Recommendations for revision

1. Start now so you have time for the information to sink in.
2. Read all of the information in this document.
3. Go through all online lectures again and make notes as you go.
4. Read the related chapters of the provided textbook as you revise each section.
5. Complete Mock examination papers as we provide them and ensure you are used to the format for completing the answer sheets.

The Written examination

The aim of the written examination is to assess knowledge and decision making to demonstrate that the candidates understanding and competency shows that they are safe to practice as a dental sedation nurse.

The examination consists of a written paper containing a mixture of Single Best Answer questions in the form of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQs).
**Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

The style of MCQ has the full title of 1 from 5 single best answer MCQs. They are written as follows:

- The question itself is usually two or three sentences long;
- Typically, the first sentence introduces the topic of the question;
- The final sentence usually asks a specific question based on the information given;
- They are designed to test the application of the relevant knowledge;
- There are always five answer options;
- Only one of those five will be the ‘best’, and therefore the correct, answer. Other options are not necessarily completely wrong, but there will always be one option that is clearly better than the others;
- The options to each question should always be homologous – of the same form (so, all types of sedation or all drug names etc); They are usually set out alphabetically or numerically in ascending order.

As the question style always follows the same pattern, it is not possible for candidates to ‘work out by elimination’ or ‘guess’ the correct answer – they must have the relevant knowledge and the understanding to be able to apply it to the scenario of the question. Only then can the single best answer be identified.

Similarly, as a logical alphabetical or numerical order is always followed in the answers, the correct answer cannot be determined by seeing how many times, say, option d) has been an answer, and therefore not choosing it again.

The single best answer will be at whichever option letter it falls at alphabetically or numerically. So it is theoretically possible, for example, for an examination to have an option in the same position (such as option d) as the correct answer for almost every
question asked, if the correct answer happens to fall at the position of option d) alphabetically or numerically.

Candidates mark their single answer choice on an optical marking sheet which will be computer marked.

For each question, you

indicate the answer they have chosen by making a horizontal line in a small box representing the relevant option.

Only one box must be filled in, otherwise the computer will reject that question. Similarly, the box must be filled in horizontally – drawing a circle around it or marking an answer option with a cross will also cause the computer to reject that question.

If a candidate needs to change an answer, they must erase the incorrect one thoroughly (not cross it out) otherwise the computer will reject the answer sheet. **SO USE A PENCIL**
**Extended Matching Questions (EMQs)**

This style of question follows a similar layout to the MCQ in some respects.

Usually, each options list has several questions (a question set) attached to it. Occasionally, though, there may be just one question for an option list.

The EMQ style questions are written as follows:

• The topic covered by the question set is stated, to help focus the candidate’s thoughts;

• A lead-in statement is then given which explains what the candidate is required to do, and how many options they are required to choose from the list, for each question. Usually, candidates are required to select just one option. If more than one option is required, this will always be clearly stated;

• The option list is then given, and it will usually contain a minimum of eight options;

• The items on each option list are always homologous – of the same form (so all surgical instruments, all drug names etc);

• They are usually set out alphabetically or numerically in ascending order;

• The questions are set out as several sentences giving a detailed scenario;

• The question might also include a photograph, radiograph, diagram etc.;

• They are designed to test analytical and reasoning skills, as well as requiring a detailed and concise application of knowledge;
ANSWER SHEETS INFORMATION

It is important that you fill in the answer sheet correctly because it is marked by a computer.

Incorrectly completed answer sheets will be rejected by the computer.

It is also important to understand that the question paper itself will not be marked. Only the answer sheets will be marked. Therefore, you must make sure that you have put all your answers onto the answer sheets.

This guide explains how to do this.

• You should remember that in this examination you get 1 mark for every correct answer. This is the same for MCQs and EMQs - every correct answer gains one mark. Incorrect answers get no marks, but marks are not deducted for an incorrect answer (negative marking).

• It is important to use a PENCIL (not a pen) to fill in the answer sheets. If you make a mistake or want to change an answer you have entered you must rub out the wrong answer - do not cross it out and write in the correct one.

• The answer sheets are pre-printed with your name, your NEBDN candidate number, your examination date and your examination centre. You should check that these details are correct before the examination begins.
Now let's see how to fill in the answers on the answer sheets:

MCQs

• There are 45 MCQs in the examination and you should aim to spend about 45 minutes answering these.

• Each MCQ briefly describes a situation and then asks a question about it. You select the best answer from a list of five options.

• You will see from the sample MCQ answer sheet that the questions are set out in groups of five. This is to make it easier for you to fill in the sheet.

• Each question number has 5 boxes to the right of it, labelled a, b, c, d, and e. You mark the box that corresponds to your answer to each question, so, for example:

  • If you think the answer to question 1 is option c, then you would mark across box 'c' in pencil.

  • If you think the answer to question 2 is option a, then you would mark across box 'a' in pencil.

  • Mark the correct answer for each question in the same way, for all 45 MCQs.

EMQs

• There are 30 EMQs in the examination and you should aim to spend up to 45 minutes answering these.

• The EMQ answer sheets are very similar to the MCQ answer sheets. However, you will notice two differences:

  • Questions are not all grouped in 5s (as on the MCQ answer sheet).

  • You will also notice that all of the EMQs have option lists that have more than 5 options.
• In EMQs each option might be used once, more than once, or not at all. This means that it is possible for more than one question in a group to have the same answer.

• It is advisable to decide on your answer to each question and enter it onto the answer sheet straight away.

• Don't forget that you can go back and change an answer, as long as you have time. If you do wish to change an answer, remember to erase the wrong one thoroughly – do not cross out the wrong answer or the computer will reject your answer sheet.

Also, remember that you do not lose a mark for an incorrect answer, so aim to answer as many questions as you possibly can.
Exam Technique and Rules

You have 90 minutes to complete the written examination. You should aim to spend about 45 minutes answering the MCQs and up to 45 minutes answering the EMQs.

1. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator will instruct candidates when to begin writing at the start of the examination session. Candidates should not begin writing until instructed to do so. Candidates must stop writing at the end of the examination when similarly instructed.

2. Except at the discretion of the Presiding Examiner, no candidate shall be allowed to enter an examination room later or to leave an examination room earlier than 30 minutes after the beginning of a session.

3. No candidate will be allowed to take into the examination room or have in their possession during an examination any notes, books or other reference material. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator has the authority to confiscate such documents.

4. Candidates must not take into the examination room, or have in their possession during an examination, any radio or audio equipment or mobile telephone.

5. Candidates must not take into the examination any electronic calculator or other means of data storage or retrieval.

6. Candidates are allowed a small bottle of water for consumption during the examination provided that no disturbance is caused to other candidates. Except with the written consent of the Board, no other items of food or drink may be taken into the examination room and the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator has authority to confiscate unauthorised items until the examination has ended.
7. Candidates must not take any examination papers from the examination.

8. Candidates must not communicate with any other candidates during the examination.

9. Candidates must not leave their places during the examination except with the permission of the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator. In case of a problem candidates must raise their hand to attract the attention of the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator.

10. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator will not be able to read or explain any questions.

11. A candidate who acts in such a way as to disturb or inconvenience other candidates will be dismissed from the examination by the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator.

12. Where applicable, candidates attending a written examination must comply with the safety requirements of the room in which the examination is being held.

13. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator shall report to the Board any breach of these Rules and shall inform the candidate that such a report is to be made.

14. Candidates are not required to wear their clinical uniform for the written paper and they should wear clothing they feel comfortable wearing.