Candidate information

In line with the recommendations of the 2015 FRCA exams review, and as approved by the GMC, Constructed Response Questions (CRQs) will replace Short Answer Questions (SAQs). The September 2019 paper will be a hybrid exam comprising 6 CRQs and 6 SAQs. Papers from March 2020 onwards will consist entirely of CRQs.

This information sheet provides further details on the CRQ/SAQ format which will be used in the September 2019 Final Written examination.

1. The CRQ/SAQ exam will continue to examine knowledge of the basic and intermediate sections of the training curriculum. Therefore, the September 2019 paper will contain one question from each of the six mandatory units of training, and six from general duties, which may include a maximum of one question from the optional units of training. Advanced sciences and professionalism in medicine may be included in any of the questions. This coverage of the curriculum is spread randomly across the CRQs and SAQs that make up the exam.

2. The examination paper will continue to be answered across six individual, coloured question booklets, A – F. In each booklet, there will be one CRQ and one SAQ. The first question in each of the booklets will always be a CRQ and the second will be an SAQ. Booklet ‘A’ comprises, questions 1 and 2, with question 1 being a CRQ and question 2 being a SAQ. Booklet ‘B’ will contain questions 3 and 4 (CRQ and then SAQ), and so on.

3. Candidates will still be provided with a ‘rough paper’ booklet, which can be used to make notes, or write out provisional answers before transferring to the answer booklets. Answers written in rough paper booklets that are not transferred to the appropriate answer booklet in the time allowed will not be marked.

4. As in the SAQ exam, all candidates will be provided with an A4 paper listing all 12 questions, which should be used as an aide memoir, to indicate which questions you have answered or which questions you still have to complete in your booklets. For the CRQs, only the question topic will be provided, with a list of subsections and their marks. The SAQ question will continue to be printed as they appear in the question booklet. A4 question papers must not be removed from the exam room.

5. There is space within the booklets to write your answers but extra paper and treasury tags can be provided on request, from the invigilator. If you use extra paper, please make sure that you clearly mark which question or question subsection you are answering and ensure it is securely attached to the relevant booklet.
6. You will find detailed instructions on how to set out your answers on the front cover of each booklet, see appendix A.

7. CRQs and the SAQs have been graded as easy, moderate or hard, as was the case with the SAQ papers. Question grading is based on the analysis of the questions by the CRQ/SAQ core group.

8. CRQs and SAQs will continue to be marked out of 20. The number of marks available for the CRQ/SAQ examination is 240.

9. Unlike SAQs, CRQs have specific spaces in which candidates must place their answer for each subsection of the question.

10. Where a CRQ subsection asks for a specific number of responses e.g. "List 6 factors contributing to X", then you must limit yourself to this number. **Only the first six will be marked. Additional answers will not be considered.** If you change your mind once you have written your response, then you must clearly cross out the point you want to remove and add your new point underneath.

11. The CRQ/SAQ examination duration will remain the same with a maximum time of three hours (15 minutes per question).
Appendix A

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

FINAL FRCA CRQ-SAQ examination

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING THE PAPER. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY INVOLVE LOSS OF MARKS IN THE EXAMINATION.

Instructions
- Answer all questions.
- Use black or blue pen and ensure all your answers are legible. Do not use coloured pens, pencils or highlighters in your answer books.
- Fill in your College Reference number and Candidate number at the top of this page. Neither your name nor any other evidence of your identity should appear in this book.
- If you require further paper you may request it. Extra pages must be attached to the appropriate booklet using treasury tags. No pages may be removed from this answer book.
- Do not write any of your answers in the margins or on blank pages within the booklet.
- Any rough work you do not want marked must be done in the rough paper booklet provided. Please also hand this in at the end of the exam.
- Candidates must write their answer directly beneath the SAQ within the relevant booklet. Questions answered in the wrong book will not normally be marked.
- With regard to CRQs; you should aim to answer each question/subsection within the specific spaces provided. If you have to use extra paper please make sure that you make it clear which question/subsection you are answering. Where you are asked for a specific number of responses (e.g. “List 6 factors contributing to X”), you must limit yourself to this number. Only the first six will be marked. Any additional answers will not be considered but you may cross answers out to add others if you change your mind. This will also apply to any additional paper you may have used in answering the CRQ.
- Under no circumstances may you remove this booklet from the examination room.

Information
- The marks for each question subsection are shown in brackets.
- The use of calculators is not permitted.
- The maximum number of marks for each question is 20. The number of marks available for the SAQ/CRQ examination is 240.