

SCE in Infectious Diseases Blueprint

Candidates are tested on a wide range of common and important disorders as set out in the syllabus of the curriculum.

The composition of the papers is as follows:

Topic^	Number of questions*
Community-acquired infection	50
Antibiotic prescribing policies and control	20
Imported infection	20
Hospital-acquired infection	20
HIV infection	20
Tuberculosis	20
Hepatitis	20
Infections in the immunocompromised host	10
Public health and infection control	10
GUM infections	10
Total	200

* This should be taken as an indication of the likely number of questions – the actual number may vary slightly.

The questions in each category are distributed across both papers.

^ Description of topic groups

- **Community-acquired infection:**
investigation, differential diagnosis and management of community-acquired infections in adults in the UK
- **Antibiotic prescribing policies and control:**
questions specific to antimicrobial therapy of infections, eg drug interactions, side-effects, interpretation of laboratory minimum inhibitory concentration data, etc
- **Imported infection:**
investigation, differential diagnosis and management of infection in the returned traveler; also prevention of infection by vaccination or prophylaxis
- **Hospital-acquired infection:**
hospital-acquired infections including *Clostridium difficile*, antibiotic-resistant organisms, nosocomial pneumonia, device-related infections, etc
- **HIV infection:**
questions relating to management of HIV, including drug therapy, complications and side-effects; management of co-morbidities; investigation, differential diagnosis and management of opportunistic infections and malignancies
- **Tuberculosis:**
questions relating to management of tuberculosis and other mycobacterial diseases, including drug therapy, drug resistance, diagnostic tests, etc
- **Hepatitis:**
investigation, differential diagnosis and management of acute and chronic infective hepatitis
- **Infections in the immunocompromised host:**
primary and acquired immunodeficiency (excluding HIV) and associated infections
- **Public health and infection control:**
public health aspects of infection, including prevention of transmission (isolation, vaccination, prophylaxis); recognition and management of scenarios where there is an infection control issue; understanding of principles and basic structure of clinical trials, and knowledge of statistics in a trial setting
- **GUM infections:**
investigation, differential diagnosis and management of genitourinary infection, particularly relating to systemic disease