What is an OSCE?

- Objective
- Structured
- Clinical
- Examination

OSCE

- A modern type of examination in medicine (health science)
- A form of performance-based testing used to measure candidates’ clinical competence
- A form of multi-station examination for clinical subjects
Features of OSCEs

- Stations are short (5-10 minutes)
- Stations are numerous
- Stations are highly focused, candidates are given very specific instructions
- A pre-set structures mark scheme is used
- Reduced examiner input and discretion

During the exam

- Each candidate is examined on a one to one basis
- He/She is observed and evaluated in each station
- Each station had a different examiner
- Candidates are tested on the same questions in each station.

OSCE - Objective

- All the candidates are presented with the same test
- Specific skill modalities are tested at each station
  - History taking
  - Explanation
  - Clinical examination
  - Procedures

OSCE - Structured

- The marking scheme for each station is structured
- Structured interaction between examiner and student

OSCE

Emphasis on:

- What candidates can do rather than what they know
- The appreciation of knowledge rather than the recall of knowledge

=> Clinical skill are tested rather than pure theoretical knowledge

Advantages of OSCEs

- Careful specification of content = Validity
- Observation of wider sample of activities = Reliability
- Structured interaction between examiner & Student
- Structured marking schedule
- Each student has to perform the same tasks = Acceptability
What can be assessed in OSCE?

Examples
- History taking
- Physical examination
- Ability to perform procedures
- Data and investigations interpretation
- Patient education
- Communication skills
- Anatomy & Pathology specimens
- Use of medical equipment
- etc. etc.

II : Format of new OSCE for MHKICBSC Exam

Hong Kong Intercollegiate Board of Surgical Colleges Membership Examination

Part 3 Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

HKICBSC Membership Examination Part 3

Old Examination –
1. Viva examination -
   - three panels - Applied physiology & Critical care
   - Surgical pathology & surgical management
   - Principle of surgery & operative surgery
   (20 minutes each panel)
   (each panel, two examiners)
2. Bedside examination
   - 4 bays - Head & neck, breast/ axilla, skin
   - Trunk, groin & scrotum
   - Vascular
   - Orthopaedic
   (15 minutes each bay)
   (each bay, two examiners)
HKICBSC Membership Examination Part 3

Old Examination (cont’d)
3. Communication skills
   - 2 bays - Information giving
     - Information gathering
       (10 minutes each panel)
     (each bay, two examiners)

New examination

Most important messages
- Change in format
- Examination syllabus -- THE SAME
  still has beside clinical examination
  still has communication skill bays

MHKICBSC_Part 3 (OSCE)

- Introduced from 2011
- Two diets organized annually, in March & September

Format of OSCE

- 16 examined stations and two or more preparatory stations
- Each station lasts for 8 minutes and one minute for reading instruction
- Candidates are examined in circuit and must complete all stations

Format of OSCE

- 16 examined stations will examine the following TWO broad content areas:
  1. Basic & Applied Science
  2. Communication & Clinical

Format of OSCE

- Each broad content area consist of following stations:
  **Basic & Applied Science**
  1. Basic & Surgical Anatomy
  2. Basic & Surgical Anatomy
  3. Basic & Surgical Anatomy
  4. Pathology
  5. Critical Care
  6. Critical Care
  7. Technical Skills
  8. Pre-operative Assessment (Anaesthetic & Surgical) Clinic / Patient Safety / misc
Format of OSCE
• Each broad content area consist of following stations:

  Communication & Clinical
  1. Communication with senior or a colleague from other departments
  2. Communication with patient / relative: history taking / breaking bad news
  3. Communication (Informed consent)
  4. Clinical (Head & Neck)
  5. Clinical (Orthopeadics)
  6. Clinical (Breast/lump & bumps/plastic)
  7. Clinical (Vascular)
  8. Clinical (Abdomen and Hernia)

Preparatory station will be arranged before the following station for candidate to read scenario:

  Basic & Applied Science
  - Critical Care

Communication & Clinical
- Communication with Senior

Date of Examination
• Registration & Briefing
  – All candidates must arrive exam venue at designated time for registration
  – A briefing will be provided to candidates prior to the commencement of the exam

• Examination
  – Candidates cannot leave the exam venue until completion of the exam

• Result
  – Examination result will be posted to candidates

Before Commencement of Examination
• Candidates
  – will be checked Exam notice and identity card
  – will be issued a candidate number & number labels
  – will be collected all electronic transmission devices
  – will be briefed
    • the layout of stations, preparatory stations
    • starting positions
    • time management
  – should listen carefully to the information given at the briefing
  – should make sure understand how the exam circuit is to be run at this stage

Before Commencement of Examination
• Candidates
  – should start reading the instructions when hearing the announcement of
  “Candidates you now have 1 minute to read the instruction”
Examination Begins

