

Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Plastic Surgery

Regulations 2015

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Regulations Relating to the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Plastic Surgery (2015)

(to be read in conjunction with appropriate Guidance Notes for Applicants)

1. The applicant must hold a medical qualification recognised for registration by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom or the Medical Council of Ireland. The applicant must have been qualified for at least six years.
2. The applicant must provide evidence of having reached the standard of clinical competence defined in the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum either for the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) by the General Medical Council Postgraduate Board or for the award of Certificate of Specialist Doctor (CSD) by the Irish Surgical Postgraduate Training Committee (ISPTC). The required standard may have been achieved through training or qualifications, and experience considered together. The passing of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination alone does not imply that the CCT, CSD (Ireland) or placement on the Specialist Register will be automatic; the Examination will form only part of the evidence required.
3. This evidence must consist of three structured references in the format prescribed by the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE). These references must be completed by the appropriate senior colleagues with direct experience of the applicant's current clinical practice in the appropriate specialty as defined in the Guidance Notes for Referees.
4. Candidates will have up to a maximum of 7 years to complete the examination process as follows:

Section 1: Candidates will have a two year period from their 1st attempt with a maximum of 4 attempts with no re-entry.

 Candidates who have achieved the required standard in Section 1 and have been granted eligibility to proceed to Section 2 the following will apply:

Section 2: Candidates will have a maximum of 4 attempts with no re-entry.

All previous Regulations will be rescinded.

Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Plastic Surgery

Guide to the Scope and Format of the Examination

[Please note future changes to the Section 2 examination which are detailed below]

Section 1 is a written test* composed of two Single Best Answer papers. These papers are carefully prepared to cover the curriculum content which can be best assessed in this way. A process of standard setting is performed by trained and experienced examiners to set the eligibility to proceed mark. Section 1 examinations are delivered via computer based testing at Pearson VUE Test Centres in the UK and Ireland.

Candidates must meet the required standard in Section 1 in order to gain eligibility to proceed to Section 2.

Paper 1	120 Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours 15 mins)
Paper 2	120 Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours 15 mins)

* Case, S.M. & Swanson, D.B. (2001). Constructing written test questions for basic and clinical sciences. 3rd Edn. National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), Philadelphia, USA.
www.nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf (retrieved on 15/12/2006).

Section 2 is the clinical component of the examination. It will consist of a series of carefully designed and structured interviews on clinical topics – some being scenario based and some being patient based. The Section 2 examinations will be held in pre-selected UK/Ireland host centres.

Examination format (to July 2022)

Clinical examinations

Medium/Long Cases (x1 30 minute session during which 2 **clinical scenarios** will be discussed)
Short Cases (x2 30 minute sessions during which 5 **clinical scenarios** will be discussed in each)

Oral examinations

Trauma / Burns (x1 30 minute oral)
Acute Head & Neck Tumours / Cleft & Craniofacial / Trunk (x1 30 minute oral)
Basic Sciences & Generic / Aesthetic / Ethics & Consent Issues (x1 30 minute oral)

The three orals cover the range of subjects as listed below in the Guide to the Scope of the Examination.

Trauma / Burns

(3 themes covered in one 30 minute Oral session)

1. Assessment resuscitation and initial management of burns.
Surgical management.
Management of complications.
2. All aspects of hand trauma.
3. Facial, soft tissue injuries.
Maxillofacial trauma.
Lower limb trauma.
Wound care management.
Pressure sore management.

Acute Head & Neck Tumours / Cleft & Craniofacial / Trunk

(3 themes covered in one 30 minute Oral session)

1. Excisional surgery for benign and malignant disease of head and neck.
Major reconstruction of head and neck defects.
2. Management of children with cleft lip and palate.
Management of velopharyngeal incompetence.
Craniofacial deformities.
3. Management of hypospadias.
Perineal reconstruction.
Breast and chest wall reconstruction.

Basic Sciences & Generic / Aesthetic / Ethics & Consent Issues

(3 themes covered in one 30 minute Oral session)

1. Basic sciences / generic plastic surgery techniques.
2. Aesthetic surgery.
3. Ethical and medico-legal issues / consent issues.

Examination format (from August 2022)

Clinical examinations

Long Cases (x1 30 minute clinical during which 2 **patients** will be seen)

Medium Cases (x1 30 minute clinical during which 3 **patients** will be seen)

Short Cases (x1 30 minute clinical during which 5 **clinical scenarios** will be discussed)

Oral examinations

Trauma / Burns / Adult Upper Limb (x1 30 minute oral)

Acute Head & Neck Tumours / Congenital Anomalies / Trunk & Perineal Reconstruction (x1 30 minute oral)

Generic Techniques, Complex Wounds, Vascular Anomalies & Aesthetics / Skin Cancer & Sarcoma / General Professional Capability (x1 30 minute oral)

The three orals cover the range of subjects as listed below in the Guide to the Scope of the Examination.

Trauma / Burns / Adult Upper Limb

(3 themes covered in one 30 minute Oral session)

1. Assessment, resuscitation and initial management of burns
Surgical management
Management of complications
2. All aspects of upper limb trauma
Management of acute & chronic upper limb pathology
3. Facial soft tissue injuries
Craniomaxillofacial trauma
Lower limb trauma

Acute Head & Neck Tumours / Congenital anomalies / Trunk & Perineal reconstruction

(3 themes covered in one 30 minute Oral session)

1. Excisional surgery for benign and malignant disease of head and neck
Major reconstruction of head and neck defects
2. Management of children with cleft lip and palate
Management of craniofacial deformities
Management of congenital hand deformity
Management of congenital ear deformity
3. Perineal reconstruction
GU reconstruction (including hypospadias)
Breast and chest wall reconstruction
Pressure sore management

Generic Techniques, Complex Wounds, Vascular Anomalies & Aesthetics / Skin cancer & Sarcoma / General Professional Capability (3 themes covered in one 30 minute Oral session)

1. Generic plastic surgery techniques
Complex wound management
Facial palsy management
Vascular anomalies
Aesthetics
2. Skin cancer
Sarcoma
3. Ethical and medico-legal issues
Consent issues
Critical incident management
Complaint management
Safeguarding
Colleague issue management

For further indication of the Examination Scope, candidates should consult the Curriculum as published by the SAC in Plastic Surgery [www.iscp.ac.uk].

Please note that the Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Plastic Surgery reserves the right to modify the format of the examination.

Ian McGregor Medal gifted by the
British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgeons

The above medal will be awarded annually, by the Board, to a candidate who achieves the highest score above 476 in the examination at the first attempt. All awards are made at the discretion of the Board.

Mission Statement

The Intercollegiate Examiners in Plastic Surgery will assess and report fairly and conscientiously whether each candidate possesses the core knowledge and the practical abilities in diagnosis and planning of care to meet an appropriate standard for that candidate to conduct safe and competent consultant practice in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in general within the United Kingdom and Ireland.

A candidate who is an existing Member of one of the four participating Royal Colleges (Edinburgh, England, Glasgow, Ireland) and who is successful in the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination will be promoted to the Fellowship of their college, unless they indicate another preference. **Only those who are subsequently accorded and maintain the Fellowship of a College are entitled to use that College's associated post-nominals.**

September 2021