



European Academy of Paediatrics

Paediatric Section of U.E.M.S.

Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes

Mise en place d'un examen Européen des connaissances en pédiatrie

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Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health



Royal College of
Paediatrics and Child Health

Leading the way in Children's Health

EAP NEWS

October 2016

The EBP and RCPCH agreed to set up a European Diploma in General Paediatrics.

A general agreement between the European Board of Paediatrics (EBP) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has been reached to develop and implement a European Diploma in General Paediatrics in London, on the 31st August, 2016.

The RCPCH has a long-lasting experience in paediatric education and assessments. The current MRCPCH exam cover three separate areas outlined

EBP needs to start developing questions that can be integrated into the pool of questions already held by the RCPCH. As suggested by Prof. Neena Modi, president of the RCPCH, initially the exams will be separate, but in the long-term it's likely that a single pan-European exam would emerge. The question to integrate this process into the UEMS/CESMA (Council for European Specialist Medical Assessment) initiative was felt to be solved by a CESMA appraisal of the first "European Diploma

European diplomas



Statement on Curricula & Assessments

EJD supports a concrete harmonization of post-graduate training (Curricula and Assessments) with respect to national health systems, traditions and requirements

- Continuous assessments of training progress are preferred
- Assessments should be
 - Voluntary (unless national exam) and free of charge
 - Available in national language
 - At venues that are easy accessible and at short travel time distance
 - If final exam: available > 1 / year
- Competencies and milestones clear @ start
- e-Portfolio use is highly recommended

RCPCH examinations

Level 1 Training 2-3 years General Paediatrics based in acute settings			Level 2 Training 1-2 years General Paediatrics (12mo) Neonatology (6mo) Community Paediatrics (6mo)		Level 3 Training 2-3 years General Paediatrics / Pediatrics with Special Interest / Sub Specialty		
ST1	ST2	ST3	ST4	ST5	ST6	ST7	ST8
Supervised Learning Events (20 per year)							
Assessment of Performance							
MRCPCH Examinations							
1-2 written exams (desirable)	2 out of 3 written exams (essential)	All written exams (essential)					
Clinical exams: Communication Data interpretation Safe prescribing Video scenarios							

RCPCH written examinations

Foundation of Practice examination (FoP, 75 questions):

- Areas of child health relevant to all physicians working with children
- Basic knowledge and clinical skills

Theory and Science examination (TaS, 75 questions):

- Paediatric scientific knowledge underpinning child care (specialist paediatrics)
- Skills attained after 1-2 training post of 6 mo each

Question types:

- Extended matching questions; best of 5 questions
- All answers are possible (distractors), but which is/are most correct?



