



Introduction of the Hybrid Examination by Oct 2026
A Collaborative Initiative Between ICM and CCM Boards

13 Jun 2025

Dear Trainees,

Following extensive discussions between the **Board of Intensive Care Medicine (BOIC)** and the **Critical Care Medicine Board (CCM)**, we are pleased to announce a landmark step toward a unified **Final Examination**. As an interim measure, we will introduce the **Hybrid Examination** starting in **October 2026**, consisting of the shared components while retaining College-specific assessments.

Key Features of the Hybrid Examination

1. Shared Components (Conducted Jointly by ICM CCM & CCM ICM Boards, attended by both CCM and ICM trainees, and held twice annually)

- **OSCE:**
 - **Majority of the stations will be** conducted with CCM's interim exam
 - **Remaining stations** will be examined alongside with CCM trainees sitting for their exit exam.
- **Clinical VIVA:** will be conducted with the CCM exit exam

2. College-Specific Components

- **ICM Board:** Retains the **written exam** (annually) and **Hot Case** examination (twice a year)
- **CCM Board:** CCM trainee has to attend the Clinical viva and dissertation viva specific for CCM interim and exit exam.

Examination Schedule & Attempts

- **Written Exam (ICM):** Held **once yearly**. From 2026 onwards, the written examination will consist of 2 papers of short answer questions (SAQ). Each paper will contain 15 SAQs and will last 150min. There will be no long question paper.
- **Clinical Exams (Hot Case, VIVA, OSCE):** Conducted **twice yearly** in collaboration with CCM.
 - Those candidates who obtain satisfactory marks at the written paper are qualified to proceed to the clinical exam. If they fail their first attempt at the clinical exam, they can still sit for the **second clinical exam**.
 - If they fail the second attempt at the clinical exam, they will need to sit for the written paper again.



香港麻醉科學院
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Benefits for Trainees

- **Increased flexibility:** Twice a year clinical exam can facilitate trainee to complete the **Examination requirement within the two years** of Higher ICM training.
- **Moving towards a valid & reliable assessment:** To ensure the consistency and rigor of assessment after introduction of the Competency-Based training curriculum in Jun 2021.

This initiative marks a significant partnership between the ICM and CCM Boards, reinforcing our commitment to excellence in critical care training. Further details will be shared in due course.

Best regards,

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Chairlady of ICM Examination Committee, HKCA