

ANNOUNCEMENT TO CANDIDATES (January 2009)

Intercollegiate Membership Examination of the Surgical Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland: Part A, Part 1 and Part 2 MCQ Examinations

Pre-testing of questions

In order to comply with Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board's (PMETB's) requirements* for the piloting of test items, with effect from the April 2009 diet the MRCS Part A, Part 1 and Part 2 MCQ examinations will include a number of questions that are being pre-tested.

Each paper of the MRCS Part A, Part 1 and Part 2 MCQ examinations will include up to 15 questions that are being piloted before use as live questions in future examinations. These questions will not contribute towards the final mark of the examination in which they are pretested and candidates will not be informed of their performance on these items.

Candidates will not be made aware which of the questions are being pre-tested. The questions will be spread across a range of topics and spaced throughout the paper. The total number of questions used in the examination and the time allowed for the examination will be unchanged.

The inclusion of a small number of items for pre-testing will not adversely affect the validity or reliability of the examination in any significant way.

*Standards for curricula and assessment systems (July 2008)