Digital Vivas – Frequently Asked Questions for examination candidates

- **Registration and Quarantine?**
  Candidates will be required to register, and quarantine from the start of the examination session until the end of the examination session (this could be 4 – 5 hours). Candidates will be sent to a dedicated examination room at the time of the examination. During this time, candidates will not be allowed to have electronic devices with them but can have reading material. As it is examination conditions, talking will not be permitted during this time.

  Candidates will be allowed to go to the bathroom at this time.

- **Getting into the room/between exams?**
  Candidates will be escorted to the examination room approximately 20 – 30 mins before the examination and will remain in the examination room until all their examinations are completed. Candidates can go to the bathroom between vivas and stretch.

- **How will candidates be connected to the Examiners?**
  Candidates and Examiners will be connected to each other via the Practique platform. Candidates/Examiners will have a headset/mic and webcam to communicate.

- **Will candidates be given all the available images/series/sequences at the beginning, or do we need to wait to be given them?**
  Like the face-to-face vivas, the examiners will provide a case history and release images/sequences/series to the candidate for each case. Candidates will need to wait for them to be released.

- **Can candidate’s pull-up the next image/series from a list or do they have to wait to be given it?**
  Each image/series shown during the vivas will be released at the examiner’s discretion. Multiple images/series may become available at once or individually, dependant on the case.

- **If candidates move on to another image/series, can they go back to the first image/series?**
  Once images/series are released candidates can navigate between them at your discretion.

- **Are images scrollable?**
  The viva examination on Practique will have similar viewing tools to those of the current written examinations on Practique. Candidates can practice using these tools by accessing the e-Film reading practice examination. [Exams | RANZCR](scroll towards bottom of page for access details).
• What happens if there is a delay in loading an image?
Like the e-Film Reading examination, all images are locally cached during log in. This prevents long loading times when an image/series is released to a candidate to open.

• How will the Pathology Viva be completed??
Pathology images will be presented digitally on the Practique platform.

• How long will the Viva examination go for?
The standard 25 minutes plus 1 minute for introduction. Examiners will manage the time for candidates, and advise when the exam is starting, 5 minutes from the end, and when completed. For Breast and O&G, the examiner will advise when the 12.5 minutes is up, and it is time to move to the second examiner.

• What IT support is available during the Viva examination?
There will be IT support available at all venues and invigilators to support candidates and examiners

• How many examiners will there be?
Two examiners will conduct each viva examination with a candidate and will be visible virtually within the examination platform. Due to COVID restrictions candidates will not be in the same room as the examiners. In all vivas except Breast/O&G, one examiner will be presenting cases, and one will be documenting the case; they will not swap over at 12.5 minutes as has historically been the case. This is because the cases are standardised for all exams running concurrently. Aligned to normal examination practice, both examiners will discuss and decide on the overall grading.

In Breast/O&G, the examiners will each present the respective cases, and the other examiner will be documenting the case.

• How will the exam time be monitored?
The examiners will monitor the examination time and provide candidates with appropriate time prompts. There are also invigilators and IT support onsite.

• How do candidate’s login to the examinations?
Candidates will be provided with a login sheet for all their examinations which will have login details for each examination. Candidates will be required to login 2 minutes before the examination is due to start. The examiners will then connect to you when they are ready.

• Do the examiners see my screen?
Yes. The candidate will have two screens in their exam room. One of them will have a webcam facing it utilising Zoom. Examiners will have a screen each to see where the candidate is pointing with the mouse on a particular image. The candidate will only utilise one of the screens only.

The Zoom functionality will be managed virtually with no engagement with the system by the candidate or the examiner.

The Practique system does not have the ability to share/sync the candidates screen with the examiners screen at this time and it is anticipated that this functionality will be developed in the future.
• **Is the examination recorded?**  
Yes. Both the examiner room and candidate room are recorded.

• **What happens if the examination platform stops working?**  
There will be IT support onsite to resolve. If the platform stops working, please notify the invigilator. Detailed contingency plans will be provided prior to the examination.

• **What happens if the visual image sharing via Zoom stops working?**  
There will be IT support onsite to resolve. If the platform stops working, please notify the invigilator. Detailed contingency plans will be provided prior to the examination.

• **Is there a walkthrough video for the Practique examination platform?**  
You can access the candidate walkthrough video here. [Clinical Radiology - Part 2 Viva Examination - Exam Platform Walkthrough (ranzcr.com)]