The CEQ marking is done by is a small group of markers that goes through a comprehensive calibration process therefore ensuring a better inter-rater reliability. . The College aims to ensure a fair and rigorous marking process.

Candidates are reminded of College resources and strongly advised to practice on past examination papers which can be found here ([Critical Essay Question - previous exams | RANZCP](#)). Candidates are encouraged to use supervision opportunities to discuss consultant perspectives in their daily clinical work and to seek advice and formative feedback on practice answers.

We strongly recommend that candidates are mindful of their handwriting to ensure marks are not missed because the examiner cannot decipher what had been produced in the examination. CEQ markers are mindful of the time pressure for candidates in this examination and every effort is made to decipher poor handwriting.

The Committee for Examinations is committed to publishing in the future, exemplars of CEQs submitted by candidates.

Click on the hyperlink for the [August 2022 CEQ Marking Guide \(ranzcp.org\)](#) (password required).

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