



A GUIDE ON PASSING YOUR PA NATIONAL EXAMS

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PREPARING FOR OSCE

- OSCE stop – free
- Medical flash notes – phone app
- Geeky medics
- Medical excellence team
- OSCE Aid website
- The unofficial guide to passing OSCEs book £25 (used £13)
- OSCE cases with mark schemes by Susan Shelmerdine £25
- Making your own notes/flashcards
- Practice, practice, practice!
- Mock scenarios under timed conditions



WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY?

- Be punctual
- 14 stations, 2 rest stops
- 2 minutes reading time – use it well!
- At each station there is a clipboard, paper and pencil
- Look at clues in the station (e.g. if states “perform the most relevant examination”)
- Water jugs and opportunity to use the toilet at rest stations



PREPARING FOR WRITTEN EXAM

- Passmedicine (med students year 1-3 is free! Med student finals £12 for 4 months)
- Pulse notes – free online/interactive youtube videos
- Geeky medics – free online/youtube videos
- BMJ – best medical practice bullet points
- Go through clinical matrix – especially 1A/1B conditions and cardio/resp/gastro systems – start early!
- NICE guidelines/CKS
- PatientUK – doctor section



WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY?

- Be punctual
- am paper → break → pm paper
- Written questions and images
- 100 questions in 2 hours, per paper
- Read questions thoroughly
- Recheck answers, if there's time
- Write answers on answer sheet, not question booklet!



TRANSITIONING FROM STUDENT PA TO A WORKING PA

- Shadowing weeks before put on medical team rota
- Don't be afraid to ask for help
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, even if they feel simple – you aren't expected to be an expert
- Handover on time/ leave on time
- Don't forget to take breaks
- Attend departmental teaching, grand round and PA teaching (if you have it!)
- Build relationships with team members and clinical supervisors
- Communicate your problems if you feel stressed
- Have hobbies outside of work
- Have fun! Enjoy it, you've worked hard for this!



ANY QUESTIONS?

