

**The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong
Academy of Medicine, Singapore**

JOINT SPECIALTY FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

**CANDIDATES' GUIDANCE NOTES
FOR THE CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

Introduction

The Specialty Board in Cardiothoracic Surgery, in conjunction with the other surgical specialties, has amongst its several aims, a need to provide a reproducible and valid examination process. These guidance notes are issued to provide clarity regarding the structure and content of the clinical sections of the Cardiothoracic Surgery examination.

Long Case Clinicals

(One Thoracic Long Case Clinical and one Cardiac Long Case Clinical – each lasting 30 minutes)

You will be examined by one pair of Examiners in each clinical.

You should treat the Long Case Clinical like a new patient consultation in the outpatient clinic. You may be given a typical referral letter to read that may include the results of investigations. You will then be asked to take a concise and relevant history and carry out a brief appropriate examination, as you would in a typical outpatient clinic. You will then be asked to formulate a management plan and discuss this with the patient, taking formal consent for any procedure you feel is appropriate.

Short Case Clinicals

(Thoracic Short Cases Clinical and Cardiac Short Cases Clinical – each lasting 30 minutes)

You will be examined by one pair of Examiners in each clinical.

During each Short Case Clinical you will be presented with patients and asked to examine a particular feature or take a specific history to assess your clinical skills. Each Thoracic and Cardiac Short Case Clinical will also include an investigation station where you will be asked to interpret investigations such as ECHOs and cardiac angiograms or identify and comment on instruments etc. for the Cardiac Examination. Pulmonary function tests and CT scans may be viewed in the Thoracic Examination and again instruments etc. may require to be identified and their use explained.

Marking

The Long and Short Case Clinicals (four in total) will adhere to the standard marking scale (4 – 8) with both examiners awarding an individual mark. Each pair of Examiners is required to note down topics covered in the examination and record an individual mark at the end of each clinical.

To pass the examination overall, you must achieve the overall pass mark for the examination. This is an aggregate pass and it is not essential to pass the clinical section of the examination. Marks awarded at the end of each session are not divulged to, or discussed with, any other examiner until the Debriefing which is held at the very end of the examination.