

**Special Notes on Arrangements for
Part III – Clinical Examination of the 2024 Licensing Examination (First Sitting)
under the COVID-19 Situation**

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, there will be a number of special arrangements for Part III – Clinical Examination of the 2024 Licensing Examination (“LE”) (First Sitting) which are set out below:

1) Examination Venue and Format of the Clinical Examination

The examination may be held in **non-clinical venue**. The format of the Clinical Examination is at **Appendix I**.

2) COVID-19 Test

Candidates who are tested positive for COVID-19 on the day of examination should excuse themselves from taking the examination.

3) Infection Control Measures

Infection control measures will be implemented at the examination venue.

4) Right to Alter Infection Control Requirements and/or Cancel the Examination with Short Notice

The Medical Council of Hong Kong reserves the right to alter the infection control requirements and/or cancel the examination in short notice and should not be held liable for any loss and/or expenses incurred by candidates arising from alterations of infection control requirements and/or cancellation of the examination.

I understand the above arrangements and I agree to comply with the requirements as set out in these “Special Notes on Arrangements for Part III – Clinical Examination of the 2024 Licensing Examination (First Sitting) under the COVID-19 Situation”. Any failure to comply with any of the above requirements will be regarded as having breached the examination rules and shall be subject to penalties or even disqualification from the examination.

Signature : _____
Name of Candidate : _____
Candidate Number : _____
Date : _____

LICENSING EXAMINATION OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

2024 CLINICAL EXAMINATION (FIRST SITTING)

Candidates will be examined in four disciplines, namely Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Details are as follows :

Medicine

Candidates will be tested in a long case for 20 minutes and several short cases for 40 minutes. **Real patients** will be involved.

To prepare for the long case, candidates will be given 40 minutes for history taking and physical examination, followed by 20 minutes for questioning by two examiners. He should check for the physical signs of the patients. Candidates will be tested on the clinical management of the patients.

For the short cases, candidates will be examined by two pairs of examiners at 2 Stations, each for 20 minutes. At Station 1, candidates will be tested in cases of Abdomen (for 8 minutes), Cardiovascular System (for 8 minutes) and General Medicine (such as Joint, Thyroid, Fundi, etc.) (for 4 minutes). At Station 2, candidates will be tested in cases of Respiratory System (for 8 minutes), Neurology (for 8 minutes) and General Medicine (for 4 minutes). Written tasks can be part of a station in short-case examinations.

Surgery

Candidates will be tested on a selection of cases and investigations in Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). There will be 8 OSCE stations (5 interactive stations and 3 non-interactive stations) with one examiner and in a 6-minute duration for each station. The aim of the examination is to ensure that candidates are competent to handle clinical situations, including history taking, physical examination, interpretation of investigations and treatment. The stations may be either interactive or non-interactive. At least one station will be devoted to an orthopaedic problem. **Real patients** will be involved in interactive stations. Candidates may need to complete written tasks in non-interactive stations. Rest stations may also be present in addition to these 8 OSCE stations.

Some of the examples of themes in OSCE stations are as follows: history taking and communication, investigation and management, procedural skills, X-ray in Orthopaedic Surgery and clinical stations in head & neck, breast, vascular system, abdomen, hernia, lumps & bumps and Orthopaedic Surgery.

Paediatrics

Each candidate will be tested in a long case and four short cases.

In the long case examination, he will be given 20 minutes to clerk case with a surrogate in the presence of two examiners, followed by a 10-minute discussion with the two examiners. The aim is to test the candidate's communication skills, competence in interpreting symptoms and identifying the key problems, and ability to arrive at a diagnosis and suggest relevant investigations and management measures.

In regard to the short cases, each candidate will be examined by four pairs of examiners for four virtual / simulated cases. These cases will cover cardiovascular system, neurological system, respiratory system, and general examination. Each case will last for 10 minutes. The aim is to test the candidate's competency in identifying and interpreting physical signs. **No** real patients will be involved. Video clips, laboratory findings, and other clinical materials will be used.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

1. This is an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).
2. There will be 10 stations (3 interactive stations and 7 non-interactive stations) with one examiner for each interactive station. Each candidate will start with a specific station and then rotate through all the stations.
3. There may be station(s) to examine the candidates' clinical skills. There may be resting station(s) depending on the number of candidates. **No** real patients will be involved.
4. Each station lasts for 9 minutes. A bell will ring to signify the start of the examination. At the end of the 9 minutes, a bell will ring again to signify the end of the station and all candidates must move out of the station. There will be a one-minute break between each station.
5. Candidates are not allowed to write on the answer sheets during any resting stations or the break between stations.
6. Non-interactive stations :
 - Each station will have one or more probe objects, based on which candidates are required to answer questions. The probe objects could be anything related to the specialty, such as a chart, an instrument, a photograph, a pathology specimen, a short description of a patient, etc.
 - Candidates are required to write their answers only in the answer sheets provided.
 - Where appropriate, answers may be given in note form or phrases or lists. Answers can be given in either English or Chinese.
 - Candidates are not allowed to remove, alter, or write on the probes. Any attempt to change the probe in any form is not allowed.
7. Interactive stations :
 - Question sheets may be given to the candidate. Candidates are allowed to read the question during the one-minute break between stations but is not allowed to answer before the starting bell rings.

General

1. Examiners will normally speak in English throughout the examination. Some examiners may choose to speak in Cantonese or Putonghua to facilitate communication if they are proficient in that language.
2. Candidates may choose English, Cantonese, or Putonghua as the spoken language used in the examination. Interpreters will be arranged if the language used by the candidate is different from that of the patients and if the candidate has so indicated in the application form.

3. The written signages and instructions in the clinical examination, being simple English, will be provided in English only.

Licentiate Committee
January 2021