Examination and Assessment Boards 8-9 November 2016

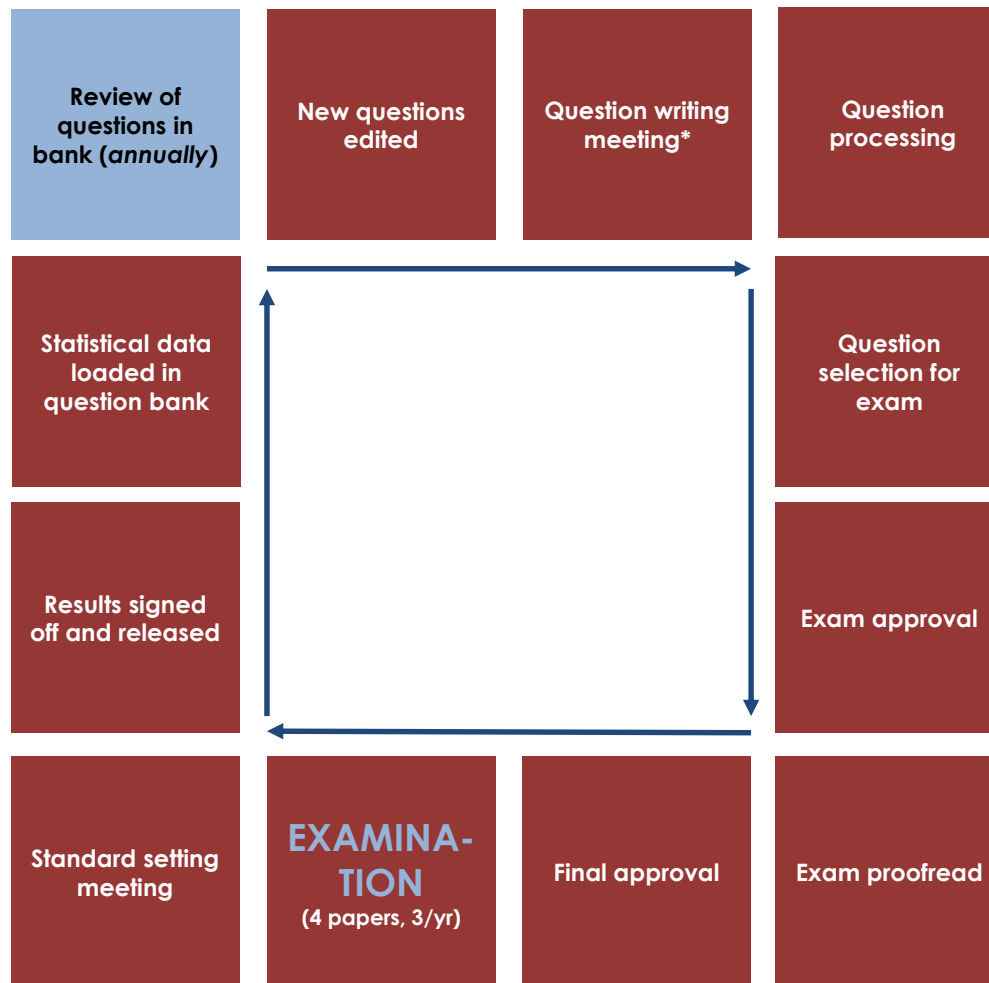
In memory of our friend and colleague Dr Simon Newell



Exam development

Questions

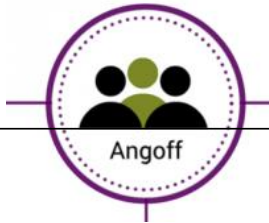
- up-to-date
- relevant to clinical practice



Exams

- test level of knowledge required
- set to the right standard
- supported by rigorous processes

Quality process: pass/fail standard



Procedure: after exam

Trained judges estimate how difficult each test item is in an exam.

„Which percentage of borderline candidates do you expect to answer this test item correctly?“

- Independent judgement (%)
- Modification based on estimates other judges
- Modification based on actual pass rate

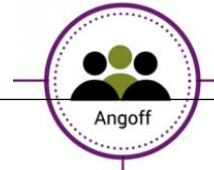
Per test item, final estimates are averaged.

Exam's pass/fail standard is weighted average of % for all items

as number of marks may differ per test item (question type)

Problematic test items will be removed first.

Quality process: standard setting



Advantages	Procedure: after exam	Disadvantages
• Reflects the difficulty of the content: competence level • Most widely used, formal method in high stakes exams • „Would hold up in court“ • Straightforward simple process once all judges are trained • If a test item is used in another exam with the same context, the Angoff „predicted difficulty“ can be re-used	Trained judges estimate how difficult each test item is in an exam. „Which percentage of borderline candidates do you expect to answer this test item correctly?“ • Independent judgement (%) • Modification based on estimates other judges • Modification based on actual pass rate Per test item, final estimates are averaged. Exam's pass/fail standard is <u>weighted average</u> of % for all items as number of marks may differ per test item (question type) Problematic test items will be removed first.	• Needs experts (trained judges; psychometricians) • Large sample of judges is needed for accuracy and reliability, as well as range of different ages, genders, ethnicities and levels of seniority • Labour-intensive (but: digital exam software available) • Takes time (4-6 weeks) during which exam results are on hold* • Doesn't take into account type I errors

References 1 (online access)

