

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

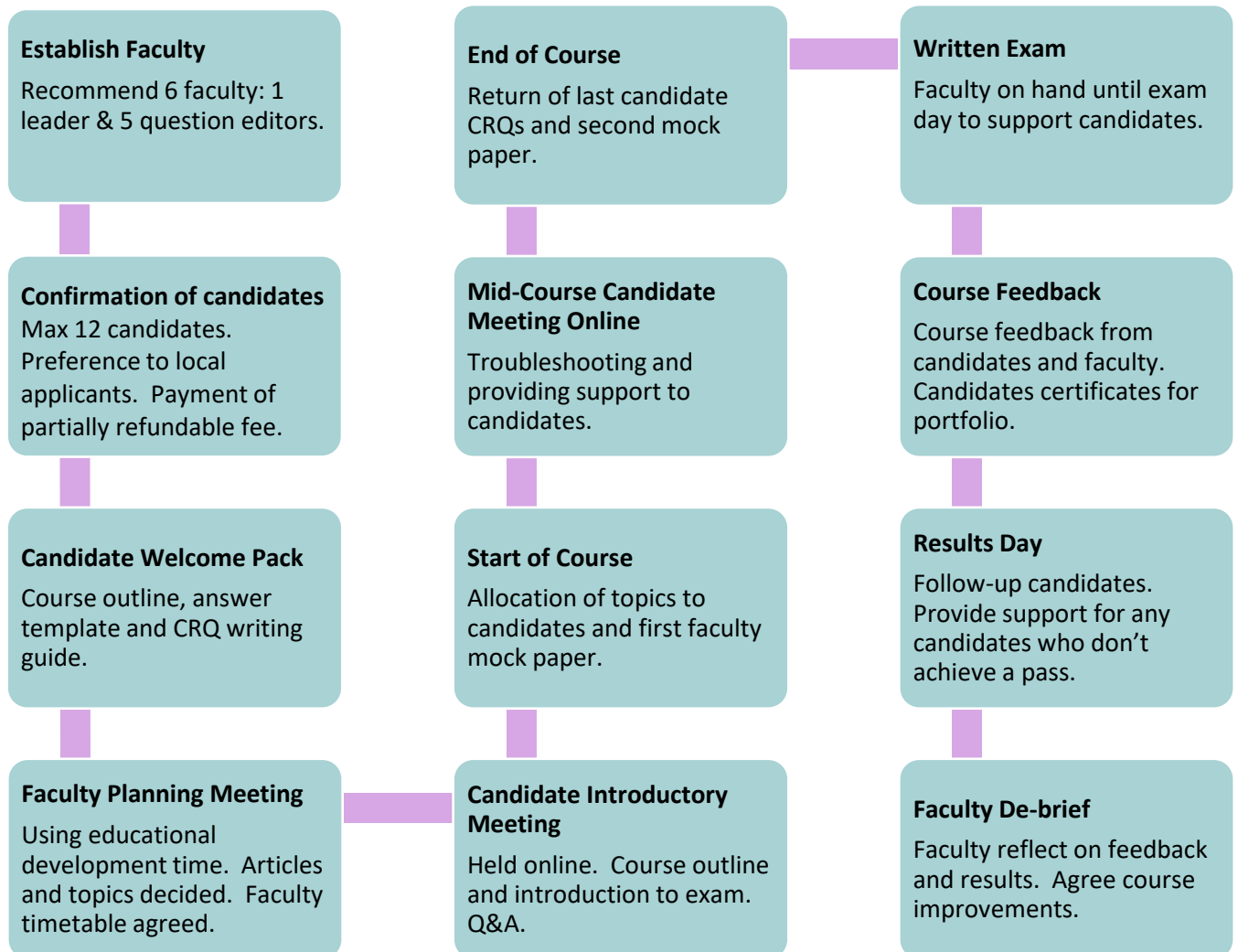


Figure 1: Course Roadmap.

- 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.

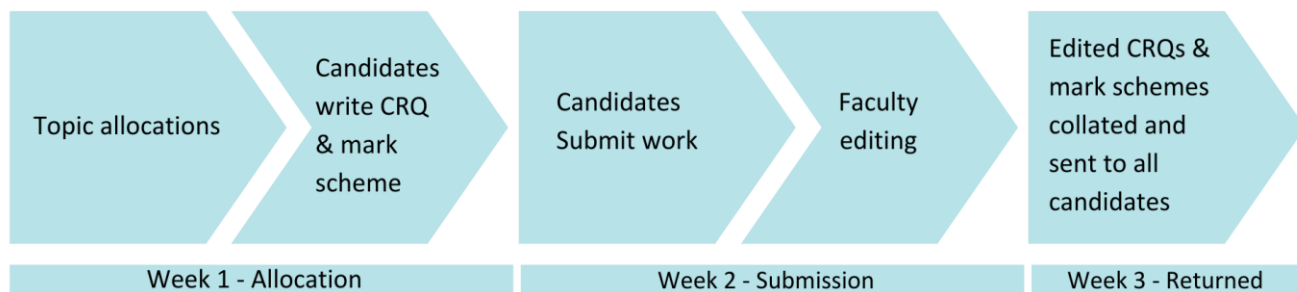


Figure 2: The 3 week process for each topic

| | Week | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Faculty Paper 1 | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neuro | A | S | R | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiothoracics | | A | S | R | | | | | | | | |
| Paediatrics | | | A | S | R | | | | | | | |
| Intensive Care | | | | A | S | R | | | | | | |
| Obstetrics | | | | | A | S | R | | | | | |
| Pain | | | | | | A | S | R | | | | |
| Guidelines | | | | | | | A | S | R | | | |
| Mixed 1 | | | | | | | | A | S | R | | |
| Mixed 2 | | | | | | | | | A | S | R | |
| Mixed 3 | | | | | | | | | | A | S | R |
| Faculty Paper 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | A |

Key

Allocated A

Submitted S

Returned R

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.
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- 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.



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.