



Australian Society of Cytology

INCORPORATED

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Board of Examiners Report

Grace Tan, Chief Examiner

There were 24 candidates who sat for the 2011 CT(ASC) examination that was held on 25 and 26 June in Perth and Melbourne.

The examination format remained the same in 2011 and comprised of 5 sections:

- 10 gynaecological slides to be screened and reported
- 10 non-gynaecological slides to be screened and reported
- Written theory paper (4 questions; 2 essay and 2 short answer)
- Multiple choice theory paper (50 questions)
- Image test (50 multiple choice questions based on printed images)

Five pairs of markers marked the written theory and microscopy sections of the examination. The multiple choice questions and image test multiple choice questions were marked by Cheryl Edgton and checked by Bev James and the Chief Examiner.

Results were posted to candidates on 22 August 2011. 18 of the 24 candidates passed the examination, giving an overall pass rate of 75%.

The top candidate and recipient of the Darrel Whitaker medal was Lufan Wang from PathWest. Matthew Gartrell from Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology achieved the second highest mark. Other candidates passing with distinction were Soo Jung Ha, Felicia Goh, Tham Huynh, Dagmar Kemmetmuller, Renay Moore, Karolina Ivanoska, Susan Willemse and Delis Akello.

In addition, Kim Poh Yap, Hong Thi Doan, Hye Yoon Jung, Sook Mun Leong, Dep Thi Lam, Azar Mirhaghani, Dejan Duricic and Reena Parajuli, were also successful in passing the examination.

Microscopy Examinations

- Gynaecological

This section was completed successfully by 22 of the 24 candidates. Candidates experienced most difficulty with the high grade lesions. Of the ten cases examined, four were correctly reported by all candidates.

- Non-Gynaecological

This section was completed successfully by 19 of the 24 candidates. As in previous years, benign cases presented candidates with diagnostic difficulty. In addition, many candidates also found the thyroid case difficult.

Correct Responses	Number of Candidates	
	Gynaecological	Non-gynaecological
10	14	9
9	3	5
8	5	5
7	1	3
6	1	1
5	-	1

Theory Examinations

- **Written Theory Paper**

The overall performance in the written theory paper was better this year, with 22 of the 24 candidates clearly passing. The average mark was higher than 2010, with candidates performing quite well on all questions except the non-gynae short answer question.

11 candidates failed the non-gynae short answer question.

- **Multiple Choice**

This section was failed by 6 candidates in 2011. The average mark at 58% was comparable to 2010.

- **Image Test**

This section was performed well with only 1 candidate failing in 2011. The average mark at 71% was higher than 2010.

	Number of Candidates	
	Pass	Fail
Gynae Essay	21	3
Gynae Short Answer	19	5
Non-Gynae Essay	22	2
Non-Gynae Short Answer	13	11
Multiple Choice Test	18	6
Image Test	23	1

Acknowledgements

The Board of Examiners would like to thank all state branches of the ASC for organising the mentors who assisted in the preparation of the examination candidates. We would also like to thank the Western Australian and Victorian branches for organising the examination venues and supervisors, as well as providing support to the candidates. Thanks also to all the markers for their support in marking the papers.

Thanks are again extended to Bev James and Cheryl Edgton for their continued administrative support. Their organisational abilities and familiarity with all aspects of the examination process ensure the examination continues to run efficiently.

The Board would also like to thank Penny Athanasatos for her invaluable contributions during her term as a member of the Board of Examiners. Members of the board are pleased to welcome Joanne La Malfa as a new member of the board.