

## Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

### Standard Setting in Section 1 Examinations

After every Section 1 examination, the following steps are taken to finalise candidates' results and to determine the pass mark.

#### **Step 1: Determine the cut score, using the Angoff method of standard setting**

The cut score is set using the Angoff method, in such a way that it reflects the minimum performance acceptable for a candidate deemed "competent" within the purpose of this examination: a day-one consultant in the generality of the specialty.

#### **Step 2: Review questions which have been highlighted because of odd patterns of candidate responses**

Questions with odd performance statistics are reviewed by the panel of examiners, and removed from the paper before candidates' scores are finalised if the consensus is the question was problematic.

#### **Step 3: Apply the GMC and AoMRC standards on managing borderline candidates by adding one SEM to the Angoff cut score to determine the pass mark**

Candidates whose scores falls within one Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) of the Angoff-determined cut score are defined as "borderline candidates" by the GMC <sup>[1]</sup>. Guided by the purpose of this examination, in the interest of patient safety and to meet the GMC and the AoMRC standards surrounding borderline candidates <sup>[1,2]</sup>, one SEM is added to the cut score to determine the pass mark.

[1] Holsgrove, G. (2010) Reliability issues in the assessment of small cohorts: [http://www.gmc-uk.org/Reliability\\_issues\\_in\\_the\\_assessment\\_of\\_small\\_cohorts\\_0410.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Reliability_issues_in_the_assessment_of_small_cohorts_0410.pdf) 48904895.pdf

[2] AoMRC (2015) Guidance for standard setting: A framework for high stakes postgraduate competency-based examinations: [http://www.aomrc.org.uk/doc\\_download/9854-guidance-for-standard-setting-a-framework-for-high-stakes-postgraduate-competency-based-examinations.html](http://www.aomrc.org.uk/doc_download/9854-guidance-for-standard-setting-a-framework-for-high-stakes-postgraduate-competency-based-examinations.html)