



There are two components of this examination

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COMPONENTS	TIME ALLOWED	MAX. MARKS	MIN. PASS MARKS
1. CLINICAL Long case	60 minutes 30 minutes for history taking and clinical examination 30 minutes for discussion	10	6
Short cases (four cases)	40 minutes (includes both examination and discussion)	10	6
2. TOACS (10-15 Stations)	4-8 minutes per station	10	6
AGGREGATE		30	18 (60%)

LONG CASE (10 marks 60 minutes)

Each candidate will be allotted one long case and allowed 30 minutes for history taking and clinical examination. Candidate should take a careful history from the patient (or relative) and after a thorough physical examination identify the problems which the patient presents. During this period the candidate will be observed by the examiners.

Case presentation and discussion on the long case will be conducted jointly by the two examiners for 30 minutes. In this section the candidates will be assessed on the following areas:

Interviewing and Clinical examinations skills

- Introduces oneself, listens patiently, and is polite with the patient.
- Is able to extract relevant information.
- Takes informed consent.
- Uses correct clinical methods systematically (including appropriate exposure and re-draping).

Case Presentation/Discussion

- Presents skillfully.
- Gives correct findings.
- Gives logical interpretation of findings and discusses differential diagnosis.
- Enumerates and justifies relevant investigation(s).
- Outlines and justifies treatment plan (including rehabilitation).
- Discusses prevention and prognosis.
- Has knowledge of recent advances relevant to the case.

During case discussion the candidates may ask the examiners for laboratory investigations which will be provided, if available. Even if they are not available and are relevant candidates will get the credit for the suggestion.

SHORT CASES (10 marks.....40 minutes)

Candidates will be examined on at least four short cases for a total of 40 minutes jointly by the two examiners. Candidates will be given a specific task to perform on patients, one case at a time. During this part of the examination, the candidate will be evaluated on the areas given below:

Clinical examination skills

- Obtains informed consent.
- Uses correct clinical methods, is systematic and examines the patient as a whole. (including appropriate exposure and re-draping).
- Performs examination of the relevant system in detail.

Discussion

- Gives correct findings.
- Gives logical interpretations of findings.
- Justifies diagnosis/es.

As the time for this section is short the answers given by the candidate should be precise and relevant to the patient under discussion.

TOACS (10 marks)

Task-Oriented Assessment of Clinical Skills (TOACS) will be held on the first day of the examination at the same time, at all centres, for all the candidates declared eligible for clinical part of the relevant examination. **Candidates will be sent information regarding the schedule of TOACS by the Examination Department.**

In the TOACS the candidates will be evaluated on procedures, x-rays, laboratory findings, instruments, specimens etc. This component of examination will consist of 10 to 15 stations, 4-8 minutes per station arranged in the examination hall and the candidates will have to rotate through all of them in turn. The TOACS stations will be of two types:

- Observed / Interactive
- Unobserved / Static

In addition to the detailed instructions enclosed, the candidates will also receive verbal instructions at the time of the examination.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

1. Entry with admit card only.
The candidates must display their admit cards on their white coats throughout the examination.
2. Response sheet:
 - Prior to entering the examination hall each candidate will be provided with a response sheet. Candidates must write their **roll number** on the response sheet before starting TOACS examination.
 - The candidate will only carry his/her response sheet while rotating through the stations. No other papers will be allowed in the examination hall.
3. The candidate is not supposed to remove any document or material from any station.
4. Each station will carry equal weightage. Every station must be attempted.
5. **A specified time will be allotted at each station which will be signaled by a bell.**

Conduct of Examination

1. The examination is in the form of a circuit. At the start the candidate would occupy the station allocated to him / her according to their roll numbers, and will move to the next station when the bell rings.
2. At these stations clear instructions would be written for performance of a task. The candidate is expected to read the instructions and act accordingly.

On unobserved / static stations the candidate will be presented with a clinical case, laboratory data, x-ray, ultrasound, CT scan, instrument, specimen etc. and will be asked to give written responses to questions asked.

In the observed / interactive stations the candidate will have to perform a procedure for example taking history, performing clinical examination, counseling, assembling an instrument etc. One examiner will be present at each such station who will either rate the performance of the candidate or ask questions testing the reasoning and problem-solving skills.

3. The performance of each candidate will be assessed by the examiners on a pre determined assessment form and the candidates will have to submit written responses to one-best / short answer questions in the response sheet.
4. Candidates will rotate through the stations in this way till they have completed the circuit. They will move only in one direction as displayed in the hall by arrow marks and will not be allowed to go back to the previous station.