

## Glossary of Examination Terminology

Please find below a glossary of terminology relating to RCEMs examinations.

### **MRCEM**

Membership of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine

### **FRCEM**

Fellowship of the of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine

### **Angoff**

The Angoff method, approved by the GMC and Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, involves a panel of expert EM Consultants rating each exam question based on the proportion of minimally competent candidates expected to answer correctly. These ratings are averaged and summed to create the total Angoff score, which serves as the pass mark for the MRCEM Primary SBA, while for the MRCEM Intermediate SBA and FRCEM SBA, one Standard Error of Measurement is added before rounding to one decimal place.

### **Standard setting**

Standard setting is the process of determining a cut score on an examination that define the minimum level of knowledge, skills, or abilities required for passing an examination.

### **Pass Mark**

The minimum mark needed to pass an examination.

### **Marking scheme**

The predefined criteria and guidelines used to assess and assign scores to candidates' responses or performances in examinations. This scheme outlines how examiners evaluate various aspects of candidates' work, such as knowledge, clinical skills, communication, and decision-making. It ensures consistency and fairness in grading by providing clear benchmarks and standards against which candidates' performances are measured.

### **Cut score**

A predetermined point on a score scale that is used to classify test takers into categories or performance levels. It represents the minimum score required to be placed in a particular category, such as 'pass' versus 'fail'. There are daily cut scores for the OSCE.

### **Score**

A quantitative measure of an individual's performance on an assessment.

## **Blueprint**

A blueprint is a comprehensive framework that specifies the content, format, and distribution of items included in an assessment. It serves as a guiding document to ensure that the examination content adequately covers and aligns with the essential knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined by the intended learning objectives within the curriculum.

## **OSCE**

Objective Structured Clinical Examination

## **OSCE Circuit**

An OSCE circuit is the series of timed clinical examination stations.

## **Station**

A segment of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) where candidates are assessed on specific clinical skills, knowledge, or competencies through standardised, time-limited scenarios. Each station is observed by an examiner and designed to test various aspects such as history taking, physical examination, communication, and clinical decision-making.

## **Domain**

A marking domain is a distinct category within an assessment rubric that focuses on a particular skill. RCEM OSCE examinations follow a domain-based marking scheme. Domain Based marking is a style of assessment in which candidates will be assessed against a series of domains. The Domains are skills which candidates are expected to demonstrate within each station.

There are 7 domains across each MRCEM OSCE station and there are 9 domains across each FRCEM OSCE station. These can be found [here](#) on our website.

In each OSCE station, 1-4 domains are assessed, each weighted by importance, with examiner judgments converted into numerical values for a score of 0-10 per station, culminating in a maximum score of 160 marks across the 16 stations in the MRCEM and FRCEM OSCE examinations.

## **SLO**

Specialty Learning Outcomes

## **CSC**

Clinical Syllabus Category

## **SBA**

Single Best Answer

## **Attempt Number**

The number of attempts at an examination.

## **Exams Calendar**

A schedule that outlines the dates and deadlines for various examinations conducted by the RCEM. This calendar typically includes important information such as exam dates, application

opening and closing dates, and other relevant deadlines for different levels of exams, such as Membership (MRCEM) and Fellowship (FRCEM) exams.

### **Feedback**

This is information given to candidates about their performance. It helps them understand which areas of the curriculum were tested, what they did well and where they can improve in the future.

### **Awarding**

The process of granting qualifications or certifications to candidates who have successfully met the required standards in their examinations and assessments. This could involve awarding titles such as Membership (MRCEM) or Fellowship (FRCEM) of the college, signifying the candidate's level of expertise and competence in emergency medicine.

### **Eligibility**

The specific criteria and qualifications that candidates must meet to apply for and sit for our exams. These criteria ensure that candidates have the necessary background, training, and experience to participate in the examination process.

*For example:* MRCEM Primary Examination: candidates must hold a primary medical qualification recognized by the General Medical Council (GMC) or other relevant medical regulatory body.

### **Reasonable Adjustments**

Modifications or accommodations made to the examination process to ensure that candidates with disabilities or specific needs have equal access to a fair and supportive testing environment without compromising the integrity or standards of the exams.

*Examples of reasonable adjustments might include (but are not limited to):*

Extra Time: Allowing additional time to complete exams for candidates with specific learning difficulties or physical disabilities.

Rest Breaks: Allowing rest periods for candidates who require them due to medical conditions.

These adjustments are made following a formal request and appropriate documentation of the candidate's needs, ensuring that the exams are accessible to all qualified individuals.

### **PMQ**

Primary Medical Qualification. This refers to the initial medical degree or qualification that a doctor must obtain to practice medicine. A recognised PMQ is a prerequisite for many RCEM examinations and certifications, ensuring that candidates have the fundamental medical education required to advance in their training and career in emergency medicine.

### **Test centre**

RCEM examinations, including the MRCEM and FRCEM exams, are administered at Pearson VUE test centres. Pearson Vue is a third-party testing organization that manages and operates test centres globally, and provides secure and standardized testing environments, ensuring that candidates can take their exams under controlled conditions with appropriate facilities and procedures in place.

**Remote/online invigilation**

Pearson VUE offers remote/online proctoring solutions, allowing candidates to take exams from their homes or other suitable locations while being monitored via webcam and other technologies to ensure exam integrity. This partnership with Pearson VUE enables RCEM to deliver its examinations efficiently and securely to candidates across the globe.

**Borderline regression**

The method used to set the OSCE pass mark by scoring candidates on the pass/fail borderline and using those scores to determine the minimum passing level. This ensures the pass mark is fair and reflects actual performance.

**Cohort Average**

The average score achieved by a specific group of candidates taking an examination, such as an OSCE. This average is used to evaluate overall performance trends and can help in setting pass marks or assessing the effectiveness of training programs. Cohort averages are set daily rather than per diet.

**Adjudication**

Post-examination analysis of performance data of exam items to ensure the accuracy, fairness, and reliability of the exam. During this stage, items might be removed, answer keys could be changed, and other modifications may be made based on the analysis of how candidates performed on each item and the quality of the items, ensuring that the final scores accurately reflect the candidates' knowledge and skills.

**Item Analysis**

Evaluating the performance of individual questions in an exam