

The SCE in Geriatric Medicine: Friend or Foe

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Key Points

- To try and de-mystify the SCE
- Appreciate the process of question-writing
- Understand how best to approach revision for the exam

Current feelings about the SCE



What is the SCE?

- An assessment attempting to test knowledge of the Geriatric Medicine curriculum (JRCPTB)
- Conducted across (nearly) all medical specialities
- Essential in progressing through HST

monitored at ARCP

1st attempt by ST5, completed at CCT

It is not

- A device to get as much money out of you as possible
- An attempt to prevent trainees' progression

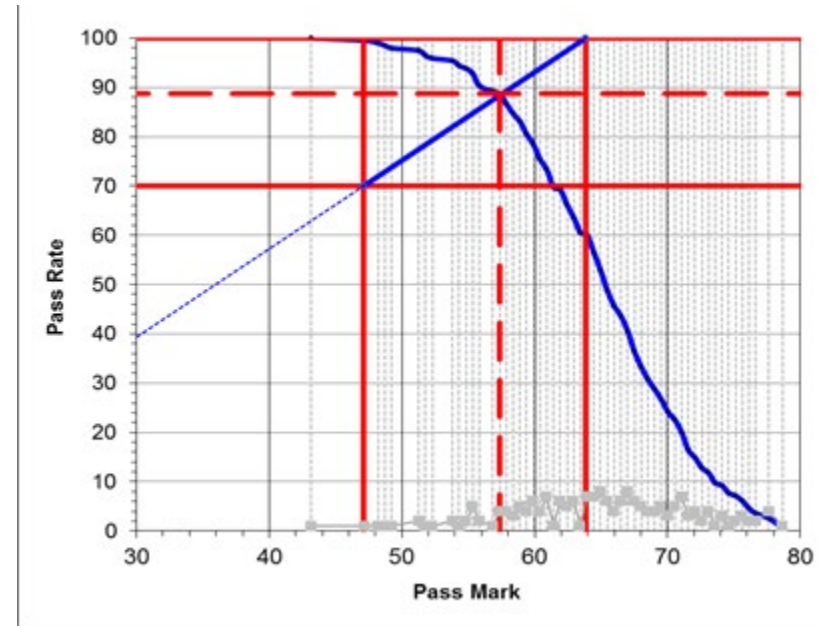
“Never tell me the odds”



What's the pass mark?

Hofstee compromise method

- SSG meets in Autumn
- Questions are scored
- Modified Anghoff technique
- Criterion-referenced pass mark



Very interesting...but what's the pass mark?

In 2018: 56.4%

57% 2017, 58% 2016, 59% 2015, 60% 2014, 57% 2013

What is tested?

- **Anything** which is covered by the curriculum for Geriatric Medicine published by the JRCPTB revised by the SAC for Geriatric medicine
- This includes basic science related to Geriatric Medicine, and gerontology
- Lots of crossover with General Medicine/MRCP part 2 written type questions
 - “Geriatric flavour”
- Recently, **greater emphasis on Geriatrics** than GIM
 - eg dementia, delirium, falls, bones, community, perioperative care, continence, stroke etc

How is the exam structured?

- Two papers
 - Each 3 hours
 - 100 questions per paper
 - 108 seconds per question
 - Multiple choice 'best of five' format (more later)
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- Pearson Vue test centres across the UK



Exam blueprint

• Acute illness	29
• Basic science and gerontology	6
• Chronic disease and disability	33
• Dementia and delirium	20
• Continence	10
• Falls/poor mobility	16
• Geriatric assessment	8
• Surgical liaison	3
• Intermediate and long-term care	9
• Nutrition	4
• Rehabilitation and transfers of care	14
• Subspecialty topics	48

What is the question style?

- 'Best of five' (BOF) format
- Similar to MRCP Part 2 style
- Single *best* answer
- All options *should* be plausible
- Question writing/setting by 'normal' Geriatricians
- Consensus agreement around questions
- Reliable standard-setting process

Example question of BOF

A team of Avengers is tasked with secretly rescuing a scientist from an enemy base. The scientist is being held captive on the 25th floor of the Empire State Building.

Which character would be best suited to this task?

- A baby Groot
- B Captain America
- C Hulk
- D Spiderman
- E Thor

Example question of what is not BOF

A team of Avengers is tasked with secretly rescuing a scientist from an enemy base. The scientist is being held captive in an underground cell which is only accessible thorough the air ventilation system.

Which character would be best suited to this task?

- A Antman
- B Batman
- C Ironman
- D Spiderman
- E Wonder Woman

Question style we really try to avoid:

The character of Thanos is collecting Infinity Stones in his attempt to rule the Universe.

How many infinity stones are there?

- A 2
- B 4
- C 6
- D 8
- E 10

“It’s a trap!”



How should I prepare for the exam?



How should I prepare for the exam?

- Familiarise yourself with the curriculum
- Look at the exam blueprint
- Sample questions

How should I prepare for the exam?

- Don't go with systematic textbook reading!
- Oxford Handbook of Geriatric medicine for targeted revision

- Practice questions

RCP sample questions & mock exam

www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/specialty-certificate-examinations/specialties/geriatric-medicine/geriatric

RCP Clinical Medicine CPD

BGS trainees page

<http://www.bgs.org.uk/assessment-66/geriatrics-trainees/trg-sce/sce-mock-exams>

MRCP Part 2 questions

BoF MCQs textbook

passgerimed.com

- NICE guidelines

eg hypertension, heart failure, bladder, stroke, delirium, dementia

- Screening tools eg cognition, nutrition, osteoporosis
- Experience > knowledge and judgement

Key tips from me

- There will always be things you won't know
- There are many easy questions. Don't overthink them. There are no traps.
- Don't fret too much about the basic science and Gerontology
- If short of time, concentrate on the Geriatric Giants and their NICE guidance.

Questions?