

Report from the NZATS COP Examination 13/14th October 2006

The examination was held at Palmerston North Hospital on 13th and 14th of October
16 Candidates were examined

Machine Check

9 candidates presented
1 candidate failed
8 progressed to the rest of the exam

The Court of examiners, were very impressed by the standard of the candidates in this exam.

Hopefully this is a reflection that the message of the last examination was incorporated into training by supervisors of training

There was one fault to be found in the machine check

When a candidate finished they were asked

Are you satisfied this machine is safe to use?

Multiple Choice Written Exam

15 candidates sat this exam

There were 80 multiple-choice questions

There is no penalty for incorrect answers

The marks of all candidates are analysed by the court of examiners

Each question is analysed to see how many score correctly

Whilst recognising this time is very stressful, it is not appropriate for candidates to try and discuss correct options with invigilators. This will not be tolerated in future examinations.

It is a recommendation from this court of examiners that

Candidates who step outside exam format will be asked to leave the exam

Candidates should trust the court of examiners to discuss and correct any ambiguity in the questions both before and after the candidates have written the exam.

Equipment Viva

15 Candidates presented

15 Candidates passed

This lasted 10 minutes

Not all candidates finished the exam

The examiners attempted to get the most marks from the candidates displayed knowledge.

All candidates were able to achieve 74% or higher

Examiners commented that the standard had improved significantly from the previous exam

The exam is conducted in a room with the anaesthetic machine

Candidates were again asked to demonstrate features of the Anaesthetic Machine
e.g. how do you ensure the rotameter is working safely?

Clinical Scenario

15 Candidates presented

15 Candidates passed

The court of examiners was very impressed with all the candidates.

Candidates are reminded to do as they would in real life

All completed the set up for an afternoon list and dealt with an airway event

The Court of examiners felt that all trainees were safe

Conclusions

I am not going to list specific topics or scenarios as the previous chief examiner Andrew Warmington did this very comprehensively in the previous report, (Dunedin COP 2006) which is on the NZATS site under education.

The standard of candidates presenting to this exam were of a very high standard.

I would advise candidates and supervisors of training to ensure candidates are adequately prepared before they present to what is a stressful exam

I would like to thank Karen Bennett, Lynne van de Waardt, and Sonia Botica for their excellent job in facilitating the exam process and publicly acknowledge all the hard work that went on to ensure a smooth exam process

Thanks to the Education Committee for formatting the exam and thankyou to the court of examiners for their examination skills and for their help and tolerance

Dr Malcolm Stuart,

Chairman Court of Examiners

NZATS COP Palmerston North October 2006