

SCE in Palliative Medicine 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 paper is as follows:

Topics	Number of questions *
Management of life-limiting disease	15
Pain (assessment and management)	15
Other symptoms / clinical problems secondary to life-limiting disease:	40
– Gastrointestinal	
– Skin	
– Respiratory	
– Genito-urinary	
– Metabolic	
– Neurological	
– Psychiatric	
– Other (e.g. treatment-induced)	
Clinical problems unrelated to cancer	20
Management of emergencies:	20
– Cardiovascular system	
– Respiratory tract	
– Metabolic	
– Urinary tract	
– Central nervous system	
– Psychological	
– Drug-induced	
– Other (e.g. massive haemorrhage)	
Practical procedures	10
Pharmacology and therapeutics	30
Rehabilitation	5
Care of the dying patient and their family	20
Legal issues	25
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

- **Management of life-limiting disease:**

the dying process; principles of cancer management; presentation, disease process and management of all major life limiting, progressive illnesses; delivering shared care; symptoms – understanding and management; public health related to palliative care

- **Pain:**

assessment and management of pain secondary to life limiting progressive disease

- **Other symptoms/clinical problems secondary to life-limiting disease:**

management of symptoms secondary to life limiting progressive disease

- **Clinical problems unrelated to cancer:**

management of concurrent clinical problems presenting in patients with life-limiting illness

- **Management of emergencies:**

management of emergencies in the context of palliative medicine

- **Practical procedures:**

practical procedures in the context of palliative medicine (indications/techniques/contraindications)

- **Pharmacology and therapeutics:**

relevant national guidelines and protocols; clinical pharmacology; therapeutics

- **Rehabilitation:**

principles of rehabilitation in progressive illness

- **Care of the dying patient and their family:**

the dying phase; communication with patients and carers; social and family relationships; psychological responses of patients and carers to life-threatening illness and loss; grief and bereavement; patient and family finance; culture and ethnicity; religion and spirituality; applied ethics in clinical practice

- **Legal issues:**

legal framework for practice; legal aspects related to patients' death; legal aspects of therapeutics; law relating to the doctor/patient relationship; law relating to organisations; charity and company law.