

Changes to the Format of the Selection Examination in MD (Surgery) and the MD (Surgery) Examinations

1. Selection Examination in MD (Surgery)

The MD Examination Review Subcommittee studied the performance of the candidates who qualified to sit the essay and viva component with a borderline mark (11.5) for one of the 3 subjects. A summary of the outcome of the last 3 examinations is given below.

- 2015 January/Feb. Exam -----28 candidates with one 11.5 mark ----- 01 Passed/77
- 2015 July Exam ----- 20 candidates with one 11.5 mark ----- 01 Passed/90
- 2016 January/Feb Exam ----- 19 candidates with one 11.5 mark ----- 00 Passed/117

The above results indicate that these candidates chance of passing the whole examination is dismal. If these candidates are excluded we could reduce the number sitting the essay+viva component by approximately 20 candidates with hardly any effect on the final outcome of the examination.

Therefore, the BOS in Surgery recommend that only the candidates who have passed all 3 subjects (marks 12 and above) should be allowed to proceed to the essay+viva component of the Selection Examination.

2. MD (Surgery) Examination

a. Written paper

Replace the current 'SEQ paper' which consists of 4 structured essay questions with a 'SAQ paper' which consists of 10 short answer questions to be answered in three hours.

b. OSCE

Combine the Short Case Bay 3 (vascular) and Bay 4 (orthopaedic) and rename as Short Case Bay 3 (vascular & musculoskeletal).

And rename the Bay 4 as Short Case Bay 4 (breast and miscellaneous).

c. Computation of marks

The current practice of 'rounding off' the marks to the closest integer at the end of each main component (Theory, OSCE & OSVE) should be abandoned. Rounding off marks should be done at final total level (Theory+OSCE+OSVE) only. The computation of marks of the Selection Examination is done according to this principle.

The following example explains how a candidate could get an undue advantage with the existing method of computation.

Candidate A	Theory	OSCE	OSVE	Total (Raw)	Total	Result
Actual marks	8.5	8.5	8.5	25.5		
Current method	9	9	9	27	27	Pass
Proposed method	8.5	8.5	8.5	25.5	26	Fail

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Senate – 10.08.2016

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