

August 2019

Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) - Post Examination Report



Multiple Choice Question Examination

Established procedures were followed by The Committee for Examinations to create the August 2019 Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Examination and to determine the overall pass mark. The pass mark was determined through intensive standard setting exercises involving Fellows from Australia and New Zealand.

The August 2019 MCQ Examination was attempted by 187 candidates throughout Australia and New Zealand. The cohort had an overall pass rate of 72%.

Of those candidates attempting the examination for the first time, 92% were successful.

Candidates were provided performance feedback in identified curriculum areas. The feedback is intended to identify relative strengths and weaknesses of candidates by Examination content area.

Critical Analysis Problems (CAPs)

The two Critical Analysis Problems within the examination were based on articles drawn from basic sciences and medical knowledge. Accordingly, in terms of feedback, all CAP questions are categorized within Stages 1 and 2 of the 2012 Fellowship Program syllabus as basic sciences and medical knowledge.

The frequency distribution of responses across all questions within CAP 1 showed that a majority of the cohort had good knowledge of the questions being asked. The frequency distribution for CAP 2 showed that half of the questions challenged candidates' thinking resulting in a large cross section of responses, while the remaining questions were answered in a more focused manner.

The CFE would like to remind all candidates that the ability to read and interpret the professional literature is regarded as a core skill of a psychiatrist. Candidates are expected to have knowledge of different types of research studies, controls, sources of bias, basic descriptive and analytic statistics, and reporting of findings. You can access a detailed guide to the knowledge that may be assessed in the CAP component on the College website: [RANZCP Guidelines for CAPs](#)

Non-CAP Extended Matching Questions (EMQ) / MCQs

The average mark for the multiple choice questions was similar to previous MCQ exams.

Overall analysis showed that candidates demonstrated a stronger awareness in the areas of Epidemiology and Public Health, Diagnosis and Classification as well as Specific Areas of Practice (Addiction, Consultation Liaison, Forensic, Old Age).

Questions about Leadership, Governance, relevant Legal Frameworks, and Ethics, History and Philosophy performed relatively poorly. Analyses of questions pertaining to Ethics, History and Philosophy revealed a greater likelihood of guessing strategies being employed, suggesting a lack of knowledge in these specific areas.

The CFE would like to remind candidates that, as the MCQ examination is predominantly a knowledge-based examination, it is important for candidates to ensure that they are up to date with basic sciences and medical knowledge.

Handwritten signature of Dr Nathan Gibson.

Dr Nathan Gibson
Chair
Committee for Examinations

Handwritten signature of Dr Brett Kennedy.

Dr Brett Kennedy
Co-Chair
Written Subcommittee

Handwritten signature of Dr Sanjay Patel.

Dr Sanjay Patel
Co-Chair
Written Subcommittee