



Midwifery
Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Examination
Candidate Handbook

17 April 2024

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
National Boards
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Ahpra and the National Boards regulate these registered health professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation practice, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, paramedicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology.

Contents

Introduction	4
The Midwifery MCQ examination	4
Structure of the examination	4
Registration related contacts.....	4
Midwifery MCQ candidate process	5
Exam registration	6
Registering for the Midwifery MCQ examination.....	6
Eligibility for online examinations	6
Examination fees.....	6
Scheduling or changing your examination	7
Scheduling your examination.....	7
Missing an examination appointment	7
Withdrawals and refunds.....	7
Reasonable adjustments.....	7
Before the Examination	9
Examination preparation	9
Candidate Guide	9
Site guide	9
Exam Guide	9
Preparatory courses and suggested reading materials	10
In-person examination rules	11
Personal items	11
Examination day administration.....	12
On examination day – in-person examinations	12
Arriving at the examination centre.....	12
Check-In.....	12
Identification.....	12
Personal belongings	13
In the exam room	13
Exiting the examination room.....	13
Online examination rules	14

Personal items	14
Examination day administration	14
On examination day – online examinations.....	14
Arriving to your examination.....	14
Check-In.....	15
Identification.....	15
Personal belongings	15
In the exam room	15
Exiting the examination room.....	15
Confidentiality, grounds for dismissal or cancellation of results	17
Confidentiality.....	17
Grounds for dismissal or cancellation of results	17
After the exam.....	18
Scoring of the examination.....	18
Examination Results.....	18
Candidate result slip.....	18
I passed the examination, what’s my next step?	18
I didn’t pass the examination; how do I re-sit the examination?	18

Introduction

Following completion of the Self-check, candidates will be advised which stream they are in. Candidates assigned to Stream B are required to complete the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) outcomes-based assessment (OBA). The OBA includes a multiple-choice question (MCQ) and an objective structured clinical exam (OSCE).

The midwifery MCQ examination is delivered by Aspeq through the Quadrant examination system.

This guideline has been prepared to assist Stream B candidates who are required to complete the Midwifery MCQ examination.

The Midwifery MCQ examination

The Midwifery MCQ examination is a computer-based exam provided in the computerised adaptive testing (CAT) format and is delivered at dedicated Aspeq test centres in Australia and New Zealand. Remote invigilating is also available to international candidates who are required to sit the MCQ.

Candidates are assessed at the level of an Australian graduate midwife and will be assessed against the [Midwife Standards for Practice](#).

Structure of the examination

The examination is a test of the candidate's knowledge, and the application of that knowledge and critical thinking across a variety of midwifery settings. The examination consists of 180 questions that candidates have three hours to complete.

The questions relate to a range of midwifery situations and include women from a variety of ages representative of the childbearing continuum and who come from a variety of socio economic and cultural backgrounds.

The questions have a stem which provides the candidate with information relating to the situation. There are four possible responses, only one which is the most correct. Candidates should allow approximately one minute per question.

