



**The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists
Final Fellowship Examination in Pain Medicine**

Written Examination

Paper Two (Optional Questions)

22 June 2026 (Monday)

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 one answer book.
- IV. Record your candidate number and question number on each answer book.
- V. Use ink or ball-point pen.

Optional Questions (choose 6 out of 9 questions)

1. Compare and contrast Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) in paediatric and adult populations, in terms of the epidemiology, clinical presentation, assessment and management of CRPS.
2. An 80-year-old man with a history of peripheral vascular disease presents with a 2-day history of rest pain in his left foot and a new pretibial ulcer. Formulate a management plan, justifying your prioritization of investigations and interventions.
3. A 60-year-old woman underwent a laparotomy for intestinal obstruction 10 days ago. She has a history of endometrial carcinoma and underwent a total hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy 2 years ago; she remains in clinical remission. She has started to tolerate a small amount of a fluid diet but requests intravenous pethidine regularly for pain relief. The treating clinicians are concerned about drug addiction. You are asked to assist in her pain management.
 - a) In your assessment of the patient, what are the factors that would suggest risk of misuse of opioid. (50%)
 - b) How would you explain to the clinician the meanings and significance to pain patients of the following: addiction, tolerance and physical dependence? (50%)
4. A 45-year-old woman is referred to your clinic by a private gynaecologist for chronic pelvic pain. She had 3 laparoscopic surgeries performed by the gynaecologist which did not improve her pain.
 - a) List at least 5 differential diagnoses for chronic pelvic pain in this woman. (20%)
 - b) How would you assess this woman's pelvic pain? (30%)
 - c) Outline your management plan for this woman's pelvic pain. (50%)
5. A 14-year-old female patient with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis is scheduled for a posterior spinal fusion with instrumentation from T2 to the sacrum. She weighs 50 kg, has no significant past medical history, and takes no regular medications.
 - a) Describe the key components of a multimodal analgesia regimen for this patient. (40%)
 - b) Compare the advantages and disadvantages of neuraxial opioids versus systemic opioids for postoperative pain management in this patient. (40%)
 - c) Identify two adverse effects or complications associated with postoperative pain management unique to paediatric scoliosis surgery, and state how you would prevent them. (20%)

6. Discuss on the significance of radiological abnormalities in patients with chronic low back pain. Include prevalence, therapeutic and prognostic implications in your discussion.
7. An 82-year-old woman presents to the emergency department after a fall at home. She has sustained a displaced distal radius fracture requiring surgical fixation. Her past medical history includes hypertension (controlled on amlodipine), chronic kidney disease stage 3 (eGFR 45 mL/min/1.73m²), and mild cognitive impairment. She takes aspirin 80 mg daily for cardiovascular protection. She rates her pain as 7/10 on the numeric rating scale
 - a) Explain THREE pharmacological changes in elderly patients that affect pain management and analgesic pharmacology. (30%)
 - b) Outline an appropriate multimodal analgesic plan for this patient, including specific medications with dosing adjustments and rationale. Identify any medications that should be avoided and explain why (50%)
 - c) Describe TWO adverse effects that are more common in elderly patients receiving analgesics and how you would prevent them. (20%)
8. A 65 years old gentleman with diabetes mellitus is referred to your pain clinic for persistent numbness and pain over his feet.
 - a) What are the possible causes of his pain? (10%)
 - b) How would you assess his pain? (30%)
 - c) Outline the evidence-based management options for painful diabetic neuropathy. (60%)
9.
 - a) Explain the underlying mechanism of cryoablation in interventional pain management (30%)
 - b) Discuss the clinical application of cryoablation in pain management, including the risks and benefits and evidence from literature (70%)

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