



FANZCA Final Course – Oral Examination Wellington, New Zealand

(This course is usually held in February and July each year)

Course description

This course is run over four days, Thursday to Sunday, at Wellington Hospital. It is held within 6 weeks preceding the first part of the examination. Hence, as it is focussed on passing the imminent practical parts of the exam, it is eligible only for candidates registered for that sitting. Typically we aim for 16 to 20 participants. We are the only course presently in New Zealand which focuses on the oral section of the Final examination.

In its present format, the first two days comprise lectures given by Specialist Anaesthetists, Intensivists, Physicians and Radiologists from parts of New Zealand and Australia. Customarily there are interactive lectures about the formal assessment of the relevant body systems, each followed by small group practice that is overseen by specialists and fellows. There are also sessions about clinical investigations and one given by local ex-examiners around the general aspects of expectations, presentation skills and demeanour.

The final two days incorporate group and individual sessions; the latter involves the playback of a recorded performance during a mock anaesthetic viva. Each candidate also receives a selection of mock medical patient vivas and anaesthetic vivas, all in timed examination conditions, as would be expected at the true final sittings, including the wearing of formal attire. This is usually spread over 2 or 3 sessions.

Until recent years, the course timing was set conveniently after the written section and before the oral section of the Final Examination. The format of the examination has subsequently changed to MCQs, (multiple choice) SAQs (short answer) and two medical vivas being examined initially and collectively. This is now some weeks before the remainder anaesthetic vivas. This has meant participants attending our course without any prior exposure to the examination. We realise this, and have elected to continue to focus on the oral element, as we feel there is an educational gap in the specific preparation of the vivas.

We are pleased to say we have had consistently positive feedback and good pass rates from candidates. We constantly evaluate and make changes where necessary.

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