

# The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

## New Format of Exit Exam in General Surgery

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# Background

- September 2015
- College representatives observed a new format of Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in General Surgery in Scotland
- Working group formed to work on a more standardized and uniformed exam
- Subsequent meetings and discussion with JCST, Singapore and RCSEd
- Reached an agreement
- New format to be implemented from 2019

# Previous Exit Examination

- Candidate can declare subspecialty
- Viva Exam (3 stations)
  - Academic Oral (20 mins)
  - Emergency Surgery/Trauma/Critical Care (30 mins)
  - General Surgery (30 mins)
- Clinical Exam (2 stations)
  - Short cases (30 mins)
  - Short cases (30 mins)

# Previous Exit Examination

- Marking
  - Agreed marking by 2 examiners
  - Pass mark
    - Clinical exam: 12
    - Whole exam: 30 (i.e. 5 stations x 6 marks)

# New Exam Format

- To be implemented from March 2019
- 2 diets are organized annually
  - March in Hong Kong
  - August in Singapore

# Previous Format vs New Format

Components	Previous Format	New Format
	Allows declaration of subspecialty	NO declaration of subspecialty, General Surgery-centric Exam
Viva Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academic Oral (20 mins)</li> <li>- General Surgery (30 mins)</li> <li>- Emergency/Trauma/Critical Care (30 mins)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academic Oral (15 mins) &amp; Surgical Anatomy (15 mins)</li> <li>- General Surgery (30 mins)</li> <li>- Emergency/Trauma/Critical Care (30 mins)</li> </ul>
Clinical Exam	<p>2 Sessions</p> <p>Each session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 short cases (30 mins)</li> </ul>	<p>2 Sessions:</p> <p>Each session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 medium-length case (15 mins) with 15 mins history-taking prior to session</li> <li><b>-At least</b> 3 short cases (15 mins)</li> </ul>

# Previous Format vs New Format

Components	Previous Format	New Format
Marking	Agreed marking by 2 examiners One mark (4 to 8) per session	Independent marking by both examiners <b>One mark (4 to 8) per 15 mins per examiner</b>
Pass Mark	Clinical: 12 Whole Exam: 30 (i.e. 5 stations x 6 marks) Adjudication for some scenarios	Clinical: <b>48</b> Whole Exam: <b>120</b> (i.e. 5 stations <b>x 2 sessions x 2 examiners x 6 marks</b> ) No adjudication

# New Format of Examination

## Viva: Academic Oral & Surgical Anatomy

- Duration: 30 minutes
- Exam Format:
  - Academic Oral (15 minutes)
    - Candidates given 1 paper to read for 30 minutes prior to the station
    - Critical appraisal, understanding of statistics and study design.
  - Surgical Anatomy (15 minutes)
    - Anatomy relevant to surgical practice, understanding of common surgical procedures.



# New Format of Examination

## Viva: Emergency Surgery/ Trauma/ Critical Care

- Duration: 30 minutes
- Covers:
  - Acute care, emergency and trauma surgery, the management of the critically ill;
  - relevant investigations, management and operative surgery.

# New Format of Examination

## Viva: General Surgery

- Duration: 30 minutes
- Covers:
  - principles of surgery and surgical conditions, including relevant investigations and management of these conditions.

# New Format of Examination

- Clinical Exam
  - cover the full range of general surgery
  - 2 sessions
  - Duration of each session: 30 minutes


# New Format of Examination

- Clinical Exam

Components of each session

- 1) Medium-length case

- **15 minutes** to take history & perform physical exam on a patient prior to the exam;

 *invigilator/nursing staff  
as chaperone & as interpreter  
(Examiners will not be present)*

- **15 minutes** for exam regarding the clinical findings, investigation & management.

- 2) Short cases

- **15 minutes** on **at least** 3 short cases.

# On the Day of Examination

- Registration & Briefing
  - Arrive at exam venue punctually for registration
  - All personal electronic devices (including Smart Watch) must be kept by College staff
  - Briefing by staff to candidates prior to the commencement
  - Stationery (Pen & paper) will be provided for the Medium-length case. (Cannot be taken away)

# On the Day of Examination

- During Examination
  - Pay attention to the PA announcement onsite
  - Must **NOT** communicate with other candidates or take away any examination materials, otherwise will be disqualified.

# Marking

- Independent marking by each examiner
- No discussion nor consensus marking between each pair of examiners, but allowed to cross-check with each other on candidates' answers
- Current marking scale (4-8) remains unchanged
- **Marking for each 15 minutes block**
- Examiners have 5 minutes for marking
- No Veto Mark
- Pass mark of whole exam and clinical exam: **120 & 48**
- No adjudication

# Remarks

- Visit the College Website for
  - Syllabus
  - Regulations
  - Eligibility & requirements for applying the Exam
  - <http://www.cshk.org/cshk.php?page=examination&id=6417&menupageid=5613>



Thank You