SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING THE ROYAL COLLEGE
ORAL COMPONENT EXAMINATION IN PSYCHIATRY

The Oral examination is composed entirely of OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) stations. These OSCE stations will be used to assess skills, knowledge and competence in clinical psychiatry including, but not necessarily restricted to, the following:

- recognition of phenomenology
- diagnostic skills
- risk assessment skills
- mental status examination skills
- physical examination skills
- case formulation skills
- interpretation of radiological studies or laboratory investigations
- development of a management plan
- prescribing treatment and writing orders
- counseling skills and psychotherapeutic skills
- writing consultation letters or reports
- oral presentation skills
- communication skills
- evaluation of literature scientific and critical appraisal skills
- assessment of any of the CanMeds competencies

In keeping with the Objectives of Training and the Specialty Training Requirements documents, the examination content may include (but not be limited to) the following content areas:

- child and adolescent psychiatry
- geriatric psychiatry
- forensic psychiatry
- consultation-liaison psychiatry
- psychotic disorders
- bipolar and related disorders
- depressive disorders
- anxiety disorders
- personality disorders
- substance use disorders
- neurocognitive disorders

For the 2014 and 2015 examinations, DSM-IV and DSM-5 terminology will both be accepted. For 2016, DSM-5 terminology will be required.
The format of the OSCE is as follows:

The OSCE stations involve a variety of experiences. Each station is approximately 20 minutes in duration. One examiner is present in each of the OSCE stations. Instructions are given to the candidate as to what he or she is expected to do.

The following are some of the possible structure of stations:

- There may be a video for the candidate to watch and then proceed to answer questions from the examiner related to the video.
- There may be a written clinical vignette followed by questions from the examiner.
- There may be some role-playing scenarios with the examiner. Example: explaining how one would counsel a patient regarding the side-effects of medications.
- Stations may also involve interpretation of laboratory or medical imaging reports or creation of a consultation note or set of orders for a case.
- There are approximately 8 to 10 OSCE stations, each 20 minutes in duration.
- Candidates will be instructed to proceed to the next station at the end of each segment until they have completed all stations.
- Written instructions are attached to the table of the station for the candidate’s orientation.
- Further instructions will be given to the candidate during the station when they are necessary for the understanding of the task.
- Laboratory or other information may also be presented to the candidates in the course of each OSCE station.
- There will not be any simulated patients present at the OSCE examination.
- Videos may be of simulated or volunteer patients who have given appropriate consent.
- It is possible that the candidate will encounter an examiner who they have previously met or worked with. This is permissible given the multiple testing points involved in the condensed examination.
- Examiners may keep notes on their scoring sheets and may refer to their watches and prompt candidates in order to keep the examination on schedule.
- Examiners will not be aware of any candidate’s performance on any other part of the examination.
- An approved observer may enter any of the stations at any time to observe the conduct of the examination. The observer will not interact with the candidate or the examiner.