



The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

27 Rhodes Ave, PARKTOWN WEST 2193
Private Bag X23, BRAAMFONTEIN 2017
Tel: +27 11 726-7037/8/9
Fax: +27 11 726-4036

College of Surgeons

FCS(SA) Intermediate Examination Regulations

1. There will be two multiple choice question papers. Paper 1 Principles of Surgery in General and Paper 2 Principles of Surgery in Surgical Specialties. Each paper will be blueprinted and consist of 120 single best answer questions.
2. For a candidate to pass the multiple-choice component they must achieve greater than or equal to 50% for each MCQ paper. To be invited to the oral examination a candidate must achieve a mark equal to or greater than 50% in MCQ Paper 1 as well as a mark equal to or greater than 50% for MCQ Paper 2.
3. The oral examination will consist of two paper cases and an OSCE. All questions will be blueprinted.
4. One Paper case will be centred around the Principles of Surgery in General, and the second around Principles of Surgery and Surgical Specialities. A candidate will receive a paper case 10 minutes before the oral examination and immediately thereafter be examined by two examiners for 30 minutes. Each examiner will independently mark the candidate out of 100 marks; the two marks will be combined for a mark out of 200. The mark out of 200 will be converted into a percentage.
5. There will be 20 OSCE questions. Ten questions will be based on Principles of Surgery in General, and the second ten will be based on Principles of Surgery and Surgical Specialities. The OSCE questions of Paper 1 will be written at a separate occasion to the OSCE questions of Paper 2.
6. A candidate's final mark will be calculated as follows per paper:

Paper 1:

MCQ paper 1	33.3% final mark
Paper case mark	33.3% final mark
OSCE mark	33.3% final mark

Paper 2:

MCQ paper 2	33.3% final mark
Paper case mark	33.3% final mark
OSCE mark	33.3% final mark

7. For a candidate to pass the Intermediate examination they must in each paper have an overall mark equal or greater than 50%, i.e. Paper 1 mark must be greater than or equal to 50% and Paper 2 mark must be greater than or equal to 50%. There will be no compensation of marks between the overall mark of Paper 1 and Paper 2.

8. A candidate who did not pass the examination due to failure of the oral component will be required to rewrite the whole Intermediate examination at their next sitting, i.e. must write the MCQ papers, two paper cases, and OSCE questions.

Addendum: The FC Neurosurgery (SA) and FC ENT Intermediate examination candidates ONLY

A. The FC Neurosurgery (SA) and FC ENT (SA) Intermediate examination candidates will only be expected to write Paper 1 Principles of Surgery in General. For a candidate to be invited to the oral examination they must achieve a mark of greater than or equal to 50%.

B. FC Neurosurgery (SA) and FC (SA) ENT Intermediate examination candidates who qualify for an oral examination will only do the Paper case will be centred around the Principles of Surgery in General, as well as only the ten OSCE questions based on Principles of Surgery in General.

C. For a candidate to pass Part 1 of the Intermediate examination they must achieve an overall percentage average of greater than or equal to 50%.

D. A candidate's final mark will be calculated as follows:

MCQ mark	33.3% final mark
Paper case mark	33.3% final mark
OSCE mark	33.3% final mark

E. A candidate who did not pass the examination due to failure of the oral component will be required to rewrite the whole Intermediate examination at their next sitting.