



Intermediate Fellowship Examination

Q: Am I eligible for the examination?

A: Candidates who apply for admission to the Intermediate Examination must have registered with the College, or registered with a non-local postgraduate medical training institute in anaesthesiology, intensive care medicine, or pain medicine as approved by Council, as a vocational trainee or equivalent, and paid the registration and training fees.

Q: What is the format of the examination?

A: There are two subjects to be examined in the Intermediate Fellowship Exam:

1. Physiology including clinical measurements
2. Pharmacology including statistics

The syllabus can be found in Appendix 4 of the [2018 HKCA Anaesthesia Training Curriculum](#).

For each subject, there is a written paper and an oral examination. The written and oral sections carry equal marks.

Candidates must pass both subjects in order to pass the Intermediate Exam.

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

A: The written paper in each subject consists of 12 short answer questions. They have to be answered in English. Duration of the paper is 2 hours. Candidates are recommended to allocate equal time (i.e. 10 minutes) for each question. Answers that are written in a “note” format, with symbols or abbreviations, are acceptable. However, candidates must make sure that these can be understood by the examiner. Clear and legible handwritings are expected.

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

A: There are 2 tables of oral examination for each subject. In each table (20 min), there are 2 examiners. Each examiner will ask questions for 10 min. Generally, this will cover 2 topics. Candidates will be rotated through all tables.

Q: Am I eligible for the oral examination after sitting the written section?

A: A candidate must achieve acceptable standards in the written paper before being eligible for the oral section of the Intermediate Fellowship Examination. Candidates will be notified of their eligibility at least two weeks before the oral section of the Intermediate Examination.



Q: Do I get a refund if I am not invited to the oral 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, candidates are advised to 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 allowed to carry forward a pass in a subject?

A: A candidate will be allowed to carry forward a pass in one subject (Physiology or Pharmacology) if the candidate achieves a pass in the subject, and has scored at least 40% of total in the other subject. In subsequent attempt, the candidate must achieve a pass in the remaining subject in order to satisfy the entire Intermediate Fellowship Examination requirement.

Q: How many times can I carry forward the pass status?

A: The pass in one subject can be carried forward for a maximum of four subsequent consecutive Exams, after which, the candidate must rewrite both subjects.

Q: If I only take one subject in the Intermediate Examination, will the examination fee be reduced?

A: The examination fee will be the same for each attempt of the Intermediate Fellowship Examination regardless of the number of subjects 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](#).