**Candidates Manual Virtual Primary FRCA SOE/OSCE Exam**

***What do I need to think about before sitting the Exam?***

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**General Format of the Examination**

OSCE one day; one long 2.5 hours session

VIVA on a different day; 2 separate 30 minute sessions so goes very quickly

**The Exam Day Itself**

The exam is run on an online platform called Practique.

You are given a link for a Zoom call briefing first where your given a pin code to get into the exam on Practique.

At the start of each station, you will be asked for your ID and in your first station they will ask you to show you around the room like you had to do when you took you MCQ exam.

**OSCE Set Up**

Log onto Practique you are put into a room with an examiner, plus sometimes an extra observer and a simulated patient. Then when you finish a station, you move yourself to the next one.

Each circuit will last 2 hours 20 minutes and will comprise 14 x 10-minute stations and a 5-minute comfort break in the middle.

The timing of a 10-minute station will be as follows;

* 1-2 minutes for the examiner to connect and check your candidate number and for the candidate to read station instructions
* 5 minutes for the assessment
* 2-3 minutes additional time in case of connection issues and for preparation to move to next station (slightly awkward part you will be asked where you are repeatedly)

**Stations (slightly different to when it was face to face)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | History 1 |
| 2 | Interactive Resuscitation |
| 3 | Anatomy |
| 4 | Communication |
| 5 | Anaesthetic Hazards |
| 6 | Measuring & Monitoring |
| 7 | History 2 |
| 8 | Simulation |
| 9 | Clinical Data 1 |
| 10 | Communication 2 |
| 11 | Clinical Data 2 |
| 12 | Anaesthetic Equipment |
| 13 | Technical Skills |
| 14 | Clinical Data 3 |

**Marking**

* 14 stations marked out of 20 is 280 marks total
* You usually need about 13/14 on average to pass although each station has a different pass mark depending on its assumed difficulty

**SOE Set Up**

Log onto Practique you are put into a room with two examiners same as an OSCE but you stay there for the 30 minutes. The examiner is in charge of timing don’t worry about this they will move you on. There are 2 30 minute sessions.

The SOE can include unlabeled graphs which you will need to talk through

There are 4 sections in total (2 in each 30 minutes) in this order:

* Pharmacology
* Physiology
* Clinical
* Physics

Marking

* There are three 5 minute questions per section
* Each question is marked as either
  + 0 Fail
  + 1 Borderline
  + 2 Pass
* The two examiners mark separately with a total of 24 marks per examiner
* So you can achieve a total of 48 marks and you need to get 37 to pass

**Revision options**

There is nothing better than practicing online with other trainees. There are multiple online forums to utilize such as Zoom, Teams, Google Hangouts. Discord is forum that has also been utilized for trainees and works well. You may have partners, medic or otherwise, who are happy to ask you questions but unless they are an anaesthetist too they will have often never come across a lot of what we were revising. There is huge benefit from revising with other anaesthetists and listening to someone else answering the questions even if it is embarrassing at the start.

Remember that the deanery has a virtual viva club that you can sign up to and most departments will have consultants and post primary trainees who are keen to provide practice. Everyone is busy and time is precious. It is on you to provides dates and times you are available to practice with consultants and get fixed dates in diaries especially as the exam gets closer. Beware of exam practice during theatre lists as this can often be distracting and unproductive.

Even more information and guide to checking your set up at

<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/documents/taking-osce-soe-online-guidance/summary-changes-delivery-frca-osce-soe>