



The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA)

EVALUATION OF THE REMOTE ZOOM-BASED STRUCTURED ORAL EXAMINATIONS NECESSITATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Fellowship or Sub-Specialist Certificate Candidate,

To conduct your Fellowship / Certificate examination in the face of COVID-19, The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) has introduced two innovations.

1. The first is to replace the traditional clinical exam with a combination of an abridged Workplace-Based Assessment (Assessment of Competence), a Structured Oral Examination (SOE) and an online short-answer written assessment, where appropriate.
2. The second is to conduct the oral examination by Zoom instead of face-to-face.

The purpose of this survey is to learn about how these two methods fared.

Ethics approval has been obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Cape Town.

- By taking this anonymous survey, you agree that your participation is voluntary.
- Your decision to agree or not to participate will have no bearing on your examination results as your name, examination number and contact details are not requested.
- You accept that that any personally identifying data, data collection and analysis of the data will be anonymized such that it will not reveal your identity or be identifiable to you.

If you agree to participate in this survey, please click “Yes” to proceed to the questionnaire. It should take you no longer than 15 minutes to complete the survey.

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PLEASE TICK ON YOUR ANSWER USING THE SPACE PROVIDED

1. Tick on the exam you sit for

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. FCA (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. FC Paed Surg (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. Dip Allerg (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. FCD (SA) Orthod Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. FC Path (SA) Anat Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 36. DA(SA) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. FCD (SA) OMP Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. FC Path (SA) Chem Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. Dip For Med (SA) Clin/Path <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. FC Cardio (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. FC Path (SA) Haem Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 38. Dip For Med (SA) Path <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. FC Derm (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. FC Path (SA) Haem Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 39. Dip Obst (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. FCEM (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. FC Path (SA) Micro <input type="checkbox"/> | 40. Dip Ophth (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. FCFP (SA) Final Part A <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. FC Path (SA) Viro <input type="checkbox"/> | 41. Cert Cardiology (SA) Phys <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. FC For Path (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. FCP(SA) Part <input type="checkbox"/> | 42. Cert Cardiology (SA) Paed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. FCMG (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. FC Plast Surg (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 43. Cert Clin Haematology (SA) Path/Phys <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. FCMFOS (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. FC Psych (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 44. Cert Critical Care (SA) Paed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. FC Neurol (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. FCPHM(SA) <input type="checkbox"/> | 45. Cert Critical Care (SA) Anaes, Emerg Med, O&G, Phys, <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. FC Neurosurg (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. FC Rad Diag (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 46. Cert Dev Paed (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. FCNP(SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 30. FC Rad Onc(SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 47. Cert Gastroenterology (SA) Paed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. FCOG(SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | 31. FCS(SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 48. Cert Gastroenterology (SA) Phys <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. FC Ophth (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 32. FC Urol (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 49. Cert Gastroenterology (SA) Surg <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. FC Orth (SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 33. FCMFOS (SA) Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> | 50. Cert Gynaecological Oncology (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. FCORL(SA) Final <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. FC Ophth (SA) Intermediate 1B <input type="checkbox"/> | 51. Cert ID(SA) Paed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. FC Paed (SA) Part II <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 52. Cert ID(SA) Phys <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 53. Cert Maternal and Fetal Medicine (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 54. Cert Medical Oncology (SA) Paed <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 55. Cert Neonatology (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 56. Cert Paediatric Neurology (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 57. Cert Pulmonology (SA) Paed <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 58. Cert Pulmonology (SA) Phys <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 59. Cert Reproductive Medicine (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 60. Cert Rheumatology (SA) Phys <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 61. Cert Trauma Surgery (SA) <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 62. Cert Vascular Surgery (SA) | | |

2. LOCATION/VENUE OF YOUR EXAMINATION

1. Bloemfontein
2. Cape Town
3. Durban
4. East London
5. Johannesburg
6. Polokwane
7. Port Elizabeth
8. Umtata

A. STRUCTURED ORAL EXAMINATIONS

3. The exam adequately tested my clinical reasoning, judgement, insight, and decision-making.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

4. The case scenarios (examination questions) were appropriate to assess an entry-level specialist /– subspecialist.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

5. The total length of the examination was:

- 1 Much too long
- 2 Too long
- 3 Appropriate
- 4 Too short
- 5 Much too short

6. The average time for each station/case was

- 1 Much too long
- 2 Too long
- 3 Appropriate
- 4 Too short
- 5 Much too short

7. The examination material was clearly presented.

- 1 Completely agree

- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

8. The use of a larger number of case scenarios rather than the historically smaller number of cases gave me a better chance to show my capability.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree
- 6 The number of cases unchanged from previous examinations

9. Having real patients would have improved the quality of the examination.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

10. Did you experience any technical problems with the way the examination material was presented?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

11. If YES: please provide details

12. In my opinion, this was a fair examination.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

B. EXAMINATION BY ZOOM MEETING

13. I found it acceptable to have examiners conduct the examination using Zoom.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

14. It would have been preferable to have a local examiner present with me to ask the questions.

- 1 Completely agree

- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

15. I could see the examiners clearly on the computer screen.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

16. Examiners and moderators were visible to you on the screen. Would you have preferred to only have the examiners voice only and no visual of the examiners?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

17. I could hear the examiners clearly on the Zoom call.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

18. Images and videos used were of adequate definition/quality for the process to be considered a fair examination.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree
- 6 None used

19. The personal "cost saving" to me of having the exam locally using Zoom was worth it.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

20. The "time saved" by being able to participate in the exam locally using Zoom was worth it.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

21. Conducting oral examinations using Zoom is a fair examination technique.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

22. The CMSA should continue to run the exams using Zoom as opposed to a face to face process.

- 1 Completely agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Completely disagree

23. Did you experience any technical problems during the Zoom examination?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

24. If YES: please provide details and explain how it was resolved/managed.

25. How could the CMSA improve examinations conducted using Zoom?

26. What were the positive experiences for you as a candidate in this examination?

27. What were the most negative experiences for you as a candidate in this examination?

28. Would you like to provide any other feedback that may assist the CMSA with regards to conducting Structured Oral Examinations using Zoom?

We thank you for your participation