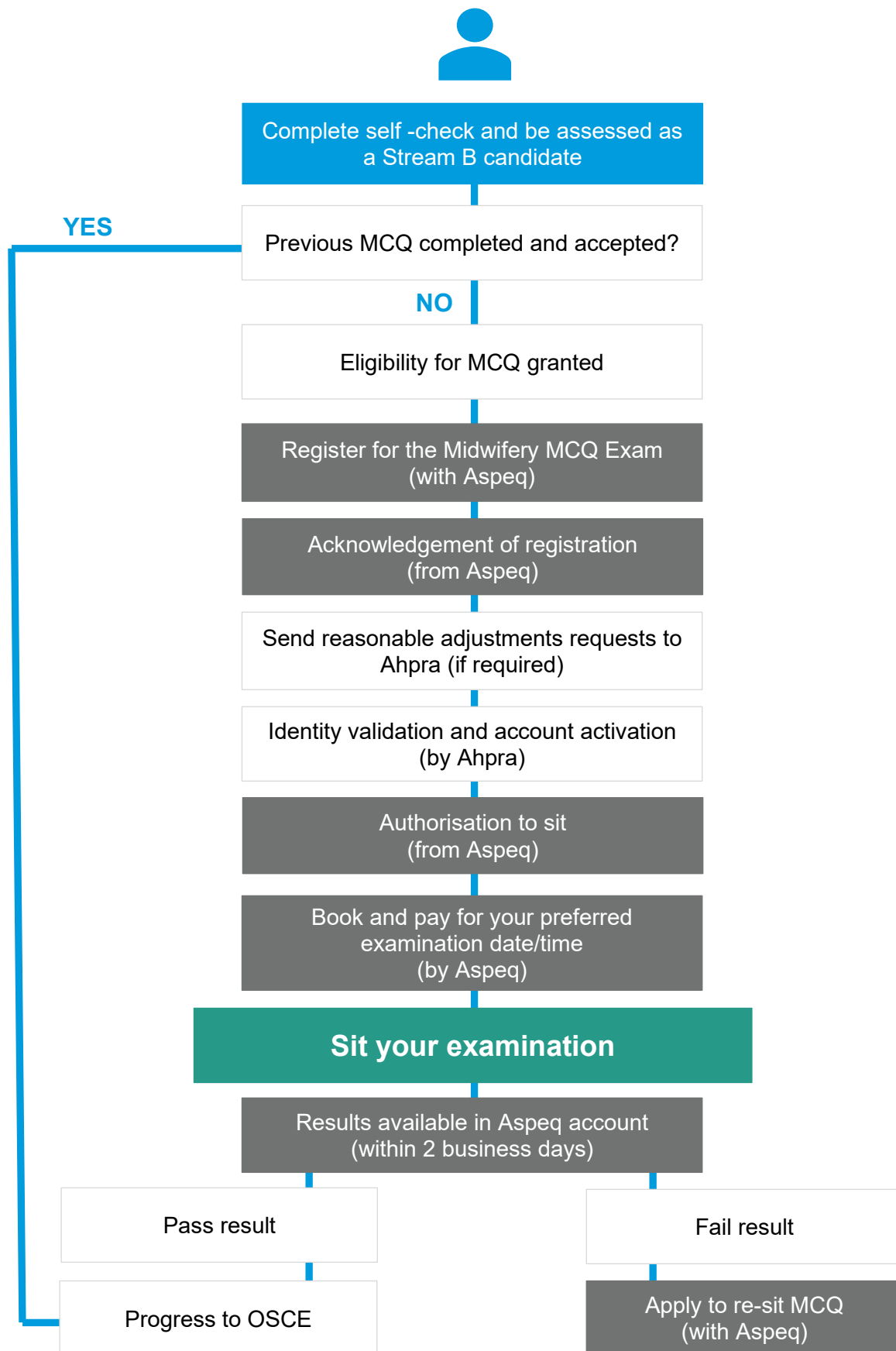
The examination includes questions that represent community and hospital settings, and complex and normal pregnancy, labour and birth and the postnatal period. The questions relate to areas that midwives experience regularly within their practice including antenatal, labour and birth, postpartum including breastfeeding, newborn, pharmacology, well woman and education, and professional issues.

The examination is a pass/fail assessment with the pass mark set at the level of knowledge required by graduate midwives in Australia.

Registration related contacts

Type of Contact	Who to contact
Scheduling or changing your appointment via email	Aspeq customer service team
Scheduling or changing your appointment via telephone	+64 4 913 9812
Reasonable adjustment requests	IQNM exams team

Midwifery MCQ candidate process



Exam registration

Registering for the Midwifery MCQ examination

Candidates who have been confirmed as a Stream B candidate and have established their portfolio, are then advised by Ahpra that they are eligible to sit the Ahpra Midwifery MCQ examination. Candidates will register with Aspeq and once authorised to sit will be able to book their examination.

