The First MRCS Part B Revision Course Delivered Online

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The Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) Examination

Part A: SBA MCQs

Part B: OSCE
Aim

Deliver a high quality, real-time, interactive MRCS Part B revision course on a virtual platform
Planning & Organisation

• Pre-existing course content adapted for online delivery

• Advertised via a website/social media

• Candidates provided information about their training status, location, and exam history upon registration

• Candidates were sent pre-course material
Candidates

• 43 candidates registered for the course. Majority UK-based with attendees also from Ukraine, Nigeria, and India

• Each assigned a specific number, which allowed allocation into smaller groups for sessions and ensured all candidates were questioned throughout the course
Faculty

- MRCS-qualified surgical trainees and consultants
- Medical consultant involved in organising the course and running the ‘Communication skills’ session
- Critical care consultant, and a consultant pathologist who lead the ‘Critical care’ and ‘Pathology’ sessions respectively
- The team engaged with each other either in person or virtually during the course.
Location

• Delivered over two days, both running from 08:30 to 17:00, from Musgrove Park Hospital Academy (Somerset Foundation Trust, UK) as in previous course iterations

• Single wireless hospital network access, with 4G hotspots available as backup
Technology

• Zoom.us

• A single course organiser with previous experience of running large Zoom-based teaching sessions co-ordinated the software and managed the candidates

• A trial run with faculty was performed the day before the course
Course Structure

• **Webinars**: live lecture style presentations broadcast to the whole group of participants

• **Small group teaching sessions**: Groups of 8-10 candidates

• **One to one sessions**: mock OSCE at the end of the course
Encouraged to turn on their camera

All participants could post questions in the group chat

Mobile phone numbers

Technology
Feedback

• Digital feedback forms
• Received from 22/38 candidates
• Overall course quality rated 94/100
Feedback

- Virtual Course (September 2020, 38 attendees)
- Face to face course (January 2020, 18 attendees)
Feedback

• **Excellent value for money.** Great level of breadth and depth covered. Would highly recommend.

• Clearly a huge amount of effort and consideration has been put into running this course. Barely any technical difficulties and amazing co-ordination. I am really grateful and impressed and will be raving about it for the next few weeks!

• Very well organized and well-conducted. The majority of crucial topics were covered during the course. Also, the interactive hot seat approach was very useful to overcome apprehension and exam stress. Thank you very much for the course.
Learning points

• Reduced cost = greater accessibility

• Dedicated moderator(s) essential

• Realtime online interaction can simulate the ‘performance’ aspects of an OSCE

• Online delivery is here to stay – Blended courses in the future
References

- All images from Noun Project: achmed mulyana, IYIKON, Dairy Free Design, LAFS, Erin Standley, b farias, Asyifa Waskito, Oleksandr Panaskovskyi, ibrandify, Alfredo, Dinosoftlab, pongsakom, Luis Prado, Denicon, Creative Stall