

# The MRCGP examination

The following questions were set as part of the examination for membership, 27 October 1987.

## Practice topic question paper

Time allowed two hours

All questions are to be answered

### Question 1

Discuss the medical implications of unemployment.

### Question 2

During a consultation a 25-year-old male patient expresses his anxiety that he may have 'AIDS' (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). Discuss your management.

### Question 3

Discuss the problems associated with an 18-year-old girl with Down's syndrome living at home with her parents and younger brother.

## Modified essay question (MEQ)

Time allowed one hour and thirty minutes

### Instructions

1. There are seven questions in this MEQ paper.
2. Answers should be 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 have reached the mid-point of this paper.

● Anne and Roger Brown, aged 24 and 25, live in their own semi-detached three-bedroom home with Anne's recently widowed mother, Mrs Prendergast. Anne is a secretary, Roger a locally employed printer. Anne has recently become pregnant for the first time and has attended yourself and the local maternity unit for shared care. The report of a cervical smear taken at first antenatal attendance is delivered to you. It reads 'inflammatory changes with moderate dyskaryosis'. Anne Brown, now 16 weeks pregnant, is booked to see you the following day.

- (a) What are the implications of this report?
- (b) What topics would you wish to discuss with Mrs Brown?

● Anne has a difficult labour. The baby (a girl, Mary) weighs 2.5 kg and is born by forceps delivery for fetal distress at term.

Anne is referred to you by the health visitor when the baby is four months old because she, Anne, is distressed by Mary's constant crying.

What reasons might there be for this presentation?

● These problems resolve. Three months later you are called out urgently at 06.00 hours to the Brown's home. Mrs Brown has found Mary dead in her cot.

What help can you offer?

● Six months later, during a busy surgery, your receptionist interrupts a consultation. She tells you that Roger Brown is demanding to be seen immediately and is being abusive to her. The problem seems to be the delay endured by his mother-in-law who is waiting for a total hip replacement. You had referred her to the local hospital over a year ago.

What reasons might there be for Mr Brown's behaviour?

● At the end of the surgery your practice manager informs you that Mr Brown has reduced receptionists to tears on two previous occasions. She would like you to remove the family from your list; otherwise she feels some of the staff may resign.

What actions are open to you? What are the implications of each?

● About a year later Anne comes to see you, when nine weeks pregnant. It appears that her mother, Mrs Prendergast, who is 63 years, is quite immobile (despite her recent hip replacement) yet refuses to see a doctor.

- (a) Speculate on Mrs Prendergast's problems.
- (b) How might you intervene?

● Anne's baby, a son Mark, is born normally and develops well. You realize however that Anne has been bringing Mark, now three months old, with numerous minor complaints and seeing different members of the partnership.

- (a) How might you interpret this pattern of behaviour?
- (b) How might you attempt to modify it?

## MRCGP EXAMINATION – 1988

The dates for the next two examinations are as follows:

### May/July 1988

Written papers: Wednesday 4 May 1988 at centres in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Cardiff, Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol. Oral examinations: in London from 20 to 29 June inclusive and in Edinburgh from 30 June to 2 July inclusive. The closing date for applications is Friday 26 February 1988.

### October/December 1988

Written papers: Tuesday 25 October 1988 at centres in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Cardiff, Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol and Exeter. Oral examinations: in Edinburgh on 5 and 6 December and in London from 7 to 12 December inclusive. The closing date for applications is Friday 2 September 1988.

The examination application fee for 1988 is £200 (re-application fee £150). Further details and an application form can be obtained from the Examination Administrator, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.