

## **MRCPsych Written Papers Quality Assurance Process**

The Royal College of Psychiatrists are committed to ensuring the provision of a reliable and valid written examination and employs several measures in which to ensure the quality of our written examinations. This includes 3 Panels, Paper A, Paper B and a Quality Assurance Panel.

Both written Paper A and Paper B have designated panels responsible for question writing, and peer review of question items before each exam sitting. Each panel is made up of consultant psychiatrists, higher trainee psychiatrists and other subject matter experts to cover of the range of knowledge tested in the theory papers, and who independently review question items. All panel members receive training for question writing which includes but is not limited to training on how to avoid bias when writing items and stations.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists employ a designated Quality Assurance Panel to ensure that all MRCPsych examination questions are of the highest possible standard, and rigorously test the syllabus. The panel consists of college members who are Consultant psychiatrists and Higher Trainee representatives. Panel members undergo a thorough application and interview process before appointed to the panel. The Quality Assurance panel ensure the examinations are consistent with other assessment methods used in training and assessment of psychiatrists and other doctors. They are responsible for review of all questions before each exam sitting, to ensure questions are free from colloquialisms/jargon, out-of-date terminology, and are not too UK-focused. The use of a purpose-built questions bank ensures that question items are constantly refined and developed considering previous performance data.

The Quality assurance process includes a first review of a large pool question items by either the Paper A or Paper B panel. Questions are selected for the paper and are then allocated to the Quality assurance panel members by specialty, who will also review all questions and make amendments where necessary. The Quality Assurance panel are also responsible for checking references and as well as language and grammar of all question items. At final stage all questions are peer reviewed by the Examinations Sub Committee who will discuss the questions and comments made by the previous two panels and action the amendments. Following that the final paper is approved by the committee for use in the examination.

Following the examination the Standard Setting panel will use the [Modified Angoff Method](#) for setting the pass mark. At this stage the Standard Setting panel will also review the performance of each question item and propose specific question items that may need to be reviewed by the Examinations Sub Committee. The Examinations Sub-Committee is also provided with a detailed report by the College's Psychometric Analyst to ensure that candidates' scores are accurate and reasonably free from measurement error. This report includes but is not limited to; candidate pass rates by gender, primary medical qualification, training post, country of work, and attempts; reliability coefficients; item discrimination statistics and Pearson's r correlation statistics for each question and standard error of measurement statistic for the paper.