

Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

Intercollegiate Specialty Boards

Advertisement for Membership of the Panel of Question Writers - Section 1 Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations

The Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations is keen to hear from Consultant and SAS surgeons, newly appointed or otherwise, who are Fellows of one of the four Surgical Royal Colleges, and who have a keen interest in continuing medical education and an enthusiasm for writing Single Best Answer questions for Section 1 of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations.

Appointment to the Panel of Question Writers - Section 1 is for an initial period of three years but may be extended up to 5 years. Question writers will automatically retire from the Panel when they no longer have a licence to practise. Question writers who retire from clinical practice and providing they have renewed their licence to practise in advance of retirement, are permitted to continue to on the Panel for three years' post-retirement. New Members will be expected to sign a confidentiality non-disclosure form.

Those appointed as a question writer will have a commitment to the professional conduct and development of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations. Although much of the communication will be by email, Members appointed to the Panel must be prepared to commit to the time necessary to attend two/three meetings of the specialty writing group each year and will be required to draft the required number of questions in advance for consideration at the meetings. No fees or honoraria are paid to question writers but travel expenses will be reimbursed and hotel accommodation will be provided where necessary. New Members are required to familiarise themselves with the document 'Constructing Written Test Questions for the Basic Clinical Sciences' which can be downloaded from <http://www.nbme.org/publications/item-writing-manual.html>. Those new to the writing group will be given training in writing Single Best Answer questions and the writing group Leader will take responsibility to ensure that the training needs of each new Member is met.

Work as a question writer for Section 1 of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations will be acknowledged as part of continuing professional development, ensuring up to date specialist knowledge and will become part of the Member's appraisal portfolio. The writing group meetings will offer a valuable means of forming strong Intercollegiate links with other surgeons and colleagues in the UK and Ireland.

Applications for the Panel of Question Writers - Section 1 can be made by accessing the application form on the JCIE website under 'Applications'.

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