

February 2022 CEQ Examination

Post-examination Report



CEQ Examination

The Committee for Examinations followed established procedures to set the February 2022 CEQ Examination and to determine the pass mark. Standard setting to determine the pass mark involved Fellows from around Australia and New Zealand.

The Committee for Examinations reviewed the performance of borderline candidates across the examination, in line with accepted procedures. We were pleased with the February 2022 CEQ pass rate and there appears to be a trend of improving CEQ pass rates subsequent to the decoupling of the essay style paper.

Candidates are provided feedback as to their performance in identified curriculum areas taken from the syllabus; this appears in their result letter. Candidates were informed on 11th May 2022, earlier than scheduled, of the outcome of their attempt. Result letters were released via InTrain, and the MY RANZCP website, on 8th June 2022 for trainees and SIMG candidates respectively.

Snapshot:

No. of candidates enrolled in the CEQ paper	198
No. of candidates successful	145 (73.23%)
No. of candidates passing on their first attempt	78.5%
No. of candidates who elected to sit the CEQ and MEQ papers on the same day	87
No. of these candidates who were successful in both the CEQ and MEQ papers (%)	54%
No. of SIMG candidates passing	50%
No. of trainee candidates passing	77%

Critical Essay Question (CEQ)

The purpose of the CEQ assessment is to test skills considered essential for consultant psychiatrists. The skills align with CANMED roles, and allow candidates to demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critically appraise a proposition relevant to psychiatry, apply evidence-based assessment, and demonstrate a capacity for balance reasoning.

As usual, the candidates were provided with a prompt in the form of a quote. They were expected to address the quote, critically discuss it in essay form (including a consideration of contrasting viewpoints), and provide a conclusion.

Candidates' responses were assessed across six domains of the CEQ Marking Guide. High quality essays were wide-ranging in scope, reflective and, provided balanced appraisals of all aspects of the quote. The quote was very pertinent for our times and provided an opportunity for a breadth of responses. There was evidence of critical thinking in many of the essays.

Click on the hyperlink for the [February 2022 CEQ Marking Guide \(ranzcp.org\)](https://www.ranzcp.org) (password required).

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The ability to communicate clearly in terms of appropriate grammar and vocabulary shows continuing improvement (64.4% average score). The ability to understand models of health and illness, cultural

context also performed well (61.4% average score). An understanding of appropriate ethical and professional awareness was the poorest performing domain (58.9% average score).

Of concern to the committee was the preponderance of generic essay responses which may not necessarily address the issues relevant to the quote. Marks are not awarded for the generic templated components that do not address the matters raised by the quote. The committee is of the opinion that, in general, essays should avoid headings or bullet points. The best advice is to make the essay relevant to the quote.

Candidates have, over the years, provided definitions for key terms in the quotes provided. There were many examples where candidates appeared to not correctly understand some of the terms in the quote. Definitions allow the reader (or marker) to ensure that the interpretation of a term or phrase is correct, and is used consistently throughout the essay.

Markers highlighted examples which displayed a breadth of experience and more nuanced understandings of power differentials shone through in some essays. Some candidates considered power relations in different health settings and also made reference to power relations in society.

Candidates are reminded of College resources and strongly advised to practice on past examination papers which can be found here ([Critical Essay Question - previous exams | RANZCP](#)). Candidates are encouraged to use supervision opportunities to discuss consultant perspectives in their daily clinical work and to seek advice and formative feedback on practice answers.

We strongly recommend that candidates are mindful of their handwriting to ensure marks are not missed because the examiner cannot decipher what had been produced in the examination. CEQ markers are mindful of the time pressure for candidates in this examination and every effort is made to decipher poor handwriting. There were instances where markers had trouble deciphering some candidates' handwriting.

College is mindful there is a significant period of time between an exam and the release of results. Each candidate's CEQ paper is marked at least twice by two separate volunteer markers, with some assessed by a third marker. There is a small group of volunteer markers; past attempts to increase the pool of markers have resulted in a reduced inter-rater reliability. College aims to ensure a fair and rigorous process.

It is hoped that College will be able to publish on the web exemplars of candidate responses from this examination.

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