



الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الصحية
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties

Internal Medicine Postgraduate Examination CONTENT GUIDELINE



EXAMINATION OUTLINE

Examination Outline:

The Internal Medicine postgraduate examination questions encompass different sections within the area of internal medicine. Within each section a range of topics that are encountered in general clinical service are listed. Each of these sections comprises a specific percentage of the overall examination. The sections are described in the following table:

Category	Content Outline	Weight
<i>AMBULATORY CARE</i>	Dizziness Headaches Low Back Pain Hypertension Cancer Screening Vaccination Headaches Diabetes Hyperlipidemia Esophageal Disorders Peptic Ulcer disease Irritable Bowel Disease Urinary tract infections Sexually Transmitted Infections Brucellosis Schistosomiasis Leishmaniasis Malaria Anemia Anticoagulation Obstructive Lung diseases	11%
<i>CARDIOLOGY</i>	Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) Arrhythmias Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) Myocardial diseases Pericardial diseases Valvular Diseases Cardiovascular risk reduction Peripheral vascular disease Perioperative cardiac assessment Aortic disorders	10%
<i>CRITICAL CARE</i>	Shock and Sepsis Respiratory Failure and Ventilation Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) Resuscitation Fluids Transfusion Acid–Base and Electrolyte Disturbances Sedation and Delirium Ventilators: invasive and noninvasive Targeted Temperature Management after Cardiac Arrest	5%



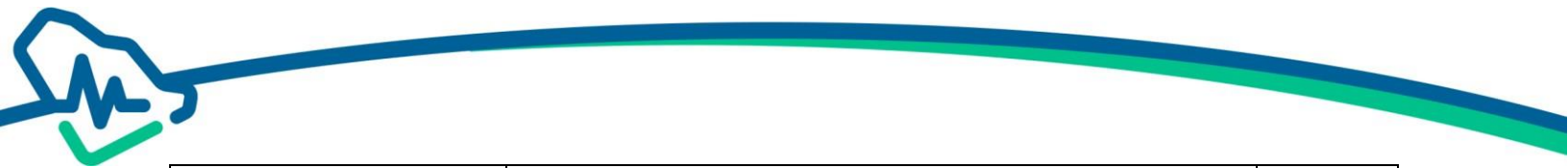
ENDOCRINOLOGY	Glycemic Emergencies Thyroid Disorders Adrenal Disorders Osteoporosis Calcium-Based Disorders Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome Pituitary Disorders Male Hypogonadism Hirsutism Metabolism Disorders Growth and Abnormal Stature	8%
GASTROENTEROLOGY	Gastrointestinal Bleeding Acute Liver Failure Hepatitis Liver Cirrhosis Fulminant Hepatic Failure Budd-Chiari syndrome Acute and chronic diarrhea Colonic polyposis Colonic cancer Gastrointestinal infections Disorders affecting the peritoneum Liver Abscesses Inflammatory Bowel Disease Pancreatic and Biliary Diseases Diverticulitis Intestinal Ischemia Malabsorption Syndromes GI diseases in pregnancy	10%



HEMATOLOGY	Transfusion Reactions Venous Thromboembolism Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia Hematologic Malignancies Bleeding Disorders Hemoglobinopathies Hypercoagulable disorders Thrombocytopenia Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura Peri-operative management of bleeding/thrombotic disorders Hematological diseases in pregnancy Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation Abnormalities in peripheral blood smear Myeloproliferative disorders	9%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	Antimicrobial agents Infective endocarditis Pneumonia CNS infections HIV/AIDS Infections in an immunocompromised patient Skin and Soft Tissue Infections Opportunistic Infections Hospital acquired infections Tuberculosis MERS-CoV infections Dengue and other hemorrhagic fevers Clostridium difficile Infection Fungal infections Principals of infections control Principals of antimicrobial prophylaxis Tick-Borne Diseases	9%



