

Passing the CSA Exam.



IDEAS, CONCERNS &

EXPECTATIONS

I think the chemicals at work are

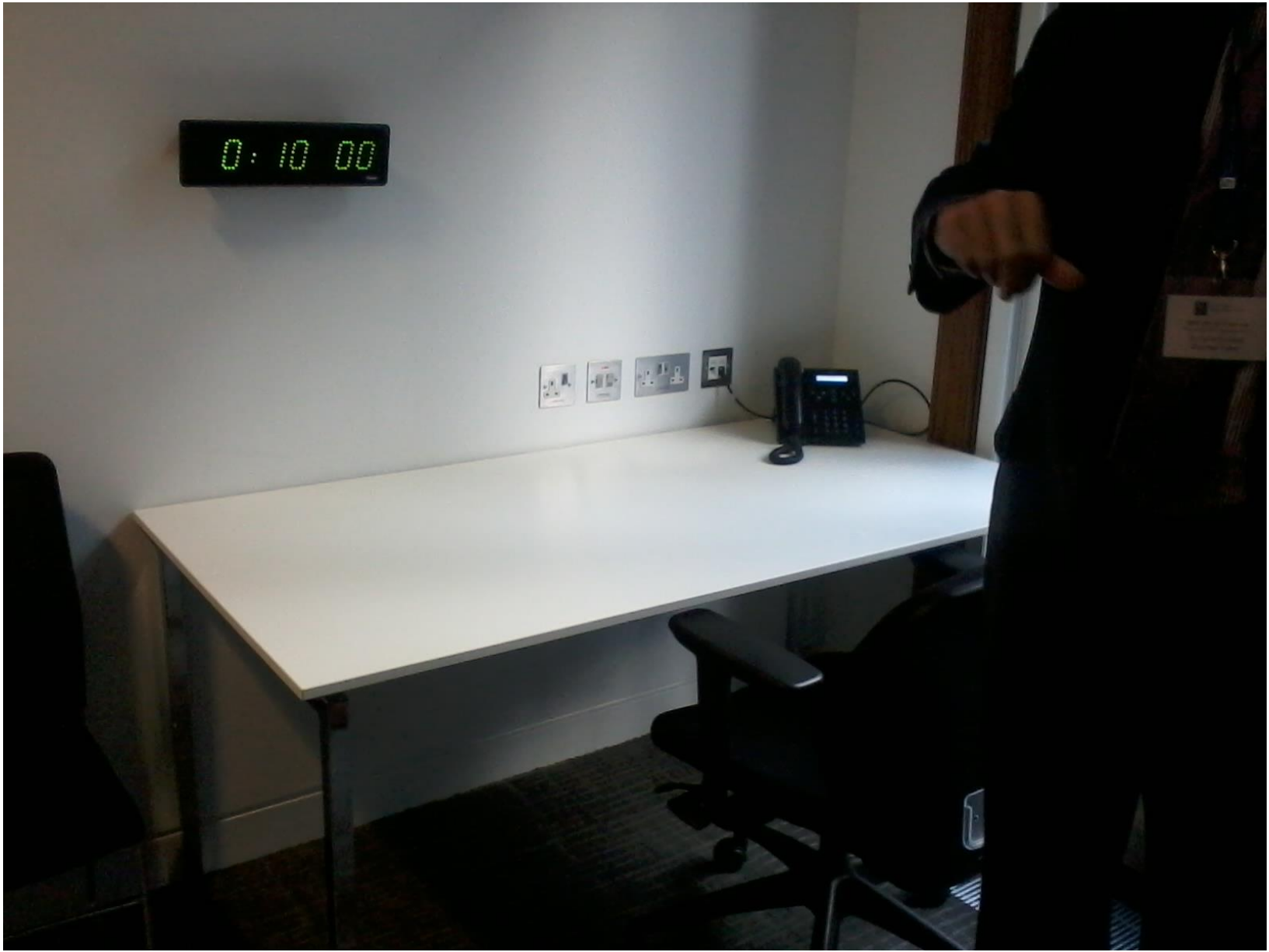
hurting my lungs'



1.13

1.16







The Marking Schedule

- **Each case is marked in 3 domains :**
 - Data gathering, examination and clinical assessment skills
 - Clinical management skills
 - Interpersonal skills

- **All domains have equal weighting**

Marking Schedule 2.