Candidates should not enter the examined station until there is announcement to indicate examination starts.
→ a short bell
→ announcement of “Examination begins”

At the station

• There is an Examiner & sometime with an observer who will not examining the candidate
• A short bell will be rung when reach 6 minutes to indicate 2 minutes left
• Candidates
   – should remain in the station if they completed the station less than 8 minutes
   – should leave the station when hearing instruction of end of the station

End of station

• Candidate
  – Should proceed to next station and read the instruction of following station followed by the instruction provided
  – The same steps repeat until candidates go through all the stations

Candidates should follow any instructions given by administrative staff / invigilator during the exam

Feature of Examined station at a glance

Basic & Surgical Anatomy Stations

• Features of station
  – Candidate will be asked questions by the examiner
  – aids such as x-ray and specimens will be used for the stations if necessary
Anatomy Station: Example
Candidate is being examined on X-ray reading.

Anatomy Station: Example
Candidate is being examined on specimen.

Pathology Station
- Features of station
  - Time will be given candidates to study the data and report provided at the station before questioning
  - Candidate will be asked questions by the examiner

Pathology Station: Example
Candidate is studying data and chart at the station.

Pathology Station: Example
Candidate is being questioned by the examiner.
Critical Care Stations

- Features of station
  - Time will be given candidates to study the scenario, a preparatory station will be arranged before proceed to one of the Critical Care stations
  - Data and chart will be provided at the station
  - Candidate will be asked questions by the examiner
  - aids may be used for the stations

Critical Care Station: Example

Candidate is given time to read the scenario, data and chart when enter the station

Candidate is being questioned by the examiner

Technical Skills Station

- Features of station
  - Instructions and equipment will be provided to candidate at the station
  - Candidate will need to follow the instructions and perform the necessary procedures required
  - May have surrogate patient

Technical Skills Station: Example

Candidate is informing surrogate patient about procedure
Technical Skills Station: Example

Candidate is performing the procedures required for the lump.

Technical Skills Station: Example

Candidate is stitching on the wound of the surrogate patient.

History Taking

- Features of station
  - Candidate will be required to interact with taking history from a patient
  - Patient and Examiner will ask you some questions

Preparatory Station

- Features of station
  - Candidate will be provided information to be examined in the next station
  - Candidate should use the duration of station to study the information and get prepared for next station
  - Usually arranged before the station of Communication with senior / colleague

Preparatory Station: Example

Communication with Senior

- Features of station
  - Candidate will be examined on information of patients provided at the preparatory station
  - Candidate will need to pick up a phone to call the examiner and discuss the patient situation on phone with the examiner
  - Candidate will be alone in the station
Communication with Senior: Example

Candidate is reporting to the senior on phone

Communication with Senior: Example

Candidate is referring to the information provided and discussing with senior

Communication with Senior: Example

Examiner is asking questions on phone in other room

Communication Station (Informed Consent)

- Features of station
  - Scenario will be provided to candidate and surrogate patient
  - Candidate will need to obtain consent from surrogate patient for operation
  - Surrogate patient will be asked to sign the Informed Consent Form
  - Examiner will not interact with candidate

Communication Station (Informed Consent): Example

Candidate is explaining the situation to surrogate patient

Communication Station (Informed Consent): Example

Surrogate patient agreed and signed the informed consent form
Clinical Station
- Features of station
  - Candidate will be examined on physical examination of a patient.
  - Candidate will be given time to interact with patients
  - Candidate will be asked question by the Examiner on diagnosis

Marking
- Each station is marked out of a total of 20 marks according to the structured mark sheets
- To score the highest marks, it will be necessary for a candidate to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, communication and professional characteristics described by the domains across the stations

Marking
- At each station, candidates will be awarded a rating on the performance as follows:
  - Pass, Borderline, Fail

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Borderline</th>
<th>Pass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final mark (please mark the score)</td>
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Marking
- The score obtained in each station and the overall global rating for the station will be used to assess the overall performance of passing the OSCE under the marking criteria.

Criteria to Pass
- There are 320 marks available in total, the pass mark is 240.
- Candidates must pass at least four of five clinical stations.
- Candidates must pass at least six of eight stations of each broad content subject to statistic analysis of overall performance.
- Candidate must pass at least two out of three Communication stations.

Note to Candidate!
- Candidate
  - must report attendance punctually at the exam registration venue according to the registration time indicated in Exam Notice.
  - attending morning/1st session will be released after 15 minutes of reporting time of afternoon/2nd session batch of candidates.
  - fail to report at the designated registration time will be disqualified from taking the exam.
  - must bring the Exam Notice and approved evidence of identity for registration.
Thank you