Mastering Single Best Answer Questions for the Part 2 MRCOG Examination

An Evidence-Based Approach

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I dedicate my involvement in this work to the memories of my teachers and mentors (AbdElslam ElMenebawy, Gamal Samy and Haidar Fahmy), who helped and educated me when I was just crawling in this fascinating specialty and inspired me to become a Member of our Royal College.

Adel Elkady

I dedicate this book to my family, Marmar, Nic and Bells, for their support and patience during its preparation.

Bashir Dawlatly

I dedicate my contribution to my parents, brothers and sisters; to Dr. Hassan A Abdulla and all my teachers; to Hassan, Kareem, Aseel and Talya; to my wife.

Mustafa H. Ahmed
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Mock examinations can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781316621561
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Editor’s Preface

Achieving membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) is an essential step along the path to a career in obstetrics and gynaecology. Passing the MRCOG examination is a key stepping stone towards this goal.

Until 2015, the examination was in two parts and contained a variety of different question types, including extended matched questions (EMQs), multiple choice questions (MCQs), short essay questions and true/false questions. The examination is now in three parts and success in Part 2 is required before progression to the Part 3 objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) or clinical assessment.

The Part 2 written examination consists of both single best answer (SBA) questions and EMQs. The examination is designed to be taken during years 3 to 5 of core training, and the questions cover the whole syllabus as described on the RCOG website; SBA questions make up 40% of the total marks and EMQs 60%.

This text book is designed to assist the candidates in their revision for the Part 2 examination. It comprises 26 chapters, which cover all areas of the Part 2 syllabus. The layout is clear and easy to follow with explanations and references to assist in understanding the answers to the questions. Evidence-based explanations are included for most of the answers to indicate the level of evidence for the answers.

I was delighted when Dr Adel Elkady asked me to edit this textbook. He is experienced in running membership courses both in the UK and abroad and has previously written an excellent best-selling book on mastering short answer questions.

As a Part 2 examiner, a member of the MCQ and then the SBA committees of the RCOG, and from my involvement in assisting on Part 2 courses, I feel I am well placed to add my expertise and experience to this textbook.

Single best answer questions require careful reading and the candidate should be able to produce the correct answer without reading the five answers offered (the so-called ‘cover test’). Although incorrect answers are not penalised, the format does not lend itself to guessing the correct answer and a well-designed SBA question will reward the well-prepared candidate who has a thorough knowledge of the subject. Unlike MCQs, which test recall of medical knowledge, SBAs test the candidate’s ability to apply clinical knowledge.

There is no pass mark in any Part 2 examination. A process of ‘standard setting’ is undertaken to ensure that every examination tests candidates to the same level. This is
a laborious exercise involving some 20 or so senior consultants who assess the questions individually and consider whether a good trainee who is preparing for the examination would know the correct answer.

Medical knowledge is continually changing and new evidence and guidelines are produced, which are then incorporated in and tested by the MRCOG examination. It is essential therefore to use up-to-date textbooks, and current RCOG and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines when preparing for the examination.

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Foreword

Passing the MRCOG Part 2 examination determines whether one could proceed to Part 3. The Part 2 examination consists of single best answer (SBAs) questions (40% of the marks) and extended matching questions (EMQs) (60% of the marks). Unlike the true/false multiple choice questions (MCQs) in the past, which test one's ability to recollect facts, the SBAs test one's ability to apply clinical knowledge. The candidate should have adequate knowledge in the subject of obstetrics and gynaecology and practise to answer SBAs to pass the Part 2 examination. Practice makes one perfect. The book *Mastering Single Best Answer Questions for the Part 2 MRCOG Examination, An Evidence-Based Approach* authored by Adel Elkady, Bashir Dawlatly and Mustafa Ahmed, and edited by Alex Rees, is one of the best books available for improving your knowledge and practising to get maximum marks in the SBAs section of the paper. Many candidates in the past have benefitted from Adel Elkady's best-selling book on short answer questions (SAQs) for the MRCOG Part 2 examination – before the SAQs were omitted. I am sure this book will enjoy the same popularity as Adel's previous book.

This book has 26 chapters covering the span of obstetrics and gynaecology ('blue printing') needed for the examination. The number of questions in each area varies on the breadth and depth of the knowledge tested in the examination; for example, gynaecological oncology: 46, infections in obstetrics and gynaecology: 40, urogynaecology: 29, conception and assisted reproduction: 24, obstetric medicine: 25, saving mothers' lives: 34, and labour ward practice: 24 questions. It also covers subjects of importance such as adolescent health and teenage pregnancy. There are 501 questions (205 pages). Each question stem has five options and evidence-based answers are given with suitable references. This should encourage further learning by the candidate. Sample answer sheets are provided to practise 50 questions in 70 minutes.

Best wishes to all candidates for the examination.

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