



**The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists**  
**Final Fellowship Examination in Pain Medicine**  
**Written Examination**  
**Paper Two (Optional Questions)**  
**28 May 2016 (Saturday)**  
**11:00 – 12:30 hrs**

**Instructions:**

- I. This Question Paper carries a total of nine short answer questions.
- II. Please answer **SIX** questions and they carry equal marks.
- III. Please write your answer for each question in the appropriate "Pre-labelled" Answer Book
- IV. Record your candidate number and question number on each answer book.

**Optional Questions (choose 6 out of 9 questions)**

1. Discuss the assessment of chronic pain inpatients with dementia.
2. A 55-year-old man presents to your pain clinic with persistent low back pain despite 2 previous lumbar spine surgeries: L4/5 fenestration and discectomy 2 years ago and of translaminal intervertebral body fusion (TLIF) of L4/5 for recurrent prolapsed disc 1 year ago. The orthopaedic surgeon is proposing another operation of anterior spinal fusion of L4/5 due to grade 1 spondylolisthesis of L4/5. The patient was able to return to work after the first operation but has now been on sick leave for 12 months since the second operation. He has left foot drop and numbness below the left knee. The patient comes to you for a second opinion as to whether he should proceed with this third operation. How would you assess and advise him?
3. Discuss the socio-demographic factors associated with chronic pain.
4. What are the clinical features that help you to differentiate between cluster headache, migraine and trigeminal neuralgia?
5. Fibromyalgia is considered as the prototype of Central or Centralised pain state. Describe the basic neural mechanism of fibromyalgia. List the neurotransmitters and how the levels of these neurotransmitters in the cerebrospinal fluid altered in the central mechanism in your answer.  
In addition to central mechanism, describe peripheral mechanisms that may also play a role to contribute to this centralized pain state.
6. What risk factors are identified in Chronic Pelvic Pain (CPP) in women? List diagnoses, the common ones first, associated with CPP in women. (List at least 5 diagnoses)
7. You prepare to refer a patient to a specialized center for spinal cord stimulation. How do you assess a patient's suitability for spinal cord stimulation?
8. A 78-year-old man was diagnosed to have post herpetic neuralgia along the left T6 dermatome for 4 months. The pain was poorly controlled by gabapentin 300mg twice daily initiated by a medical colleague. The patient worries about the pain despite the skin lesion being completely healed. How would you explain the condition to patient? What are the plans for subsequent management of the condition?
9. An elderly patient was recently diagnosed with pathological fracture of the hip. Please discuss the management of his pain.