<p>NEPHROLOGY</p>	<p>Acute Kidney Injury Chronic Kidney Disease End-Stage Renal Disease Glomerular Diseases Kidney stones Electrolyte disturbances Kidney Transplant Immunosuppressive Therapy Kidney Transplant complications Dialysis related complications Preoperative assessment of renal patients Renal diseases in pregnancy Hypertension</p>	<p>8%</p>
<p>NEUROLOGY</p>	<p>Acute Stroke Intra-cerebral hemorrhage Neurological manifestations of systemic diseases Carotid Stenosis Meningitis and Encephalitis (Infections of the Central Nervous System) Epidural Abscess and Vertebral Osteomyelitis Transverse myelitis Optic neuritis Demyelinating syndromes Movement disorders Paraplegia Neuromuscular disorders Seizures and Epilepsy Mononeuropathies and polyneuropathies Altered Mental Status</p>	<p>7%</p>
<p>ONCOLOGY</p>	<p>Oncologic emergencies Complications of cancer therapy including hematopoietic, cardiac, pulmonary, genitourinary, sexual and renal complications Malignant pleural effusion Brain Metastases Venous Thromboembolism in Malignancy Malignant Bowel Obstruction Solid organ malignancies</p>	<p>5%</p>
<p>PULMONOLOGY</p>	<p>Restrictive Lung diseases Occupational Lung diseases Suppurative lung diseases Pleural effusion Lung masses Sleep apnea syndromes Pulmonary vascular disorders Pulmonary vasculitis Preoperative pulmonary assessment</p>	<p>9%</p>



RHEUMATOLOGY	Osteoarthritis Inflammatory Arthritis Septic Arthritis Crystal induced arthropathy Rheumatoid arthritis Spondyloarthropathies Psoriatic arthritis Reactive arthritis Gonococcal arthritis Enteropathic arthritis Vasculitides Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Systemic Sclerosis Inflammatory Myopathies Sarcoidosis Behcet's disease Relapsing polychondritis Cogan's syndrome Metabolic bone disorders Utility and interpretation of antibody testing Synovial fluid analysis	9%
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* Blueprint distributions of the examination may differ up to +/-5% in each category

* Applies to Internal Medicine postgraduate examinations as of Jan 2020



EXAMINATION DOMAINS

These domains reflect practice that will be assessed in all examinations. The domains are not mutually independent such that items can be designed for a particular domain or for multiple domains solely. Principles of patient safety underscore each of the domains.

ASSESSMENT/DIAGNOSIS

Discriminates important from unimportant information and reaches a reasonable differential diagnosis and/or diagnosis. Explores illness and disease using clinical judgment to gather, interpret and synthesize relevant information.

MANAGEMENT

Discusses therapeutic management, including but not limited to pharmacotherapy, adverse effects and patient safety, illness prevention and health promotion when appropriate. Selects appropriate treatments (including monitoring, counseling, and follow-up); considers risks and benefits of therapy and instructs the patient accordingly.

INVESTIGATIONS

Selects suitable laboratory or diagnostic studies to elucidate or confirm the diagnosis; takes into consideration associated risks and benefits.

DATA INTERPRETATION

Interprets investigative data appropriately in the context of the problem(s).

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS

Attitudes, knowledge, and skills relating to clinical and/or medical administrative competence, communication, ethics, as well as societal and legal duties. The understanding and application of these behaviors demonstrates a commitment to excellence, respect, integrity, empathy, and accountability. Professional behaviors also include but are not limited to self-awareness, reflection, life-long learning, leadership, and scholarly habits.



REFERENCES

Suggested References
▪ Kumar and Clark's Clinical Medicine
▪ Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine
▪ Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine
▪ Nicholas clinical examination
▪ Macleod's clinical examination
▪ Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP)
▪ UpToDate

Note: This list is intended for use as a study aid only. SCFHS does not intend the list to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are the exam questions necessarily taken from these sources.