Once candidates register, the Ahpra IQNM exams team are required to verify the candidate's identification and approve them to sit the examination. After Ahpra approves eligible candidates to sit the examination, candidates will receive two emails from Aspeq confirming that these steps have been completed. These emails will also include details of how the candidate can now book their examination.

Eligibility for online examinations

Candidates **living in Australia and New Zealand** will be required to attend an Aspeq testing centre to sit their examination. Remote invigilating is only available to candidates **living outside of Australia or New Zealand**.

Candidates who want to complete the remote online examination will need to make sure they can meet the following requirements prior to booking their exam:

- A private room with a door that can be isolated from any other people
- A reliable internet connection
- A device compatible with Meazure Learning application requirements, including the Guardian browser
- A device with a camera, microphone, and speakers
- A valid form of photo identification

Candidates can complete a pre-exam device check via the Aspeq website prior to sitting their remote examination to ensure it meets the minimum requirements.

Examination fees

The current fee structure when registering for the Ahpra Midwifery MCQ is :

Fee type	Fee Amount
Registration Fee	\$173 AUD
Remote invigilating fee	Contact Aspeq for further information

Note: There are additional fees for the following items related to the Ahpra Midwifery MCQ examination:

- **Location:** Exam bookings made outside of Australia or New Zealand attract a higher fee which is dependent on the location, and whether the examination is sat in person or online.
- **Reasonable adjustments:** Candidates are approved for reasonable adjustments on a case-by-case basis. The cost involved will depend on the adjustment and will not be discussed until you are at the point of booking your examination.

Scheduling or changing your examination

Scheduling your examination

Candidates may not schedule their exam appointment until they have received confirmation from Aspeq Customer Services that they have been authorised to sit. Please note, the authorisation to sit communication will only be sent to the email address provided when registering.

Repeat candidates will be offered an appointment that falls 45 days after the date of their last MCQ examination sitting. They may decline the appointment offered and schedule later than 45 days. If their first-choice date or time is unavailable, they will be offered an alternative as close to their first choice as possible.

Transferring or cancelling an appointment

Candidates who need to change their appointment date, time or location, will need to contact Aspeq Customer Services team by email no less than five (5) full business days before the scheduled examination date. There must be no unrecoverable costs for Aspeq associated with cancelling the examination; this is due to the examinations potentially being held in non-Aspeq venues.

If the cancellation is approved, candidates will be provided a refund via account credit less a cancellation fee. If the candidate does not intend to sit further exams with Aspeq, the account credit will be refunded.

NOTE: Leaving a message on an answering machine does not constitute giving the required notice for transferring or cancelling an exam appointment. Appointment transfers or cancellations must be done by speaking with an Aspeq Customer Service agent on the phone or by emailing the team directly and receiving a confirmation of cancelled/rescheduled appointment email.

Missing an examination appointment

Candidates who fail to attend an examination appointment or fail to transfer or cancel without giving the appropriate notice, will forfeit their examination fee (and scheduling fee if applicable), and their Authorisation to sit will be invalidated. They will be required to reregister and pay another examination fee. The Ahpra IQNM exams team will be notified they did not sit the examination and it will be noted in their Aspeq record.

Withdrawals and refunds

There will be no refund of registration fees for any reason, including but not limited to:

- Failure to reschedule and/or cancel an examination appointment outside of the 5 business day policy.
- Failure to appear for an examination appointment.

If you have not received a confirmation of your registration within two weeks of submitting your registration, you should contact Aspeq Customer Services to check the status of your application. You should not submit another registration or fee before calling.

Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments (also known as testing accommodations) are special arrangements for the administration of the examination to provide candidates with disabilities (physical or mental impairment) full access to the examination where possible. Adjustments will only be made in line with the inherent requirements for midwifery practice in Australia and must not compromise the integrity of the examination. The expected level of competence is the same for all candidates and cannot change as part of a reasonable adjustment arrangement.

