

## To all Final FRCA Candidates attending oral examinations

### **Access:**

The Commissionaire attends reception from 0730. Please note that there is no access to the College for candidates before 7:30am. You should aim to arrive at the College around one hour before your first exam begins.

### **Dress:**

Smart dress (suit and tie) should be worn throughout.

The same dress code will apply for FRCA 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. (See Appendix 5 of Examination Regulations)

### **Security:**

Candidates need to be aware that security of personal property is their responsibility. We advise that candidates do not bring valuables to the College, but where this is unavoidable, to carry them on their person at all times. For larger items lockers are available in the cloakroom area in the basement. **You will require a £1 coin (refundable) to use the lockers.** These are not very big if you bring a suitcase or large bag you are advised to have locks on it.

### **Mobile Phones and Electronic devices**

Mobile phones and other electronic devices have no place at examinations and should be left at home wherever possible. Mobile phones and electronic devices brought to the College on exam days must be switched off in front of the Commissionaire, stored in secure locker/luggage for duration of time in College or handed to the Commissionaire who will place in an envelope and mark with candidate No. This will be returned in exchange for candidate badge on leaving. Under no circumstances should mobile phones be brought to the exam floor. See Appendix 6 of the Examination Regulations).

### **Complaints**

The College recognises that on occasion candidates may wish to express their dissatisfaction with the way in which something has been done and feel confident that any such complaint is handled in a fair and consistent way. All complaints should be raised with a College officer as soon as possible. Complaints will be logged on an incident report form. Immediate action to resolve issues as they arise will be taken wherever possible. (See Reviews and Appeals) Regulations paragraphs 20 – 30).

### **Photographic proof of identity:**

See note at foot of page.

### **Between exams:**

The Commissionaire will tell you when you should be in reception prior to your exam call. Try not to be late. In winter months it can be cold in reception although we will make every effort to keep it as warm as possible by adding screens and extra heaters.

The Toilets and changing rooms are on the lower ground there are some seating areas on this floor too. You can also use the lecture theatre to sit and read etc but this will need to be vacated by 1700 as the examiners use this for the call over results meeting. There are no coffee facilities available in the College but there are plenty of coffee shops just outside the College. It is advisable to go out and get some fresh air between exams.

### **FRCA Oral Examination – Format:**

Your first (Clinical Anaesthesia) oral consists of studying, on your own, a clinical scenario and accompanying artefacts for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes you will go to the examination table where you will be questioned on that case for 20 minutes. There will then be a further 20 minutes of questioning on clinical topics unrelated to the case that you had observed.

Your second (Clinical Science) oral consists of 30 minutes, divided into two periods of 15 minutes of questioning on basic science and applied basic science associated with anaesthesia.

At each examination table there are two examiners. Should either of the examiners be known to you, then you will be moved to another table.

On occasion there may be a third person sitting at the side of the table. These are College Tutors, Consultants and other invited people who attend to observe the examination. They will be wearing a clearly labelled visitor badge. This visit enables them to prepare other trainees for the examination and to satisfy themselves that the examination is conducted in a fair manner. These visitors have no influence in the way that you are examined nor do they affect any marks or discussion pertaining to your performance as a candidate. If they recognise you they are obliged to leave the table. **You have the right to ask them to leave at any time and for any reason.** For example you may recognise them, (although they may not recognise you) or you may feel exceptionally uncomfortable with their presence. **Exercising this right will not affect the assessment of your performance as an examination candidate.** It is also possible that the third person may be another examiner auditing the performance of those conducting the interview but the same rules that apply to the visitors also apply to the auditing examiner.

### **The SOE marking system:**

The SOE is pass or fail. All marks for both parts of the SOE are put together to give one score.

Two examiners mark each part of the SOE. Both examiners independently mark every question. There are 10 questions, (3 questions for the long clinical anaesthesia case, 3 questions for the clinical topics and 4 questions make up the Clinical science part).

2 marks are given for a pass, 1 mark for a borderline performance and 0 marks for a fail, giving a maximum total score of 40 marks. **The pass mark is 32** which was determined using a modified Rothman system.

### **THE Result procedure**

**At a time provided to you on the day, all candidates are asked to gather in reception, to await the announcement of results.** After the examiners' call over meeting the results will be confirmed and a list of **successful candidates** will be printed onto A4 paper, which will be made available to all candidates. You can either take a copy away to read in private or stand with other candidates. The 'Pass list' will also be displayed on notice boards in the café area. Successful candidates should check their candidate number with the exams supervisor who will be waiting at the entrance to the café. He will direct you to the far side of the café area where you will need to wait until all successful candidates have checked through. If you are successful you will undoubtedly be elated, however, there will be other fellow candidates stood close by who have been unsuccessful, therefore, please refrain from celebrating or phoning your relatives until you have checked in with the supervisor and reached the far side of the café. There will be ample time to contact relatives and congratulate others before the ceremony begins.

### **The Successful Candidate Ceremony**

Those candidates who are successful at this examination will be required to undertake certain formalities, of a ceremonial nature, towards the conferring of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists upon them. After the results procedure and only when all successful candidates have checked in with the exams supervisor, the exams manager will commence the Candidate Ceremony and call the Chairman and Board of Examiners to attend.

These formalities have to be carried out collectively therefore if you do not return to the reception area at the time stated or, if successful, check in with the exams supervisor, you will delay the procedure and keep others waiting. Failure to return may result in problems affecting the granting of the Fellowship for a successful candidate. Should unforeseen circumstances prevent prompt announcement of the results we apologise in advance. **The formalities for successful candidates take approximately 1 hour (sometimes longer) following the publication of the results.** The proceedings are of a dignified nature and successful candidates have, in the past, been embarrassed by changing into casual clothing at the conclusion of their examination. For the same reason we advise that candidates moderate their social refreshment between their last oral examination and returning for the result.

May we wish you every success in the examination.

**EXAMINATION CANDIDATE  
PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF OF IDENTITY AT:  
MCQ, WRITTEN, ORAL AND OSCE EXAMINATIONS**

All candidates for examinations of the Royal College of Anaesthetists are required to have with them, at the time of taking the SAQ/MCQ, Oral or OSCE components of their examinations, photographic identity. This should be in the form of a passport or photo driving licence. The candidate must be able to produce this when requested by a College Officer or security staff working on behalf of the Royal College of Anaesthetists. Hospital ID is not acceptable.

Where the name on the photographic identity being used is not identical to that given on a candidate's application form, due to marriage etc, then the original marriage certificate or solicitor's letter, as appropriate, must also be produced. The College should be informed in advance of attendance where this is the case. (020 7092 1521)

**FAILURE TO PRODUCE A FORM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTITY MAY RESULT IN THE CANDIDATE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH THE EXAMINATION.**

**Mr Russell Ampofo  
Director of Training and Examinations**