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978-1-107-43894-1 - SBAs for the Part 1 MRCOG: A Guide to Single Best Answer Questions
for the Part 1 MRCOG Examination

Andrew Sizer and Neil Chapman

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*A Guide to Single Best Answer Questions
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Preface

The successful completion of examinations leading to Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is a mandatory requirement to complete specialist training in the UK.

The Membership examination consists of two parts: Part 1, traditionally thought of as a basic science examination, and Part 2, a clinical examination. However, both parts of the examination have undergone significant change over the past few years to take into account developments in practice and knowledge as well as new ideas in medical education and assessment.

From the March 2012 sitting of the examination, there will be some significant changes to the Part 1 examination. Changes to the curriculum and syllabus have been approved by the General Medical Council, resulting in an examination that will test applied basic and clinical sciences in addition to the traditional theoretical component. Another significant change to the examination is the introduction of 'single best answer questions', which replace the extended matching questions that have previously been used.

This book clarifies the new structure of the examination and provides many examples of the new single best answer question format.

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About the authors

Andrew Sizer is a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust. He has a special interest in reproductive medicine and surgery. He is also Senior Lecturer and Undergraduate Lead for Women's Health at the Shropshire Campus of Keele University School of Medicine. Mr Sizer is co-convenor of the RCOG Part 1 MRCOG Revision course and served on the Part 1 MRCOG Sub-committee from 2008 to 2011. He was appointed as a Part 2 MRCOG examiner in 2011. He graduated from the University of Wales College of Medicine in 1994, having completed an intercalated BSc and PhD in Physiology. He then undertook an MD in male infertility and completed his specialist training in 2005. He worked for a year at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College in Tanzania, from 2001 to 2002.

Neil Chapman is a non-clinical Lecturer in Reproductive Medicine in the Academic Unit of Reproductive and Developmental Medicine at the University of Sheffield. His laboratory research focuses on understanding how the myometrial genome is regulated by NF- κ B during pregnancy and labour. The principal funding for this work is currently provided by the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust. He was a member of the Part 1 MRCOG Sub-committee from 2007 to 2011 and was engaged in developing both extended matching questions and, more recently, single best answer questions, which form the basis of the new Part 1 examination. Dr Chapman graduated from the University of Sheffield with a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry and Physiology in 1994 and a PhD in Molecular and Reproductive Biology in 1997. He has been a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy since 2008.

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Abbreviations

α -FP	alpha fetoprotein
AIS	androgen insensitivity syndrome
APC	activated protein C
ATP	adenosine triphosphate
BMI	body mass index
BRCA1	breast cancer gene 1
CA125	cancer antigen 125
Ca ²⁺	calcium ions
cAMP	cyclic adenosine monophosphate
cGMP	cyclic guanosine monophosphate
CTG	cardiotocograph
DEXA	dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry
DHEA	dehydroepiandrosterone
DVT	deep vein thrombosis
EMQ	extended matching question
FSH	follicle-stimulating hormone
gamma GT	gamma-glutamyl transferase
GBS	group B Streptococcus
GnRH	gonadotrophin-releasing hormone
GP	general practitioner
hCG	human chorionic gonadotrophin
HLA	human leucocyte antigen
H-P-O	hypothalamic–pituitary–ovarian
HPV	human papillomavirus
HSG	hysterosalpingography
IFN- γ	interferon gamma

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Ig	immunoglobulin
IP ₃	inositol-1,4,5,-triphosphate
IV	intravenous
IVF	in vitro fertilisation
LH	luteinising hormone
MCQ	multiple choice question
MHC	major histocompatibility complex
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
NK	natural killer
NO	nitric oxide
NSAID	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
PCO ₂	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PCOS	polycystic ovary syndrome
PO ₂	partial pressure of oxygen
RCOG	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RhD	rhesus D
SBA	single best answer question
SHBG	sex hormone-binding globulin
SIADH	syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone
STD	sexually transmitted disease
STI	sexually transmitted infection
T ₄	thyroxine
TGFβ	transforming growth factor beta
TSH	thyroid-stimulating hormone
VEGF	vascular endothelial growth factor
WHO	World Health Organization

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Foreword

The Part 1 MRCOG examination is a summative, primary assessment of the knowledge and understanding of the basic science principles which are relevant to the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology. This knowledge of the principles of basic science is important; these principles constitute the ‘building blocks’ of further knowledge and clinical judgement. However, we are increasingly aware of the role the Part 1 examination fulfils as an assessment of clinical competence in the early years of training. The aim of achieving a more effective balance between coverage of basic science content and relevance to clinical duties has resulted in a change to the Part 1 MRCOG from March 2012. The change will entail a shift of emphasis to make the examination more relevant to the continuing learning and development objectives of the specialty training programme.

This book is to aid those sitting the new-style Part 1 examination. The introduction to the single best answer format, with examples of how this question format interacts with the syllabus, should help all those attempting the Part 1 MRCOG examination.

Nigel Davies

Chair, Examination and Assessment Committee, RCOG

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How to use this book

Chapter 1 of this book provides an overview of the new syllabus and curriculum for the Part 1 MRCOG examination, and also explains the structure of single best answer questions (SBAs) and the rationale for using this question format in the Part 1 MRCOG examination.

Chapter 2 outlines the syllabus topics in the Part 1 MRCOG blue-printing matrix for paper 1 of the examination and provides example questions from all relevant areas; that is, from the logbook core modules and the subject domains. Chapter 3 is identical in format to chapter 2, but covers the syllabus areas relevant to paper 2 of the examination.

Chapter 4 provides a mock paper for paper 1 of the examination, and chapter 5 provides a mock paper for paper 2 of the examination.

Appendix 1 contains the blueprinting matrix for the examination. Appendix 2 contains an example answer sheet for the SBA component of the examination. Appendix 3 provides answers to the sample questions in chapter 2, appendix 4 provides answers to the questions in chapter 3, appendix 5 provides answers to the questions in chapter 4 and appendix 6 provides answers to the questions in chapter 5.