

## CANDIDATE FAMILIARISATION DOCUMENT SPECIALTY SELECTION TEST PILOT

There are two parts to the Specialty Selection Test – a Clinical Problem Solving (CPS) test and a Situational Judgement Test (SJT). The SST will run for a duration of 2 hours and 15 minutes – 2 hours for the test and 15 minutes for administration and evaluation. Please read further to gain a better understanding of what the CPS and SJT tests involve.

### **CLINICAL PROBLEM SOLVING (CPS) TEST**

#### **What is the CPS?**

The CPS measures the ability to apply clinical knowledge in relevant context and the ability to make clinical decisions in everyday practice.

#### **What does the CPS assess?**

The CPS is based on Foundation-level clinical practice and tests higher level knowledge (i.e. synthesis, evaluation), rather than fact recall. The content of the SST CPS is mapped against a blueprint that covers the breadth of the Foundation Programme Curriculum outcomes.

#### **What does the CPS look like and how will I answer?**

The CPS will consist of 50 Single Best Answer Questions (SBA).

#### **Example item 1**

A 26 year old woman has had a temperature of 38°C, tender neck swelling and a sore throat for 4 days. She is dehydrated and has widespread lymphadenopathy and hepatosplenomegaly. Initial blood tests show:

Lymphocytes	7x10 <sup>9</sup> /L
Neutrophils	12x10 <sup>9</sup> /L

Select the SINGLE most likely investigation to indicate the diagnosis from the list below.  
Select ONE option only.

- A Anti-streptolysin O titre
- B Direct anti-globulin (Coomb's) test
- C HIV serology
- D Monospot for heterophile antibody
- E Viral hepatitis serology

**Answer: D**

**Example item 2**

A 72 year old man has collapsed at home. The event was not witnessed. His son found him at 8.00pm, which was 2 hours after he last spoke to him on the telephone, when he was well. He has had previous episodes of unprovoked pulmonary emboli for which he takes warfarin. He was treated for chest infection 2 weeks ago by his GP.

On arrival in the Emergency Department he is confused and uncooperative. He has an up-going left plantar reflex.

Select the SINGLE most appropriate course of action from the list below. Select ONE option only.

- A. Immediately give Vitamin K 10mg IV
- B. Perform a carotid Doppler scan
- C. Request an urgent CT scan head
- D. Request 4 hourly neurological observations overnight
- E. Speak to his family about his quality of life

**Answer: C**

**How is the CPS scored?**

Marks are awarded for correct responses. You will receive no marks for any questions that you do not answer, but you will not be negatively marked (i.e. your score on other items won't be reduced).

**What is the duration of the CPS test?**

The CPS component of the SST will run for a duration of 50 minutes.

**SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TEST (SJT)**

**What is an SJT?**

SJTs are designed to measure individuals' judgement in response to situations that are encountered in the workplace. During the SJT, you will be presented with a set of hypothetical work-based scenarios and asked to make judgements about possible responses. Your responses will be compared with a pre-determined scoring key, which has been derived from consensus amongst subject matter experts across all specialties.

**What does the SJT assess?**

The SST SJT has been designed to assess professional attributes that have been identified as important across all specialties. These are coping with pressure, empathy & communication, professional integrity and team working. It will focus on testing interpersonal-orientated skills, rather than knowledge or clinical skills. The scenarios are based on a detailed analysis of the F2 role, to ensure that the content of the test reflects the most relevant situations in which to test your judgement.

**What does the SJT look like and how do I answer?**

In the SJT section of the SST, you will be presented with scenarios typical of those that F2 trainee doctors encounter and you will be asked to judge responses in relation to that situation. For each scenario, you should consider yourself to be a F2 trainee. You may sometimes feel that you would like more information before answering, but please give your best answer based on the information provided. The SJT has a total of 40 questions and you will have 70 minutes to complete the test.

**There are two parts in the SJT, each with different types of question. Read the instructions for each part carefully before attempting the questions.**

In **Part 1** you will be presented with scenarios followed by 5 possible response options. You will need to **rank each option** in response to the circumstances described in the scenario. An example is shown below.

**Example item 1**

SSTH5			ECBDA
<p>You are a Foundation (F2) doctor starting your shift on the paediatric ward. A 10 year old girl was admitted overnight with right iliac fossa pain. Your registrar has booked the girl on this morning's emergency list for an appendicectomy and has asked you to check that she is ready for theatre. However, when you examine her abdomen and review the history, you do not believe that the girl has appendicitis.</p>			

**Rank in order** the following actions in response to this situation (1= Most appropriate; 5= Least appropriate).

- A. Discuss your concerns with the girl's parents and ask them to withdraw their consent to the operation.
- B. Ask the nursing staff for their opinion as to whether the girl has appendicitis.
- C. Telephone your consultant to discuss the situation.
- D. Respect the registrar's assessment and proceed with the operation.
- E. Discuss your concerns with the registrar.

**Answer: ECBDA**

In **Part 2**, you will be presented with scenarios followed by a number of possible options. For each scenario you will need to **select the THREE options which together** are the most appropriate response to the situation, given the circumstances described. An example is shown over the page.

**Example item 2**

<b>SSTAC30</b>		<b>BFG</b>
<p>Ward rounds in your team are becoming increasingly fraught and difficult. The consultant continually interrupts your Foundation (F2) colleague, Matt, while he presents patients. The consultant tends to fire questions at Matt in front of the team so that he can barely complete a sentence. You notice that Matt seems to be losing confidence and is questioning his future career in medicine.</p>		

Choose the **THREE most appropriate actions** to take in this situation.

- A. Interrupt your consultant when he next questions Matt and suggest that he allows Matt to complete the presentation.
- B. Advise Matt to report what is happening to his educational supervisor.
- C. Discuss the situation with the nurse in charge of the ward and ask her to intervene.
- D. Advise Matt to be more assertive on ward rounds so that he can make a better impression.
- E. Suggest to Matt that he asks to be transferred to a different team.
- F. Suggest to Matt that he contacts the Human Resources department to explain he wishes to report repeated incidents of bullying.
- G. Advise Matt to keep a written record of events.
- H. Report your concerns to the medical director of the hospital.

**Answer: BFG**

**How is the SJT scored?**

The correct answer for each SJT question is pre-determined based on the consensus judgement of subject matter experts. There are a number of points available for each SJT question. Scoring is based on how close your responses are to the correct answer for the question; the closer your response, the more points you will gain. You can still score well by providing a response that is close, but not identical, to the correct answer. You will receive no marks for unanswered questions and you will not be negatively marked (i.e. your score won't be reduced) if you give the wrong answer.

**What is the duration of the SJT?**

The SJT will run for 70 minutes.

Please contact SST support at [help.sstpilot@wm.hee.nhs.uk](mailto:help.sstpilot@wm.hee.nhs.uk) if you have any questions about the SST. There is also Frequently Asked Questions on the Specialty Training website [www.specialtytraining.nhs.uk](http://www.specialtytraining.nhs.uk), which includes more detail on the process.