- You get a **grade** for each domain
 - Clear pass
 - Marginal pass
 - Marginal fail
 - Clear fail
- Then you get an **overall grade**
- You can fail (at least) one station and still pass overall
- Pass mark will be different each day (reflects difficulty of the cases)
- Borderline Group Method of analysis



What is it all about?

- Not primarily about knowledge, though lack of it is a common cause of failure.
- Generally candidates score least well on 'clinical management'.
- Tests the ability to integrate clinical and communication skills, at a level that is safe for independent practice
- Engaging the patient in the Consultation is very important



"The doctor will see you now —
I can't promise that he'll talk
to you, but he'll see you."

The cases.

- 13 cases from a bank of 700+
- Don't guess the case
- Approximate gender balance.
- Ages: at least 1 child (actor/proxy) and 1 elderly.
Child actors >10yrs
- Equality and diversity represented.
- Physical examination – at least 3.
- Possibly a TE or home visit.
- Usually 1 serious case.
- Acute and Chronic presentations of illness.
- Cases involving team work.

The 6 curriculum areas with the worst scores:

- Care of People with Eye Problems
- Genetics in Primary Care
- Care of People with Intellectual Disability
- The GP Consultation in Practice
- Care of People with ENT, Oral and Facial Problems
- Care of People with Skin Problems



"Doctor, I will tell you the whole history of my disease."

Data gathering, examination and clinical assessment.

- Actors will give you the necessary information if you ask the right questions! They will usually eventually offer up essential information necessary for the case if you haven't elicited it.
- Practice efficient history taking; open-to-closed questioning.
- Need to demonstrate proficiency in quick examinations and using instruments effectively.
 - Explain fully what examination you want to do.
 - Assume you will do the examination.
 - Offer chaperone if appropriate.
 - Don't do unnecessary examinations

ICE-ing well



- Don't be formulaic.
- Listen to the patient, don't ask again if they have already told you.
- ICE doesn't have to be done if not appropriate.
- Practice some phrases that work and practice using them.
- Identify when ICE questions haven't worked
 - May need to re-phrase or try again later
 - May be that you haven't yet got the right rapport
- ICE WORKS and it transforms the consultation.

Clinical Management Skills.

- Recognise common conditions.
- Structured and flexible decision making.
- May need to deal with multiple complaints and co-morbidity.
- Promote a positive approach to health.
- PRESCRIBING – priority area for GMC.
 - May need to write a dummy Px.
 - May need to calculate doses for kids or analgesia/change preparations etc.

Sharing the management plan



- Sharing management plan does not have to involve offering options.
- The main goal is that the pt feels they can contribute to, or disagree with the proposed plan.
- Share the plan use soft/hesitant language, “ I think WE should probably What do you think about that”. Better to use WE rather than I then pt does not feel they are insulting you if they don't want to do it

Interpersonal Skills.

- Use recognised communication techniques to understand the pts illness experience and develop a shared approach to management.
- Smile, be friendly, warm and genuine.
- React appropriately.
- Practice ethically.
- Respect equality
And diversity.



Clinical management is the domain which consistently scores the worst.

Main Causes:

- Too much time on data gathering. Move on by 5-6 minutes
- Inflexible management
- Forgetting safety netting

Top Tips

- Best practice for CSA is to consult.
- Smile + be warm, friendly, professional.
- Practice using ICE.
- In de-brief ask your trainer to focus on guidelines
- Practice developing a shared management plan.
 - Look at patient.info at the end of every surgery
- Remember each domain has equal marks so time management vital.
- Don't panic if one station goes badly
- Most (if not all!) of you will pass first time

