

# February 2019 Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) - Post Examination Report



The Royal  
Australian &  
New Zealand  
College of  
Psychiatrists

## **Multiple Choice Question Examination (MCQs)**

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

The February 2019 MCQ Exam was attempted by 148 candidates throughout Australia and New Zealand. The exam had an overall pass rate of 84.5%, which is the second highest pass rate since the commencement of the 2012 Fellowship program.

Analysis also showed that 91% of candidates who sat the examination for the first time were successful.

Candidates are provided performance feedback in identified curriculum areas, which may be diagnostic or clinical categories. This is the only means by which feedback is able to be broken down in any detail.

## **Critical Analysis Problems (CAPs)**

The two Critical Analysis Problems within the examination were based on articles drawing on 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.

Although not required to be passed independently of the rest of the MCQ style examination, it was noted that 56% of the cohort scored above the nominal pass mark for the CAP component. The frequency distribution of responses across all questions showed that a majority of the cohort had fair or reasonable knowledge of the question being asked.

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**

Candidates performed about equally well on non-CAP extended matching questions (EMQs) and multiple choice questions. The average mark was on par with the previous MCQ exam.

Overall analysis showed that candidates demonstrated the strongest performances in the area of Phenomenology, followed by Leadership, Governance and relevant legal frameworks, and Assessment.

Analysis of those questions where candidates performed poorly revealed that the cohort used guess work in responding. The weakest areas of knowledge were in Ethics (including Professionalism) and the History of Psychiatry. Even though it is not essential to have a comprehensive level of knowledge of the history of psychiatry, as part of a trainee's journey to becoming a psychiatrist, some basic knowledge of the history of the profession is required.

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.

**Assoc. Professor Lisa Lampe  
Chair  
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**Dr Brett Kennedy  
Co-Chair  
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