
COLLEGE EXAMINATION

The MRCGP examination

The following questions were set as part of the examination for Membership, 30 October 1984.

Practice Topic Question Paper

Time allowed two hours

All questions to be answered

Question 1

A practice notices an increase in requests for home visits. Why might this be?

Question 2

A 50 year old women requests hormone replacement therapy for menopausal symptoms. Discuss your response.

Question 3

Discuss the problems particular to inner city General Practice.

Modified Essay Question (MEQ)

Time allowed one hour and thirty minutes

Instructions

1. There are 8 questions in the MEQ paper.
2. Answers should be brief, legible and concise. Total time allowed is one hour and thirty minutes.
3. Answers should be written in the space provided. If more room is required use the reverse side of the question sheet.
4. You are advised not to alter your answers after completing the whole MEQ and not to look through the book before you start. This may distort your natural assessment of the case and cause you to lose marks.
5. The MEQ is a test of your practical approach to a developing general practice problem and as such you could gain more marks for your management of the problem than for your pure factual knowledge.
6. The available marks vary between one question and another; you are advised to work steadily through and not delay too long on any one question.
7. Each page of the MEQ is marked independently. You should therefore answer each question specifically, even if this answer involves repetition of part of an earlier answer.
8. As a rough guide, it is indicated when you are approximately half-way through this paper.

● Miss Buckley, a retired surgical ward sister aged 67 years, attends the surgery by special appointment. She says that she is not happy with her own general practitioner and she wishes to change to your list — 'I've heard so many good things about you'.

- a) What reasons may have motivated this request?
- b) What factors would influence your reply?

● You accept Miss Buckley and her mother, who you learn is dying of cancer of the colon. On your first visit to Mrs Buckley, her daughter tells you that she does not want her

mother to know that she is dying but on talking to Mrs Buckley you suspect that she does know that she has cancer.

What are your options for coping with this request, and what may be their consequences?

● After a visit to her mother, as you are leaving Miss Buckley asks you for a repeat prescription of amoxycillin that her previous doctor 'always gave me to keep by for my bouts of sinusitis'.

Outline the implications of this request, both for the doctor and for the patient.

● Mrs Buckley dies some weeks later at home. Three weeks after her death her daughter comes to see you in a distressed state. She is missing her mother terribly. She also tells you that she keeps thinking back to her best friend and flat mate, a sister-tutor at her old hospital, who died of an overdose nearly ten years ago.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of you exploring these thoughts and feelings further with her.

● She returns six weeks later and tells you that to save troubling you she had the preceding day consulted a physician at her old hospital about aching in her limbs. She says that he has told her that she has a form of muscular rheumatism, and he has prescribed prednisone tablets for her.

List the different ways in which you might react, together with the possible outcome of each.

● Some months later she telephones you and says that 'something dreadful has happened'. She insists that you visit her at home later in the day. When you call she appears distraught and tells you that she has been accused of shoplifting some small articles at a local store. She says she cannot remember anything about the alleged incident and asks you to supply medical evidence to have the charge withdrawn.

What is your role on this occasion and how might you best help her?

● Miss Buckley is convicted of shoplifting and given a conditional discharge. Some months later a neighbour asks you to visit Miss Buckley because she seems to be neglecting herself and rarely goes out of doors. When you call she fails to recognise you, is dirty and unkempt and her flat is squalid. She refuses examination.

List the possible management options. Indicate, with your reasons, the one that you favour.

● As you leave, the neighbour who is also a patient of yours, says that she is surprised that you have not been visiting Miss Buckley regularly 'to keep an eye on her'.

- a) In which ways might you interpret this comment?
- b) List the possible replies that you might make to her. Indicate your preference.