



Final Fellowship Examination

Q: Am I eligible for the examination?

A: Candidates who apply for admission to the Final Examination must have registered with the College as a vocational trainee, paid the registration and training fees, and passed the Intermediate Examination of the College, or been granted exemption from the Intermediate Examination

Q: What is the format of the examination?

A: There are three sections in the Final Fellowship Examination. All carry equal marks:

1. Written Exam: Part I (Scenario and Short Answer Questions) Part II (Critical Appraisal and Clinical Investigations) and Part III (Multiple Choice Questions)
2. Oral Examination
3. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The three sections cover all aspects of anaesthesia, including but not limited to applied physiology and pharmacology, clinical fundamentals, anaesthesia specialty modules, pain medicine, intensive care medicine, management issues, medico-legal and research-related matters. The syllabus can be found in Appendix 4 of the [2018 HKCA Anaesthesia Training Curriculum](#).

Q: How many questions are there in the written section?

A: There are three papers all worth equal marks. All questions are mandatory.

Paper 1 consists of 12 short answer questions to be answered in 2 hours. The questions include both scenario-based and standalone questions. It is important that answers provided are relevant to the context. Irrelevant answers will not score marks. Candidates are strongly recommended to allocate equal time (i.e. 10 minutes) for each question.

Paper 2 consists of three parts:

- (1) Critical Appraisal of Literature. Candidates are given an article to read for 30-60 minutes, then answer a set of questions in 10 minutes based on the article.
- (2) Investigation. Questions to be answered in 10 minutes.
- (3) Radiology. Questions to be answered in 10 minutes.

Paper 3 consists of multiple-choice questions to be answered in 3 hours. There are 60 true-false questions and 30 single best answer questions.



Q: How many tables are there in the oral examination?

A: There are three tables for the oral section, with two examiners, paired from different hospitals or with external examiner, in each table. Each examiner takes turn to ask questions for 15 minutes, 30 minutes per table, and total examination time 90 minutes. All questions are mandatory.

Q: What is in the OSCE?

A: The OSCE consists of a series of 10 stations and multiple rest stations. Each station, except for “long clinical case” station, is 10 minutes in duration and there is a 2-minute changeover time in-between stations. The exact combination of OSCE stations can vary and is announced during the briefing round immediately before the start of the OSCE examination. Materials examined in OSCE include but not limited to applied anatomy and regional anaesthesia, equipment, crisis management, resuscitation, radiological and laboratory investigations interpretation, physical examination, communication and procedure skills. The “long clinical case” station stretches over 20 minutes and carries double weighting. In this station, candidates are required to demonstrate ability to take a relevant history from a patient (real or simulated), perform a focused physical examination, interpret investigations and provide a relevant plan for perioperative management. All questions are mandatory.

Q: Do I get a refund if I am not invited to the oral and OSCE section?

A: Examination fee will not be refunded to candidate who is not invited to the oral examination.

Q: How is the exam marked?

A: Marking schemes (written and oral) are constructed before the exam and a “closed marking system” is used throughout the exam. In this system, marks from 2-8 are given to each answer, with the score of 5 being the “pass” mark. In the written exam, avoid having questions un-attempted because it will be very difficult to compensate even if high marks are scored in a few other questions.

To ensure fairness and accurate marking of questions, all questions in the exam are independently marked by two examiners. For each question, the marks given by the paired examiners should agree with the mark discrepancy not more than one.

As part of quality control and benchmarking of our examination, there will be at least one external examiner from Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA), Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) or National University of



Singapore (NUS).

Q: Am I eligible to sit the Oral and OSCE sections after the written section?

A: It depends on the marks from all three papers in the written section are aggregated. Candidates who achieve an aggregate mark of passing the written exam will be invited to sit the Oral and OSCE sections.

Q: When will I be notified of my eligibility to sit the Oral and OSCE sections?

A: Candidates will be notified of their eligibility at least two weeks before the Oral and OSCE Sections of the Final Fellowship Examination.

Q: What is the passing mark of the Final Examination?

A: To pass the whole Final Fellowship Examination, all three sections (written, oral and OSCE) must be passed individually.

Q: How is the result of exam notified to candidates?

A: Results are announced after OSCE exam. All candidates would receive a result notification and letter individually mailed to their correspondences by College notifying their results of pass or failure. A breakdown on performance in different questions will be listed for candidates who failed the exam as to provide feedback.

Q: Am I allowed to carry forward a pass in the written section?

A: A candidate who failed the Oral or OSCE section is allowed to carry forward a pass in written section and exempted from repeating written section in his or her subsequent attempts up to four consecutive exams, after which the candidate must re-sit the written section. The examination fee will be the same for each attempt of the Final Fellowship Examination regardless of the number of sections taken.

Q: Can I appeal for the examination?

A: A candidate wishing to appeal against the conduct of an examination, or to appeal against any result, must address such appeal to the HKCA Hon. Secretary in writing within four weeks of the end of that particular examination.

An Appeal may be instituted only on the grounds that the process of an examination has not been conducted in accordance with the relevant instructions, regulations or requirements, but not on matters of academic, clinical, or



professional assessment by the examiners or the panel of examiners.

Q: Can I request for an arithmetic check of marks?

A: Yes. A candidate can write to the Chair of Board of Examinations to request an arithmetic check of marks. The request must be submitted in writing within four weeks of the end of that particular examination.

Q: Can I have any support from Board of Exam if I have encountered multiple failures?

A: Request could be raised anytime by candidate or SOT to the Board of exam. Senior examiner or retired examiner will provide interview and debriefing to the candidate, aiming at how to improve the exam preparation for the future examination.

Q: Can I have further enquiry on the examination?

A: Further information, including past exam papers, exam reports, can be found in the [College website](#) under Intermediate Examination or Final Examination. Further assistance could be sought from Board of Examination by [email](#).