Candidates wishing request reasonable adjustments to the Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ examination, must submit the request to Ahpra at the time of registering for the Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ with Aspeq, or as soon as practicable after registering. Appropriate documentation supporting the request for

adjustments must be provided at the time of the request and include results of appropriate diagnostic testing, by a qualified professional with expertise in the areas of the diagnosed disability.

For more information, refer to the Reasonable adjustments and special consideration for examination candidates policy on the [Examinations page of the NMBA website](#)

Before the Examination

Examination preparation

Candidates are asked to ensure they are familiar with the details provided by Aspeq on the Information tab on the [Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery Aspeq exams](#) website for details regarding the following topics:

Candidate Guide

- About us – Aspeq related contact us information.
- Booking an examination
- Examination day process (online or in person)
- Results
- Ahpra Collection Statement

Site guide

A downloadable booklet offering instruction to candidates in relation to a range of topics, but not limited to;

- Setting up an Aspeq account
- Changing your account details
- Checking messages
- Booking an examination
- Transferring or cancelling your examination
- Printing results

Exam Guide

A short 13-minute video giving candidates a demonstration of the examination day screens and instructions on what to do and expect on examination day. Note: this video has no sound.

Preparatory courses and suggested reading materials

The NMBA and Ahpra do not endorse any external MCQ preparation programs.

The following reading materials may be useful to candidates:

1. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. (2017). Accessible here: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/national-safety-and-quality-health-service-standards-second-edition>
2. Australian Medicines Handbook. Accessible here: <https://shop.amh.net.au/products/digital>
3. The Royal Women's Hospital Clinical Guidelines (2020). Accessible here: <https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/clinical-resources/clinical-guidelines-gps>
4. Mental Health Care in the Perinatal Period: Australian Clinical Practice Guideline. (2017). Accessible here: <https://www.cope.org.au/health-professionals/health-professionals-3/review-of-new-perinatal-mental-health-guidelines/>
5. Pairman, S., Tracy, S., Dahlen, H. & Dixon, L. (2018). Midwifery: Preparation for Practice. (4th ed). Sydney, NSW: Elsevier Australia.
6. Marshall, J & Raynor, M. (2020). Myles Textbook for Midwives. (17th ed.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.
7. Hill, R., Hall, H., & Glew, P. (2017). Fundamentals of Nursing and Midwifery: A person-centred approach to care (3rd ed.). Sydney, NSW: Wolters Kluwer.
8. Therapeutic Guidelines – eTG Complete. (2018). Accessible here: <https://tgldcdp.tg.org.au/products>
9. NMBA [professional standards](#)
 - a. [Midwife Standards for Practice](#)
 - b. Code of conduct for midwives
9. International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) International Code of Ethics for Midwives. (2014). Accessible here: <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/our-work/policy-and-practice/international-code-of-ethics-for-midwives.html>

Candidates are expected to be aware of the examination centre rules provided below prior to their attendance on examination day.

In-person examination rules

All candidates take the Ahpra/NMBA midwifery MCQ examination under formal standardised examination conditions in the relevant Aspeq examination centre. All candidates are required to adhere to the candidate and examination centre rules in the examination centre and while sitting the examination.

If candidates do not follow the rules or the instructions given by the examination invigilator, the candidate's examination result may be withheld or cancelled, and the examination fee will not be refunded. The examination invigilator will always inform Ahpra if a candidate does not comply with the rules, and they may be subject to a misconduct investigation.

Before sitting the Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ examination, candidates need to provide a signature agreeing to the full list of candidate rules presented to them at the time of testing. The current version of the candidate rules at the time of publication are as follows:

Personal items

- All personal items will be stored away from the candidate while they undertake the exam. The storage location will be defined by the examination centre the booking has been placed at and may include lockable storage spaces or a separate location to the candidate in the examination room.
- For those candidates who do not have a handbag or backpack for storage, valuable items may be left with the examination invigilator for safe keeping.
- Examination centres are not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items.

