

## Registration Examination Report 2009

The registration exams are structured to ensure that students are safe to practice as an Anaesthetic Technician. Our aim is to confirm that the training that the student has received, whatever the length, has been adequate to provide them with the understanding and functionality they need to perform the role.

The registration exam has evolved over the years, so I recommend that those involved with training keep up with the changes, they are always posted on the website. They are discussed at forums like this, at the education meeting held mid year, & at the charge Techs meetings. The executive team often attend the regional meetings around the country to also update members it's important to get yourselves along to such events.

The Exam is delivered in two parts

Part 1: MCQs or Multiple choice Questions; candidates are required to achieve a 75% pass rate to proceed to part 2. It is basic test of general knowledge of anaesthetics. This is now sat regionally, times and dates are published on the website.

Part 2: OSCEs or Objective structured clinical examination. There are 15 OSCEs stations in total.

5 OSCEs are anaesthetic machine based ...these are written using the NZATS machine check guidelines, a pass in all of these stations is required.

The other 10 stations are on general practice and could be anything from Basic life support to how to clean the anaesthetic machine. Some stations have examiners present and others are solely stations that require a written answer.

The 2009 exam: Feb/ March was held at Greenlane Clinical centre in Auckland the pass rate was above average.

The later half of the year the examinations were held at Palmerston North Hospital the pass rate was not as good as expected or hoped with only 3 candidates out of the 8 passing.

### Feedback on the exams

The exam is designed around what we do as Technicians.

One area the candidates seemed to struggle with was cleaning and aseptic technique which was surprising as that's a lot of what we do..... cleaning up/ decontaminating re assembling new equipment.

The level three machine check was also performed badly,..... again very surprisingly as that's our job.

The advice from the examination team is to smarten up on these basic skills, look around the operating room take notice of symbols written on equipment ask why we do the things we do. Another take home message would be to remember to wash your hands.

Again this year I wish to thank the team of dedicated examiners and board members for their input and expertise, the support to our profession is fantastic.

Nicola Smith-Guerin  
NZATS exam co-ordinator.