The development, delivery and evaluation of a regional Final FRCA CRQ Writer's Course

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Background

The Constructed Response Question is a relatively new question format and there is a dearth of available resources and example questions, which are not regularly updated. We have developed the Sussex FRCA CRQ Writers' Club — a 12-week revision course run by post-FRCA trainees.

Aims

- To give trainees experience of writing CRQs
- To provide high-quality, peer reviewed CRQs
- To support trainees through their revision
- To generate a question bank of CRQs

Methods

Establish Faculty

Recommend 6 faculty: 1 leader & 5 question editors.

Confirmation of candidates

Max 12 candidates. Preference to local applicants. Payment of partially refundable fee.

Candidate Welcome Pack

Course outline, answer template and CRQ writing guide.

Faculty Planning Meeting

Using educational development time. Articles and topics decided. Faculty timetable agreed.

Figure 1: Course Roadmap.

End of Course

Return of last candidate CRQs and second mock paper.

Mid-Course Candidate Meeting Online

Troubleshooting and providing support to candidates.

Start of Course

Allocation of topics to candidates and first faculty mock paper.

Candidate Introductory Meeting

Held online. Course outline and introduction to exam. Q&A.

Written Exam

Faculty on hand until exam day to support candidates.

Course Feedback

Course feedback from candidates and faculty. Candidates certificates for portfolio.

Results Day

Follow-up candidates. Provide support for any candidates who don't achieve a pass.

Faculty De-brief

Faculty reflect on feedback and results. Agree course improvements.

- High yield topics are selected in the planning meetings from relevant articles and guidelines
- Partially refundable fee on course completion, the remainder going to a local anaesthetic education charity

Methods cont.

- Faculty-written papers are provided in first and last weeks. (see figure 3)
- Intervening 10 weeks of candidate-written CRQs, including mandatory units of training.
- Each week candidates are allocated an article based on the topic for that week.
- Each candidate generates a CRQ and model answer per week.
- Faculty edit CRQs to ensure quality and consistency.
- Each topic undergoes a 3 week process from allocation to return to candidate (see Figure 2)
- Candidates complete questions in own time and self-mark.

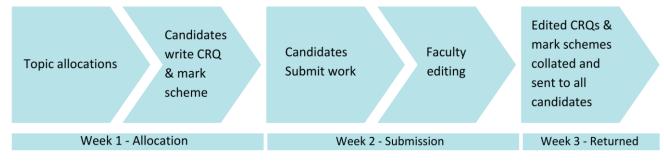


Figure 2: The 3 week process for each topic

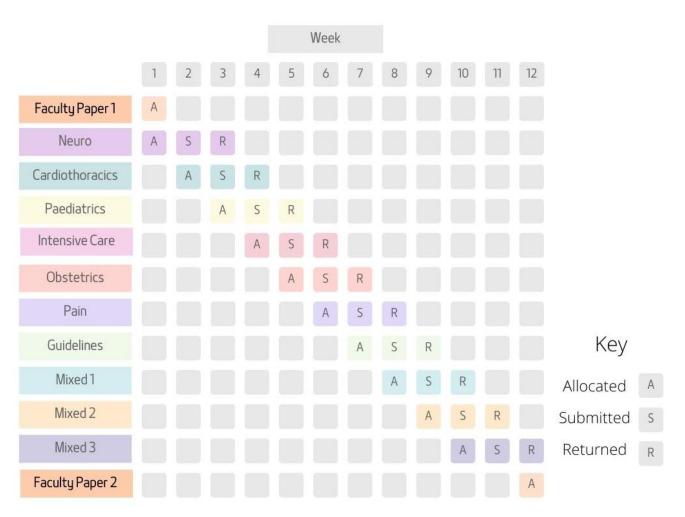


Figure 3: Schedule of topic allocation

Results

- 33 candidates have participated in the 3 courses: 10 ST3, 22 ST4, 1 MTI.
- No candidates have previously sat the final exam.
- 25/28 candidates passed the written exam.
- All candidates agreed the course prepared them well for the exam.
- 90% of candidates strongly agreed topics were relevant.
- All candidates recommend the course.
- 327 CRQs and model answers generated.
- Candidates particularly valued the process of writing CRQs, the small group size, high-quality faculty editing and large number of questions.
- A sense of accountability to faculty and candidates were the main factors in maintaining candidate compliance.

There was a sense of responsibility towards other candidates and faculty too.

Excellent preparation for the exam

The course highlighted important topics I would have missed Excellent set up and value

It got me revising sooner than I would have The faculty were incredibly supportive and on hand.

Such a great
motivator
and a vast
breath of
content

Felt like we were a team It helped me understand how the CRQs would be written

Faculty

were very

helpful and

responsive

Conclusion

Our framework offers a cost-effective, low-resource and sustainable model for an exam preparation course, providing a supportive environment for candidates. It has resulted in the generation of a large question bank of high-quality CRQs and candidate success at examination. We believe this framework is reproducible in other regions of the UK.





