



Tips for Candidates: On the day



Getting to the exam...

Allow plenty of time for parking and locating the hotel exam room. There will be a waiting room set up for you prior to you entering the exam room. Try to relax and remain calm. Look and act professionally.

The room...

Your exam room is a hotel room with the beds taken out and re-arranged with a desk and chairs. So it looks similar to the other hotel rooms you may be staying in at the QT Gold Coast, or if you aren't staying here, similar to the waiting room. The table in the room will have the examiners sitting on one side and a chair for you to sit on the other side. Water, paper and writing materials are often available in the exam rooms or can be requested prior to or during the examination in case you want to take notes. There may be a computer monitor at one end of the table for images to be screened. The examiners may also use paper hand-outs or other audio-visual aids such as sound.

The examiners...

The examiners may be taking notes as you speak. This is so they can remember points, so please don't be distracted if they are (or aren't) jotting things down. They will be open and friendly but neutral in their responses and body posture.

The exam...

Remember that the exam is not based on the areas you did poorly on in the written papers – standardised questions across all candidates are given. The topics covered will represent the subject domain as some topics are more suited to oral examination formats.

You can collect your thoughts before you answer, even jot down some points you want to make so you don't forget. But remember this is an oral exam not a written paper, so you shouldn't write your answer down then read it back. If you are taking a while, the examiners may ask you to talk through your thought processes as you write, so that they understand how you are addressing the question.

If you have sufficiently covered a topic, the examiners may move to the next so as to get through the time allocated. Don't worry if the examiners cut you off in the interests of time. Similarly, the examiners may refocus you on a different part of the question if you have covered another area of the answer sufficiently.

Think about how you logically structure your answer and practice doing this before the exam. Have a framework for answering different types of questions (for example, approaches to diagnosis you can apply to any case). If you don't know an answer, go back to first principals and/or move onto the next question. Remember that each new question is a fresh start.

Time

Time – oral exams are scheduled for 45–60min (Membership) or 60–120 min (Fellowship) minutes but it may take individuals more or less time than this. That doesn't mean anything or reflect the final outcome, just individual variability. Some people may be concise and get through the material more quickly, while some people may take more time to provide the same information.