

The MRCGP examination

The following questions were set as part of the examination for membership, 4 May 1988.

Practice topic question paper

Time allowed two hours

All questions to be answered

Question 1

Describe the management of rheumatoid arthritis in a 21 year old single woman.

Question 2

Is screening of the elderly worthwhile? Discuss.

Question 3

Outline the spectrum of chlamydial infection. Discuss the implications in general practice.

Modified essay question (MEQ)

Time allowed one hour and thirty minutes

Instructions

1. There are eight 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.

● The Hall family have moved from an area of high unemployment and have recently joined your list. Jack, a van driver aged 55, is married to Mildred, aged 40, who works as an office clerk. They have two children Lee, aged 17, who attends the local college of technology and Susan, who is still at school, is aged 15. Jack attends the surgery with his summary card given to him by his previous doctor (this pink card entitled 'past history and problem card' is on your desk, please make sure that you read it carefully). His full medical records have not yet reached you. He asks for a repeat prescription for his propranolol 160 mg bd.

What factors would you like to consider before responding to his request?

● A few evenings later while on duty you are telephoned at 9.30 pm by Mildred who says 'I think Susan has thrush'. You give general advice and suggest she makes an appointment the

following morning. The following morning she is seen by one of your two other partners. At coffee time your partner tells you she has found that Susan has diabetes and has arranged her admission to hospital.

What issues might be raised by the way in which Susan's diabetes has been discovered?

● Susan returns from hospital five days later. She is maintained on twice daily insulin. She attends the surgery.

What are your management goals and how might they be achieved?

● A month later Mrs Hall comes to see you at the surgery and says 'I am worried about Lee'. She tells you that Lee, whom you have not yet met, has stopped going to college, seldom comes out of his room and hardly talks to her.

Speculate on the reasons for her concern. How might you respond?

● Lee is seen by a consultant psychiatrist who admits him to hospital. Five weeks later he is discharged home. The hospital discharge letter states that he has been diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia and has been prescribed fluphenazine decanoate (Modecate) 25 mg by intramuscular injection monthly.

Who might be involved in the support network for Lee? What contribution might each make?

● Twice in the next six months Susan is admitted to hospital, once with hypoglycaemic coma and once with keto-acidosis. Why might this be?

● Mr Hall comes to see you the following winter complaining that he is no longer able to achieve an erection.

How would you try to establish the explanation for this?

● A year later you have a vacancy for a part-time receptionist in your practice. Mildred applies for the job. You and your practice manager interview her.

What points should be covered at this interview?

EXAM DATES – 1988/89

The dates for the next two MRCGP examinations are as follows:

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.

May/July 1989

Written papers: Tuesday 9 May 1989 at centres in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Cardiff, Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol. Oral examinations: in London from 29 June to 8 July inclusive and in Edinburgh from 26 to 28 June inclusive. The closing date for applications is Friday 24 February 1989.

The examination application fee for October 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.