

► 2005 COP Exams - Manukau Super Clinic

Candidates:

25 candidates presented for the examination
 4 candidates held non recognised overseas qualifications and were seeking NZATS registration through the COP
 5 candidates were re-sits

Results

18 candidates passed the examination (72%)
 This result includes 3 resists
 1 overseas candidate.

7 candidates failed (28%)
 This result includes 1 resist
 3 overseas candidates
 3 new candidates.

Of the candidates that failed
 4 failed the machine check
 2 failed the scenario

The Machine Check

25 candidates presented
 21 passed (84%)
 4 fails (16%)

The machine checks were of a very good standard overall. The previous problems of checking the function of the rotameter bank on both cylinder and wall supply seems to have stopped. The examiners were impressed by the technique some candidates used to check auxiliary O2 by showing gas flow through the flow meter when only O2 is connected to the machine. Few of candidates who did not use this method made any attempt to show that the auxiliary supply was O2. Of concern was the obvious lack of understanding of many aspects of the machine check such as the antihypoxic device, the structure and function of the needle valves as demonstrated by the rough handling of these delicate valves, or even the flow of gas through the circle system. While the machine check continues to be learnt by rote, the equipment viva will need to continue to further examine aspects of the machine check.

The Multiple Choice

21 candidates sat
 Pass rate 57%
 9 failed to achieve the pass mark of 75%
 Average 75.5%
 Highest mark 82%
 Lowest mark 56.6%
 There were a total of 90 questions with the first 4 question true /false giving a total of 106 questions to answer.
 The majority of candidates completed the examination with in 1 hour that is they required less than 1 minute per question. The majority of questions were previously unused.
 The range of questions asked in the multiple choice is very wide and includes all aspects the technicians training. The questions include the basic sciences such as physiology; measurement clinical areas include technique complications equipment and pharmacology. There are also questions relating to history. A good result in the multiple choice requires a wide range of reading.



Clinical Scenario

21 candidates sat

19 passed.

Pass rate 90%

The clinical scenario produced some very good candidates. The Court of examiners was concerned very few candidates voiced what they were doing. Candidates are advised that the examiners can not always tell what a candidate is doing or thinking and it is in their best interest to verbalise their actions.

The Court of examiners was very concerned that few candidates demonstrated that they had checked for the presence of suxamethonium and emergency drugs in the operating room. This is a clearly written component of a level 3 pre anaesthesia machine check.

The examiners were lenient towards candidates as regards this but for future examinations we **will require that candidates must demonstrate the presence of emergency drugs when a level 3 machine check is required. Candidates who do not do so will not pass the examination.**

Equipment Viva

21 candidates sat

Pass rate 81%

4 failed to reach 75%

Average 83.3

High 98.4%

Low 59.8

Overall a good result was achieved, however a few candidates performed very poorly due to a simple lack of knowledge.

As well as demonstrating knowledge of anaesthesia equipment the equipment viva required candidates to show an understanding of components of the machine check because as mentioned before many aspects of the machine check appear to be rote learnt without any understanding of the basis of how the equipment works. Candidates were asked to go to the anaesthesia machine and demonstrate aspects of the machines function.

This will continue to be a part of the equipment viva.

Andrew Warmington

Chairman Examination Committee