

General Administration

- Dress Code:** Smart dress (suit and tie) should be worn throughout. Appendix 8 of the Exam Regulations give further details.
- The same dress code will apply for FFICM examinations as it does for day to day clinical practice/contact with patients: this means that forms of dress should not constrain the candidates' ability to demonstrate recognised skills. Forms of dress that cover the face will normally be deemed inappropriate in such examinations.
- Attendance:** You should arrive at the Royal College of Anaesthetists (see map) at least 30 minutes before the first call time on your Admission Notice. Please note that the earliest time you will be admitted to the College is 07.30.
- On arrival you should report to the reception desk and present your Admission Notice and ID to the Faculty Officer. He/she will give you clear instructions on when and where to report for each examination component.
- Mobile Phones:** **The Faculty operates a strict no tolerance policy regarding mobile phones and electronic devices. All mobile phones must be switched off in front of the College Officer on arrival and left in bags or in College Lockers.** Under no circumstances should mobile phones or any type of electronic device be brought onto the exam floor. Results may be declared void where candidates are found in the possession of a mobile phone or electronic device during an examination.
- Facilities** There are lockers available for the storage of candidates' bags and belongings, a £1 coin, refundable, is required to operate them. There are no coffee/tea facilities available in the College but there are many cafes and coffee shops in the near vicinity. Candidates are free to leave the College outside exam reporting times but must sign out via the Faculty Officer before leaving. All candidates are asked to return at least 30 minutes before exam call times. The College lecture theatre and the basement area may be used by candidates. Candidates are free to leave the College on completion of their last exam.
- Badges:** The Faculty Officer will issue you with a badge bearing your candidate number. You must wear your badge at all times when you are in the College. You must sign in and out at reception when leaving/returning throughout the day. **Badges should be returned to the Faculty Officer on final departure.**
- Exam brief:** Every group of candidates will be given a short briefing outlining the procedures for each component prior to being examined.
- Results:** Results are expected to be placed on the Faculty website by 2pm on the Friday following each exam diet. The publication of results is explained further on your Admission Notice. The FFICM Examiner Board take great care in the verification of standard setting for the FFICM exam components and therefore reserve the right to delay the publication of results if further discussion time is required.
- Changes:** It is not envisaged that we will need to make any changes to the exam dates and times set out in your Admission Notice but if there is a 'National Emergency Situation' that is likely to affect a majority of Faculty examiners or candidates, then there may be a need to implement a contingency plan to deal with the situation.

The FFICM Final OSCE/SOE Examination

All FICM Final exam sections: MCQ, OSCE and SOE are pass or fail. All three sections must be passed to gain the Fellowship of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. There is currently no Primary FFICM examinations, part eligibility towards the FFICM Final examinations can be achieved by passing other relevant College Primary examinations; please see FFICM Examination Regulations 6.1.2 refer.

Attempts: At your first attempt the OSCE and SOE sections must be taken together. If you fail one section but pass the other, you will only need to retake the failed section. If both sections are failed then they must be retaken at the same sitting.

Validity: A pass in the OSCE or SOE will be valid for three years, measured to the starting date of the sitting applied for. After this period if the whole examination has not been passed all sections must be re-taken. A pass in the relevant Primary examination used as an exemption qualification is valid for ten years as part eligibility towards the Final FFICM.

Structured Oral Examination (SOE)

The FFICM SOE examination:

The object of the Structured Oral Examination is to test knowledge in clinical science as applied to the practice of Intensive Care Medicine. The focus will usually be on clinical problems. Example questions are available on the Faculty website.

There are four stations, two question in each station, each question is 7 minutes, therefore 14 minutes in each station. There will be a two minute reading/waiting time between stations. The questions will be selected to cover as wide an area of the curriculum as possible, example questions are available on the Faculty website. **All four stations must be attempted**; a fail mark will automatically be awarded if one or more stations are not attempted.

Candidates will move clockwise around the four station circuit. Candidates will be given their starting station at the pre-exam brief. There may be up to three circuits running simultaneously. Stations are indicated by letters: A, B, C and D. The circuit by numbers. Station A circuit 1 will be station A1, Station C circuit 3 will be C3 etc. A triple bell indicates the start and end of the exam. A double bell indicates that the candidate must enter or leave the station. A single bell advises the examiners to move to the next question.

The Marking system

Two examiners are present for each part of the SOE. Each examiner marks every question independently. There are eight questions; Pass = 2, Borderline performance = 1, Fail = 0, giving a maximum total of 32 marks (8 x 2 x 2).

The pass mark is determined using assessment methods approved by the GMC.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The objective of the OSCE is to test knowledge and skills essential to the safe practice of intensive care. Up to 13 stations in approximately 1 hour 45 minutes (the OSCE will include one station used to validate a new question, the test station, only the live stations will count towards the result). The stations will be

selected to cover as wide an area of the curriculum as possible. The exam draws questions from four different areas; Data, Equipment, Professionalism and Resuscitation. Example questions are available on the Faculty website. On occasion, in order to schedule additional candidates, a 'rest station' may be introduced. No questions are asked at rest stations, no marking is involved, they are merely used to sit out time.

Whether a candidate passes the OSCE will be determined by the **total score from all 12 live stations**. Every station offers the same total mark, and candidates should therefore attempt to answer as many questions as possible on all stations. **There is no killer station and no negative marking** in any station in the OSCE. **Every station must be attempted**; a fail mark will automatically be awarded if one or more stations are not attempted.

SUMMARY OF MOVEMENT

At the start, you should wait at your first Information Point for approx. 1 minute.
During this minute, the Floor Supervisor will check you are at the correct station.

Double bell

Into your first OSCE station (for 7 minutes)

Bell

To your next Information Point (for 1 minute)

Bell

Into your next OSCE station (for 7 minutes)

and so on...

At the end, double bell

You will start at the Information Point of your first OSCE station. Your starting station will be given to you at your pre-exam briefing. You should read the candidate information note outside the station, which gives you information about what is involved.

After the 1 minute to read the station instructions, a bell will sound to signal the start of your first OSCE station; you should **immediately** enter the station and begin to carry out the tasks indicated on the information note. The examiner may talk to you at some stations; however, you should not wait for him/her to do so before beginning the task which has been indicated on the briefing note.

All stations are allocated 7 minutes. When the 7 minutes are up, a bell will sound indicating that you should leave the station and immediately move clockwise to the Information Point at your next station. You will then have 1 minute to read the information note for the next station. This is ample time as the briefing notes are short. On the sound of the next bell, you will then enter the station. This process is then repeated for the whole OSCE round.

There will be at least one examiner at all stations. Some stations may also be manned by an Actor or a specialist such as an RTO or Nurse.

There may be occasions when your examination in a particular station is completed within the time allowed. When this occurs the examiner may indicate this and change from an examination to a social conversation. Please do not consider this to be anything but normal practice and it is not an indicator of your performance.