

Division:	Education Development & Assessment	Ref. No.	EDA-EXA-018
Department:	Examinations		
Title:	Conduct of the Orthopaedic Principles and Basic Science Examination		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The policy provides the criteria for the conduct of the Orthopaedic Principles and Basic Science (OPBS) Examination.

The OPBS Examination is a summative assessment of a candidate's knowledge, understanding and application of the basic sciences relevant to Orthopaedic Surgery early in their surgical training.

2. KEYWORDS

Orthopaedic Surgery, OPBS, Examination

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Format of the OPBS Examination

- 3.1.1. The examination consists of two papers (Paper A and Paper B) each containing 100 Type X (True/False) multiple choice questions.
- 3.1.2. The examination is conducted over two consecutive days. Each paper runs for 2 ½ hours.

3.2. Eligibility to Present for the Examination

Active and interrupted trainees on the SET Orthopaedic Surgery training program are eligible to present for this examination.

- 3.2.1. A trainee who has deferred commencement of his/her surgical training is not eligible to present for this examination.

3.3. Prerequisites

The following must be successfully completed prior to presenting for this examination:

- 3.3.1. The Generic Surgical Science Examination (GSSE), and
- 3.3.2. The SET Clinical Examination by;
 - a. New Zealand Trainees
 - b. Australian Trainees commencing prior to 2018.

3.4. Application

- 3.4.1. The examination dates and application closing dates are published on the RACS website.
- 3.4.2. A candidate must apply to present for the examination through the online registration system, via the RACS website and pay the full examination fee at the time of registration.
- 3.4.3. An application outside the published timeframes will not be accepted.

3.5. Venue and Dates

- 3.5.1. The examination is offered twice annually, generally in June and October in venues across Australia and New Zealand.

3.6. Time Limitations and Number of Attempts

- 3.6.1. The trainee must pass this examination by the completion of SET 3.

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- 3.6.2. A trainee who fails to successfully complete the examination by the end of SET 3 will be dismissed.
- 3.6.3. The examination is limited to four (4) attempts. Failure to pass on the fourth attempt will result in dismissal.
- 3.6.4. Each sitting of the examination undertaken will count towards the maximum four (4) attempts, irrespective of whether the trainee is in active clinical training, or on interruption.

3.7. Conduct

- 3.7.1. The conduct of the examination is the responsibility of the Orthopaedic Surgery Speciality Court and others as deemed appropriate by the Australian Orthopaedic Association Federal Training Committee and the New Zealand Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.
- 3.7.2. The Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Court is responsible for setting the questions and defining the standards of the examination.
- 3.7.3. Syllabus areas covered in the examination include anatomy, bacteriology, biomaterials, biomechanics, embryology, imaging, kinesiology, pathology, pharmacology and statistics.
- 3.7.4. Invigilators play a central role to ensure that security of the written components of the examination is maintained at all times.
- 3.7.5. Disruptive behaviour by a candidate in any segment of the examination will be investigated as misconduct. If a candidate is reported to be causing a disturbance during the examination, he/she will be removed from the examination room.
- a. The candidate involved will not be given extra time at the end of the examination for any reason including time taken to address the incident.
 - b. An examiner or other person supervising an examination segment will complete an incident report for consideration by the Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Court.

3.8. Prohibited Equipment or Materials

- 3.8.1. Equipment or materials which are not permitted to be taken into an examination room by a candidate ("prohibited equipment or materials") includes but is not limited to:
- a. all watches, mobile phones, calculators, portable computers, tablets or other electronic audio-recording devices (e.g. audio-recording wrist bands, pens, spectacles, mp3 players, iPods, iPads, etc.).
 - b. notes, books, textbooks or other materials.
- 3.8.2. A candidate who takes prohibited equipment or materials into an examination room will be informed that he or she must leave the examination room immediately and will not be permitted to take further part in the examination.
- 3.8.3. The candidate's result for the examination will not be approved and any examination fees paid will be forfeited as per terms stipulated in clause 3.14.

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3.8.4. An examiner or other person supervising an examination segment will complete an incident report for consideration by the Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Court.

