

CASC Blueprint

At any one sitting of the CASC, candidates will face 16 stations.

There will be a focus on a specific clinical skill in each station. Each station will focus on either history taking, examination or patient management.

Communication skills will be assessed in every station. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate adaptive communication skills depending on the scenario.

In the morning session there will be 6 management stations, 1 history and 1 examination. These stations are 7 minutes with 4 minutes reading time

In the afternoon there will be 4 history and 4 examination stations. These stations are 7 minutes with 90 seconds reading time.

Candidates will be examined across a range of clinical scenarios commonly encountered in psychiatric practice. This could include scenarios in in-patient settings, out-patient, emergency care, hospital liaison, prisons and other situations where a psychiatric assessment might be requested.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate the skills of history taking, examination and management in scenarios with patients of any age or developmental ability in the following categories

- Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders (includes dementias and delirium)
- Mental and Behavioural Disorders due to psychoactive substance use
- Schizophrenia, schizotypal or delusional disorders
- Mood (affective) Disorders
- Neurotic, stress related and somatoform disorders (includes anxiety disorders, OCD, dissociative (conversion) and somatoform disorders)
- Behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors (includes Eating Disorders and disorders associated with the puerperium)
- Disorders of adult personality and behaviour (includes personality disorder and gender identity disorder and disorders of sexual preference)
- Disorders of psychological development (including pervasive developmental disorders, autism)
- Behavioural and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence (includes Hyperkinetic disorders and tic disorders)

The CASC grade descriptors can be found in the [CASC guide for Candidates \(Preparing for exams\)](#)

Candidates will be expected to respect equality and diversity.

Normally candidates could expect to encounter the following stations:

- At least one station with a psychopathology focus
- At least one station with risk assessment/safety planning as the focus
- At least one station with cognitive or capacity assessment as the focus
- At least one station with a psychotherapy theme
- At least one station with an old age psychiatry theme
- At least one station with a developmental theme (either psychiatry of intellectual disability or child and adolescent psychiatry)
- At least one station focussing on physical health (includes physical examination and interpretation of test results)

Candidates are not expected to have knowledge of specific mental health or capacity laws (as these vary depending on the jurisdiction) but they will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the principles involved in involuntary admission and treatment under mental health law and a patient's capacity to make decisions about treatment.