The Vascular Specialty Specific Exam (SSE) is a mid-training written exam. Trainees are eligible to sit this exam in line with the RACS Conduct of Surgical Science Examination in Vascular Surgery policy (from the beginning of SET 2 and must have passed before the end of SET 3). Trainees may sit the exam up to 4 times, but the last chance to sit is June of SET 3. There are 2 sittings of the exam each year in February and June.

The exam is marked out of 480. There are 120 stems with 4 distractors per stem. Each distractor is true or false. There is no predefined pass mark. The pass mark for each exam is individually set by a panel of subject matter experts (Vascular Surgeons) after each exam. The exam is intended to assess the required core knowledge of the surgical sciences required for safe vascular surgical practice, with most candidates obtaining the required pass mark to progress in their surgical training.

The questions are based on the curriculum for the SET training program in Vascular Surgery. The exam is focused on basic surgical sciences relevant to Vascular Surgery, rather than clinical domains. The categories and number of stems are listed below.

40	Vascular Anatomy and Variation
5	Abdomen
5	Head and neck
10	Lower limb
5	Nervous system
5	Pelvic
5	Thorax
5	Upper limb
25	Principles of vascular ultrasound
5	Radiation physics, biology and safety
5	Endothelium, atherosclerosis and restenosis
10	Haemostasis and thrombosis
5	Ischaemia, reperfusion, shock and sepsis
5	Principles of wound healing and angiogenesis
5	Vascular haemodynamics and biomaterials
5	Vasculitic conditions and other vascular pathologies
5	Pathophysiology of aneurysm disease and aortic pathology
5	Lymphoedema and related conditions
5	Principles of other imaging and investigation modalities

A practice exam of 60 stems will be released shortly. The questions will reflect those in the exam but will not necessarily match the number or cover every category. It is merely a guide to the level of knowledge assessed in the exam.

The recommended reading list below is not exhaustive but covers the vast majority of the questions in each category.

Anatomy

- Last's Anatomy, Regional and Applied, 9th Edition (Revised), 2019 – McMinn R.M.H., Churchill Livingstone
- Wheater's Functional Histology 6th Edition, 2014 - Young, B., O'Dowd, G., Woodfood, P., Elsevier
    - Chapter 8 & 11
- Langman's Medical Embryology, 10th Edition, 2006 – Sadler T.W., Lippincott Williams and Wilkins
    - Chapter 12
- Color Atlas of Anatomy, 8th Ed. 2014, - Rohen, J.W. & Drecoll, L., Williams & Wilkins
- Anatomic Exposures in Vascular Surgery, 3rd Edition, 2013 – Valentine, R.J. & Wind, G.G., Lippincott Williams and Wilkins

Pathology

- Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th Edition - Kumar, Abbas, AK; Fausto, N., Elsevier
    - Chapters 3, 4, 9, 11

Physiology

- Ganong's Review of Medical Physiology, 26th Edition - Barrett, K. E., Barman, S. M., Boitana, S. Brooks, H.L, Mc Graw Hill Lang
    - Chapter 31
- Guyton and Hall, Textbook of Medical Physiology, 13th Edition – John E. Hall, Elsevier
    - Chapter 14 – 18, 20, 24

Rutherford's Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Surgery, 10th Edition – Sidway, A.N., Perler, B.A. Elsevier

- Chapters 21, 26, 28 – 32, 65 – 70, 71, 78, 141, 138 – 140, 142 – 143, 167, 170

Rang and Dale's Pharmacology, 9th Edition, 2019 – Ritter, J.M., MacEwen, D., Rang, H.P, Flower, R., Henderson, G., Elsevier

- Chapters 23, 24, 25

Mechanisms of Vascular Disease: A Textbook for Vascular Specialist, 3rd Edition – Fitridge, R., Springer

- Chapters 1-4, 5, 6, 9 – 11, 12 – 14, 16, 17 – 18, 20, 25, 27, 28, 30 – 31

The Physics and Technology of Diagnostic Ultrasound, 2nd Edition, 2020 – Gill, R., High Frequency Publishing

Vascular Ultrasound How, Why and When, 3rd Edition, 2010 – Thrush, A. and Hartshone, T., Elsevier

Introduction to Vascular Ultrasonography 7th Edition, Pellerito, J. and Polak, J.