3.9. Cheating

3.9.1. Cheating is defined as, but is not limited to:

- a. gaining or attempting to gain access to any materials such as specimens or images, or patients involved in the examination, prior to an examination;
- b. copying, or allowing another candidate to copy, answers during the course of an examination;
- c. disseminating or making available questions or answers to another candidate or prospective candidate relating to the current examination;
- d. procuring knowledge of the questions, and their answers, from anyone before the examination.

3.9.2. An examiner or other person supervising an examination segment will, upon identifying suspected cheating during the examination, complete an incident report for consideration by the Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

3.10. Report of prohibited equipment or materials or cheating

3.10.1. Upon receipt of an incident report of the taking of prohibited equipment or materials into an examination room or cheating, the Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Court will transmit the report to the relevant national training board for consideration pursuant to the RACS Misconduct policy and the Board's regulations;

3.10.2. If a report on the taking of prohibited equipment or materials into an examination room or cheating is received by Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Court or the relevant national training board receives the report directly:

- a. prior to the examination taking place; the candidate's application for presenting to an examination will be withheld until such time an investigation has concluded; if an allegation is upheld in addition to any penalty imposed by the Board, the candidate's application will not be valid and the entire examination fee paid will be forfeited as per terms stipulated in clause 3.14 of this Policy.
- b. during the examinations and prior to the examination results being made available to candidates - the examination result will be withheld until such time as an investigation has concluded; if the allegation is upheld, in addition to any penalty imposed by the Board, the examination result will not be approved and the candidate will be regarded as having an unsatisfactory performance.
- c. after the examination results have been made available to candidates; if the allegation is upheld, in addition to any penalty imposed by the Board, the examination result will be withdrawn and the candidate will be regarded as having an unsatisfactory performance.

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3.11. Privacy and Confidentiality

Any person involved with the OPBS examination and candidates presenting for the examination shall treat as strictly confidential any materials, images, content or discussions of any examination component viewed or discussed for the purposes of conducting the OPBS examination. Any breach of confidentiality by any candidate may be treated as cheating and dealt with according to RACS process.

3.12. Special Circumstances Relating to Examinations

Refer to policies EDA-EXA-034 Special Consideration and EDA-EXA-035 Reasonable Adjustments for Disability.

3.13. Results

- 3.13.1. The results are approved by the Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Court of Examiners.
- 3.13.2. The Candidate will be awarded a result of pass/fail only
- 3.13.3. Both papers A and B are considered to determine the candidate's overall result.
- 3.13.4. The candidate will be informed of his/her result via email.
- 3.13.5. Results of this examination are communicated directly to the relevant national training Board.

3.14. Withdrawals and Refunds

- 3.14.1. A candidate who wishes to withdraw from the examination must do so via the RACS website and online withdrawal form.
- 3.14.2. A percentage of the examination fee will be refunded in accordance with the following timeline.
 - a. A candidate will be refunded 95% of the examination fee if notification of withdrawal from the examination is received prior to the application closing date.
 - b. A candidate will be refunded 50% of the examination fee if notification of withdrawal from the examination is received after the application closing date and more than 10 business days prior to the commencement of the first scheduled day of the examination.
- 3.14.3. A candidate will not receive a refund if notification of withdrawal from the examination is received fewer than 10 business days prior to the commencement of the first scheduled day of the examination.
- 3.14.4. A candidate will not receive a refund for non-attendance at the examination.
- 3.14.5. A candidate will not receive a refund if he/she is prevented from participating in the examination as a result of taking prohibited equipment or materials into an examination room or cheating or misconduct.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Policies

EDA-EXA-010	Conduct of the Fellowship Examinations
EDA-EXA-034	Special Consideration

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EDA-EXA-035 Reasonable Adjustments for Disability
ETA-SET-007 Dismissal from Surgical Training
ETA-SET-010 Trainee Registration and Variation
ETA-SET-026 SET Misconduct

Other

Application for Special Consideration
Application for Reasonable Adjustment for Disability
Examination Rules for Candidates
Examinations Incident Report

Approver Education Board
Authoriser Council

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