

**The Membership Examination of  
Hong Kong Intercollegiate Board of Surgical  
College Part 3 - OSCE**

**OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL  
EXAMINATION  
(OSCE)**

**CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS AND  
GUIDANCE NOTES**

Effective April 2014

*March 2011*

*Revised and endorsed by Examination Committee on 28 Jan 2014, 1 Dec 2014*

*Approved by Council of HKICBSC on 8 February 2014, 23 October 2014*

MHKICBSC Exam - PART 3  
OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL EXAMINATION (OSCE)

**CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE NOTES**

**1. General information**

These guidance notes refer to the Part 3 (OSCE) to be examined since March 2011. They will be updated periodically. They should be read in conjunction with the most updated MHKICBSC Regulations.

Changes to the MHKICBSC Examination have been approved by the Council of HKICBSC.

The purpose of the MHKICBSC Examination is to determine that trainees have acquired the knowledge, skills and attributes required for the completion of core training in surgery and, for trainees following the revised Curriculum for Basic Surgical Training, to determine their ability to progress to higher specialist training in surgery.

The MHKICBSC Examination consists of three Parts as follows:

Part 1 – Applied Basic Sciences Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) paper

Part 2 – Clinical Problem Solving Extended matching Question (EMQ) paper

Part 3 - Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Candidates must have passed both Part 1 and Part 2 Examinations before proceeding to Part 3 of the Examination. A candidate is allowed a maximum of 4 years to complete all parts of the Examination counting from the first day of Basic Surgical Training. Failure to pass Part 3 (OSCE) within the stipulated timeframe will debar the Candidate from applying for any part of the MHKICBSC Examination.

**2. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**

**2.1 Structure**

The OSCE will normally consist of 16 examined stations and 2 preparation stations, each of 8 minutes' duration. These stations will examine the candidates in the following two broad content areas:

1. Basic & Applied Science
2. Communication & Clinical

Each of the 16 examined stations is 'manned' by at least one examiner. The examiners will be examining different aspects of a candidate's performance.

## **2.2 Domains**

In addition to the two broad content areas examined in the OSCE, four domains have been identified and are assessed in the OSCE which encompass the knowledge, skills, communication and professional characteristics of the competent surgeon. They are detailed as follows:

*Clinical knowledge and its application:* the clinical knowledge specified in the syllabus; the ability to understand, synthesize and apply knowledge in a clinical context.

*Clinical and technical skill:* the capacity to apply sound clinical knowledge, skill and awareness to a full investigation of problems to reach a provisional diagnosis, the ability to perform manual tasks related to surgery which demands manual dexterity, eye/hand coordination and visual/spatial awareness.

*Communication:* the ability to assimilate information, identify what is important and convey it to others clearly using a variety of methods; the capacity to adjust behavior and language (written/spoken) as appropriate to the needs of differing situations; the ability actively and clearly to engage patient/carer/colleague(s) in open dialogue.

*Professionalism:* the demonstration of effective judgment and decision making skills; the consideration of all appropriate facts before reaching a decision; the capacity to make the best use of information and think beyond the obvious; being alert to symptoms and signs suggesting conditions that might progress or destabilize; being aware of own strengths/limitations and knowing when to ask for help; the ability to accommodate new or changing information and use it to manage a clinical problem, to anticipate and plan in advance, to prioritize conflicting demands and build contingencies, to demonstrate effective time management; being aware of the need to put patient safety first.

The four domains are assessed via the 16 stations of the OSCE.

Candidates' performance on domains does not constitute pass/fail criteria. Domains will be used primarily for structuring the scenarios and mark sheets.

## **2.3 Duration**

Each station will be of 8 minutes' duration. There may, in addition, be two or more rest or preparation stations. The total duration of the OSCE will be approximately 3 hours; this may vary slightly depending on the time allowed between stations, on the rest break(s) provided during the examination.

## **2.4 Marking and standard setting**

Each station is marked out of a total of 20 marks.

It is important to note that to score the highest marks it will be necessary for a

candidate to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, communication and professional characteristics described by the domains across the stations of the OSCE.

In addition to being given a maximum mark of 20 for each examined station, candidates will be awarded a separate, overall global rating for the station as follows:

Fail

Borderline

Pass

Examiners' judgment for each of the 16 stations are collected and each station carries a maximum mark of 20. The pass mark of individual station would be determined by the examination committee taking into account of examiners' judgment and comment from quality assurance examiners. In order to have an overall pass in the Part 3 Examination, candidates have to achieve the pass mark for the OSCE with all the following:

1. Pass at least two out of three communication stations;
2. Pass at least four out of five clinical stations; and
3. Pass at least six out of eight stations of each board content area.

### **3. Conduct of the Examination**

#### **3.1 Proof of identity**

Candidates must bring proof of identity to the Examination. Proof of identity must be an official document, such as Hong Kong Identity Card or a current passport that includes the candidate's name, signature and photograph.

For the purposes of visual identification, any candidate sitting the Examination may be required to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. The Colleges will observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates.

#### **3.2 Briefing**

All candidates will receive a detailed briefing by a member of the Examination administrative staff, prior to the commencement of the Part 3 (OSCE) Examination. It is very important that candidates listen carefully to the information that they are given at the briefing and also follow any instructions that they are given by the administrative staff during the circuit. The briefing will cover the checking and issuing of candidate numbers; layout of the stations; preparatory stations; the candidate's starting position; timing arrangements. Candidates must make sure that they understand how the examination circuit is to be run at this stage.

#### **3.3 Equipment**

All equipment required for the tasks set in each station will be supplied. Candidates may use their own stethoscopes, measuring tapes, etc.

#### **3.4 Mobile phones**

Mobile phones or any similar electronic or communication devices must not be

carried on the candidates during the circuit. They can be left (switched off) with other property. Any candidate who is found to be in possession of a mobile phone or similar electronic device after the start of the Examination will be subject to disciplinary actions.

### **3.5 Candidate instructions**

Each of the stations will have detailed instructions about the task to be performed. One minute is allocated for reading the instructions which will also be available within the bay for reference if required.

In each station the examiner will check the candidate's number; candidates are to ensure that their badges are visible at all times.

In stations which involve examination of patients, the examiner will usually watch candidates conducting the required examination. Candidates will not be prompted. If the examiner judges that a candidate is not performing the task requested the candidate will be prompted to re-read the instructions for the station.

If a candidate has had contact with patients/cadaveric material or been performing a practical task he/she must use the hand gel provided.

A candidate completing the task within the 8 minutes available for each station must remain within the station until the signal to move on. A candidate not managing to complete the task must move on promptly even if the candidate is in the middle of a question.

### **3.6 Results**

Standard-setting to determine the examination pass mark will be conducted centrally. This process will take some time; and hence the examination results may not be released for several weeks after the examination.

### **3.7 Feedback**

Candidates who failed the Examination will receive a breakdown of their marks for their overall result. No further feedback will be available.

### **3.8 Discipline**

If a candidate is suspected of any malpractice the Chief Examiner may make reasonable enquiries at the time and will notify the candidate of what the concerns are and how the matter will be resolved.