The following items cannot be accessed at all during the **examination appointment** until leaving the examination centre:

- Any educational, examination preparation or study materials
- Cell/mobile/smart phones, tablets, smart watches, MP3 players, fitness bands, jump drives, cameras or any other electronic devices
- Handbags or backpacks
- Weapons of any kind

At check in, candidates are required to turn off and store their electronic devices (cell/mobile/smart phones, tablets, smart watches or other electronic devices) prior to entering the examination room.

The following items are **not allowed to be accessed in the examination room** (unless otherwise instructed):

- Bags/purses/wallets/non-smart watches
- Coats/hats/scarves/gloves
- Medical aids/devices (if these are essential, candidates must inform Ahpra when registering for the Ahpra Midwifery MCQ).
- Food or drink, gum/candy

Candidates can ask the examination invigilator any questions regarding what they can and cannot access outside the examination room.

Examination day administration

- Candidates may not take the examination for somebody else.
- Candidates may not tamper with the computer or use it for any function other than taking the examination.
- Candidates may not engage in disruptive behaviour at any time while in the examination centre.
- The examination invigilator will provide you with note paper and a pen for use during the examination.
- Candidates may not use the note paper to cover any part of the screen during your examination.
- Extra sheets of note paper can be requested during your examination by **raising your hand**. The note paper and pen may not be removed from the examination room during the examination except by the examination invigilator, and these items must be returned to the examination invigilator after the examination.
- Writing on any materials other than the note paper is strictly prohibited and will result in an incident report and results will be placed on hold.
- If you experience hardware or software problems during the examination notify the examination invigilator immediately by **raising your hand**.
- It is not acceptable to bring your own earplugs, candidates who require earplugs will need to notify Aspeq at the time of booking their exam.

On examination day – in-person examinations

Arriving at the examination centre

Candidates are advised to consider the following points prior to presenting at the examination centre on examination day:

Check-In

- Candidates will be required to turn off and store any electronic devices (cell/mobile/smart phones, tablets, pagers or other electronic devices) they bring with them to the test centre.
- You should plan to arrive at the examination centre at least 30 minutes before your testing time. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you may be required to forfeit your Ahpra Midwifery MCQ exam appointment and will be required to reregister and pay another exam fee.
- Occasionally, technical problems may require rescheduling of your examination. If circumstances arise causing you to wait more than 30 minutes after your scheduled appointment time or a restart delay lasts longer than 30 minutes, you will be given the choice of continuing to wait or rescheduling your appointment without an additional fee.
- Friends, relatives or children are not allowed to wait in the examination centre or contact you while you are taking the examination.
- You will be directed to provide a signature, to demonstrate you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ examination.

Identification

- You will be required to present a valid, acceptable form of identification.
- For admittance to the Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ examination you will be required to present one form of acceptable identification. The first and last names printed on your identification must match exactly the first and last names found on your Authorisation to sit email. If the name on your ID do not

match exactly the name you provided when registering, you will not be admitted to the exam and will be required to reregister and pay another exam fee.

Personal belongings

- Dependent on the examination centre booked, you may be required to leave your personal belongings at the front of the examination room. Some centres may have small, lockable storage available (this is not guaranteed); however, you are not allowed to access any prohibited personal items at any time during your examination. Examination centres assume no responsibility for candidate's personal belongings.
- Hats, scarves, gloves and coats are not allowed in the exam room; however, provisions have been made for specific religious/cultural apparel.
- You may be asked to remove any large jewellery or other accessories before entering the testing room.

In the exam room

- The Exam Invigilator will provide you with blank note paper that may be replaced as needed during the examination. You may not take your own note paper or writing instruments into the examination.
- You will have up to 3 hours to complete the Ahpra Midwifery MCQ examination.
- Examination centres administer many types of examinations including some that require essay-type responses. Examination centres have no control over noises made by candidates typing while they are completing a different examination

Exiting the examination room

- To exit the examination room at the end of the examination, **raise your hand** for the Examination Invigilator and wait to be escorted out of the examination room.

