

Standard Operating Procedure for the European Exam in General Cardiology

Appendix One - Exam Blueprint for selection of MCQs

Based on the knowledge items in section 2 - ESC Core Curriculum for the General Cardiologist (2013)

Category 1 - Valvular and Myocardial Disease (approximately 20% of the questions)

2.15 Valvular disease

2.16 Infective endocarditis

2.10 Myocardial Disease

2.17 Heart Failure

The exam will include about 8 of questions on valve disease and endocarditis, 8 on heart failure and 8 on myocardial disease.

Category 2 - Ischaemic Heart Disease (approximately 20% of the questions)

2.4 Invasive cardiac imaging

2.7 Cardiovascular Disease Protection 1- risk factors 2- hypertension

2.8 Acute Coronary Syndromes

2.9 Chronic IHD

2.19 Physical activity in sport and primary and secondary prevention 1- sports cardiology 2- rehabilitation

The exam will include about 18 questions on ischemic heart disease diagnosis, treatment and intervention and 6 more or less equally divided between the other topics

Category 3 - Rhythm Disorders (approximately 20% of the questions)

2.2 Basic Investigations – ECG, ambulatory ECG, exercise testing

2.20 Arrhythmias

2.21 Atrial fibrillation

2.22 Syncope

2.23 Sudden Cardiac Death and Resuscitation

The exam will include about 6 questions on AF, 6 on syncope/sudden death, 6 on tachycardias and 6 on bradycardias

Category 4 Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Non-invasive Investigation (approximately 20% of the questions)

2.13 Adult congenital heart disease

2.14 Heart disease in pregnancy

2.3 Non-invasive imaging

The exam will include about 18 on imaging, echo (50%) nuclear/CT (25%) and CMR (25%), and 6 on congenital heart disease and heart disease in pregnancy

Category 5 - General (approximately 20% of the questions)

2.1 Clinical skills history and examination

2.24 Diseases of the Aorta and Trauma

2.25 Peripheral Vascular Disease

2.11 Pericardial disease

2.12 Oncology and the heart

2.18 Pulmonary hypertension

2.5 Clinical Genetics

2.6 Clinical Pharmacology

2.26 Venous thrombo-embolism

2.28 Acute Cardiac Care

2.28 The Cardiac Consult (Non-cardiac disease and the heart)

The exam will include about 1-3 questions on each of these topics.

In order to facilitate possible future test equating each sitting of the exam will consist of approximately 50% new questions 25% from the exam 2 years previously and 25% from the exam 3 years previously.

The exam will contain about 25% of questions with a still image or video (ratio 2 still:1 video).

The percentage per category given above is the desired aim for the exam; a variance of 10% between the categories is acceptable.