

## Subspecialty Short Answer Question Written Examination

### 1. Format

#### 1.1 Number and length of questions

Subspecialty Written Examinations consist of 12 questions. All questions are of equal value and are expected to be answered in approximately fifteen minutes each.

Examination papers may consist of a mixture of short answer and short essay-type questions, with higher cognitive skills assessed as well as factual recall, where appropriate.

Questions may be subdivided into two or more parts.

#### 1.2 Answer format

Answers in 'dot-point' form are preferred, but continuous prose is also acceptable.

### 2. Marking of papers

#### 2.1 Marking system

There are fifteen marks available for each of the 12 questions, the examination thus being marked out of a total of 180 marks.

Where appropriate, marks for sections of questions are included to give an approximate indication to candidates of the amount of time which should be allocated to that section.

Examiners have the capacity to vary the overall mark for each of the twelve questions up or down by a maximum of two marks; these are known as 'discretionary' marks. Examples of actions for which discretionary marks may be deducted would include the use of irrelevant information, or the inclusion of actions that would be considered dangerous or life threatening. Conversely, it is possible for candidates to gain some discretionary marks where the answer is considered by an examiner to in some way demonstrate an understanding of the question in ways not encompassed by the model answer.

12 examiners each mark two questions. The average of these marks is taken for each question and sum of these then becomes the total for the paper. If, however, there is a discrepancy of 4 or more marks between examiners, for a particular question, then the question will be marked by a third examiner (the Chief Examiner). The third examiner's marks are then considered final.

### **3. Pass Mark**

#### **3.1 65% Pass mark**

Candidates must obtain of 65% of the 180 marks available for the examination paper to pass a Subspecialty Written Examination.

#### **3.2 There is no obligation on a candidate to pass a certain number of questions as a candidate's total mark is the average of all marks across the 12 questions.**