

Question Spotting

Question Spotting (I)

- Social Security Benefits
- Child Development Milestones
- Drugs in Pregnancy
- The Mental Health Act
- Notifiable Diseases
- Diagnostic symptoms of Mental Health conditions like schizophrenia, depression
- The consultation studies eg Balint, Pendleton, Neighbour etc

Question Spotting (II)

Don't forget that 15% of the marks are for administration and management. Therefore you should know something about:

- The business aspects such as fees and accounts
- Certification, allowances and benefits
- Effective use of resources, such as investigations and prescribing
- Information technology
- Legal aspects such as health and safety regulations, and employment issues
- Professional regulations such as clinical corporate governance, risk management and patient safety
- Regulatory framework within the NHS

Why not spend some time with your practice manager going through some of these areas? *I'm sure they'll be delighted you asked.*

Question Spotting (III)

There are even more marks (20%) on research, epidemiology and statistics. Therefore familiarise yourself with:

- The principles of audit and its application to demonstrate the ability of assessing the quality of patient care
- The application of critical appraisal skills
- The terms used in both statistics and evidence based medicine as described in the appendices of the journal clinical evidence, BMJ publication. You can also access this online www.clinicalevidence.org.uk

Get to grips with statistics; get used to data presented in tables (you can get MCQs asking you to work out NNT etc):

- Working out true/false positive/negative rates
- Working out positive/negative predictive values
- Numbers Needed to Treat (NNT)

They are easy marks to get but only if you know how to do the sums.

This is Important:

The MCQ paper is made up of questions relevant to general practice from the following key areas:

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| • Medicine | 65% | } 35% |
| • Administration and management | 15% | |
| • Research, epidemiology and statistics | 20% | |

So, if you only ever concentrated on the clinical arena, the most you could score is 65% (that's if you're brilliant). But the overall pass mark is usually around 70% or so.

However, if you were fairly clued up on admin stuff, research, evidence and statistics but average on the clinical areas, that means you could score (10+15+50 =)75% quite comfortably. In addition, you would get some of the remaining 25% by guessing. The clinical domain is limitless but admin, research and statistics is more confined. In preparation for the MCQ, make effective use of time and make sure you concentrate on these areas too.