The DRCOG Revision Guide
Examination Preparation and Practice Questions
The DRCOG Revision Guide
Examination Preparation and Practice Questions

SUSAN WARD
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
Kings Mill Hospital, Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust,
Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, UK

With contributions from:

LISA JOELS
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust,
Exeter, Devon, UK

ELAINE MELROSE
Retired Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Ayrshire Maternity Unit and Crosshouse Hospitals,
Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, UK

SRINIVAS VINDLA
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
Kings Mill Hospital, Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust,
Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, UK
# Contents

*Foreword*  
*Introduction*  

**THE DRCOG EXAMINATION**

Curriculum module 1:  
BASIC CLINICAL SKILLS  
Curriculum module 2:  
BASIC SURGICAL SKILLS AND SURGICAL PROCEDURES  
Curriculum module 3:  
ANTENATAL CARE  
Curriculum module 4:  
MANAGEMENT OF LABOUR AND DELIVERY  
Curriculum module 5:  
POSTPARTUM PROBLEMS (THE PUERPERIUM) INCLUDING NEONATAL PROBLEMS  
Curriculum module 6:  
GYNAECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS  
Curriculum module 7:  
FERTILITY CONTROL (CONTRACEPTION AND TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY)

Curriculum module 1: ANSWERS  
Curriculum module 2: ANSWERS  
Curriculum module 3: ANSWERS  
Curriculum module 4: ANSWERS  
Curriculum module 5: ANSWERS  
Curriculum module 6: ANSWERS  
Curriculum module 7: ANSWERS

---

© in this web service Cambridge University Press  
www.cambridge.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum module 7:</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSWERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock exam paper 1:</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMQs and SBAs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock exam paper 1:</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSWERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock exam paper 2:</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCQs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock exam paper 2:</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSWERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful web addresses</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreword

This up-to-date revision text for the DRCOG examination fills a well-recognized gap in the market for potential candidates. The authors have taken a structured approach to the layout with an initial short section providing guidance on how to answer the different types of question found in the examination. For each of the seven modules in the women’s health syllabus a bank of questions has been written as multiple choice questions (MCQs), single best answers (SBAs) and extended matching questions (EMQs) to ensure the candidate is tested on relevant knowledge, while becoming familiar with the question styles. The rationale for the correct answer is then concisely explained in the answer section.

In addition, there are two complete mock examination papers in the same format as the actual examination to enable candidates to test their time management. All four authors have been members of the DRCOG subcommittee, so that the questions have been produced in the same way as questions in the actual examination – by a committee – which is a unique selling point when compared to other books on the market. The questions have been tested with real candidates sitting the DRCOG examination within the last year to check that the level of difficulty is appropriate.

I am delighted that this book has been produced at this time and I am sure that it will become the required reading for all DRCOG candidates.

Corinne Hargreaves, MRCOG
Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Chair of the DRCOG Subcommittee 2011–2014
Introduction

This volume is intended as a guide for candidates studying for the DRCOG examination. It is set out in a format aligned to the DRCOG syllabus with each chapter relating to one of the seven modules, containing examples of the type of questions that could be asked about that particular subject. Examination candidates can use the specimen questions to check their knowledge about that section of the syllabus and discover where to concentrate their revision efforts.

The Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is a clinically orientated rather than just a theoretical examination. Any doctor who has spent a few months in a busy obstetric and gynaecology post will have a good chance of passing the examination after spending some time studying. When choosing which books to use for revision it is important to realize that the examination is intended to be relevant to doctors working in General Practice in the UK, where women’s health issues represent a large proportion of the workload of the average GP. There are many books on the market aimed at candidates revising for DRCOG and also many books written for GPs with an interest in women’s health.

The questions in this book have been written by four consultants who have all been on the DRCOG Examination Subcommittee and have written questions for the actual examination. As well as making suggestions regarding strategy and technique for answering the questions, we have included lots of examples of each type of question for each section of the syllabus to give you some idea of the form, content and level of difficulty of the questions you might encounter in the examination.

The chapters represent each of the seven sections of the syllabus. In each chapter there are ten multiple choice question (MCQ) stems with five parts each, ten single best answer (SBA) questions and six extended matching questions (EMQs) with five parts to each question – a total of 350 MCQs, 70 SBAs and 210 EMQs within the main part of the book. This should give you plenty of practice!

In addition there is a separate mock exam in the two-paper format currently used for the DRCOG examination that you could use to practise time management if you would find that helpful.

As each of the authors has participated in the setting of the actual examination over the last few years, we have tried to give you some idea of the thought processes behind the answers provided. These comments are representative of the discussions around the table at the DRCOG Examination Subcommittee meetings where the examination is constructed. The committee consists of a group of obstetricians and gynaecologists with different special interests and a general practitioner. Every time a new question is added to the question bank, the GP member is asked to assess whether the content is ‘reasonable knowledge that could be expected of a GP with an interest in women’s health in the UK’ as the committee is keen to avoid setting questions that test MRCOG-level knowledge.

We have also tried to give you some suggestions as to where to find the knowledge being tested in the examination. During the meetings where the questions are set, the committee has at its disposal a wide range of textbooks and resources such
as the British National Formulary, along with the NICE guidelines and the ‘green-
top’ guidelines produced by the College. These guidelines can be accessed from
the RCOG website and are now collected into a rather thick compendium available
in book form, on a data stick or on an ‘app’ for your mobile telephone or computer
tablet. The guidelines would be a good starting point for your revision since
some of the questions are set directly from there. It is also worth being familiar
with the triennial report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in the
UK; the most recent edition before this book went to press was the eighth report
covering the 2006 to 2008 deaths (accessible from the RCOG website) but a
new report is expected soon. We have also provided a list of other websites
where you can find useful information to guide your revision.

We hope you enjoy studying for this examination: your patients will certainly
benefit from the knowledge you acquire. Good luck!