Candidates must leave all used and unused note paper and pens at your station and the Invigilator will collect it after you leave.

- Examination data is encrypted and transferred electronically to Aphra.

Please refrain from asking the Examination Invigilator about exam content and/or results. If you have questions about the examination, please contact Ahpra.

Online examination rules

All candidates take the Ahpra/NMBA midwifery MCQ examination under formal standardised examination conditions online. All candidates are required to adhere to the candidate and examination rules in while sitting the examination.

If candidates do not follow the rules or the instructions given by the remote examination invigilator, the candidate's examination result may be withheld or cancelled, and the examination fee will not be refunded. The remote examination invigilator will always inform Ahpra if a candidate does not comply with the rules, and they may be subject to a misconduct investigation.

The current version of the candidate rules at the time of publication are as follows:

Personal items

- All personal items will be stored away from the candidate while they undertake the exam. The candidate must only have the permitted exam material detailed in their booking confirmation.
- The room must be free from any prohibited material, and the candidate must be the only person in the exam room.

The following items cannot be accessed at all during the examination appointment until leaving the online examination:

- Any educational, examination preparation or study materials
- Cell/mobile/smart phones, tablets, smart watches, MP3 players, fitness bands, jump drives, hard drives, cameras or any other electronic devices

At check in, candidates are required to access the remote invigilation environment via their Aspeq candidate portal. The candidate must click on the 'Start exam' button five (5) minutes before and no later than 15 minutes after the start time of the exam. After 15 minutes, the 'Start exam' button is no longer available, and the candidate cannot access their exam.

The candidate must have a reliable internet connection and check that their device is compatible with Meazure Learning application requirements, including the Guardian browser. There is a pre-exam device check that can be completed. Candidates will need a web-camera and the ability to talk to the remote invigilator via their device.

Candidates can ask the examination invigilator any questions regarding what they can and cannot access in the online examination room.

Examination day administration

- Candidates may not take the examination for somebody else.
- Candidates may not tamper with the computer or use it for any function other than taking the examination.
- Candidates may not engage in disruptive behaviour at any time while in the examination.
- If you experience hardware or software problems during the examination notify the examination invigilator immediately by **utilising the chat function**.

On examination day – online examinations

Arriving to your examination

Candidates are advised to consider the following points prior to presenting to the online platform on examination day:

Check-In

- Prior to the exam time, candidates should check that their internet connection is reliable and that their device is compatible with Meazure Learning's application requirements, as detailed in the pre-exam device check available through their Aspeq candidate portal. Candidates will need a camera and the ability to talk to the remote invigilator via their device.
- Candidates must ensure they are in a private room; they are the only person present in the room and that they do not have any prohibited items with them in the room.
- Candidates can access the remote invigilation environment via their Aspeq candidate portal.
- Candidates must log in and click on the 'Start exam' button 5 minutes before, and no later than 15 minutes after the start time of the exam. After 15 minutes the 'Start exam' button is no longer available, and the exam cannot be accessed.

Identification

- You will be required to present a valid, acceptable form of identification.
- You must physically present an accepted form of photo identification (passport, drivers' licence etc) to the remote invigilator live. An image will be taken of your identification and stored in the Meazure Learning system as well as confirmed live by the invigilator prior to being allowed to sit the examination.

Personal belongings

- Candidates may only have permitted exam material in the room with them at the time of the exam. Details of permitted exam material can be found in the booking confirmation from Aspeq.
- Candidates sitting remotely must be the only person in the room and need to ensure they do not have access to any prohibited material, mobile device, external hard drives or browsers.

In the exam room

- Upon connection, the remote invigilator will conduct the check-in process. This will include being able to communicate with you, the identification verification, ensuring you only have the permitted material and that the room is free from prohibited material.
- To check the room, the remote invigilator will ask you to show via the camera, all aspects of the room including under the desk.
- Candidates must agree to the standard exam conduct requirements (as detailed in this handbook) prior to the exam commencing.
- Once the remote invigilator has completed and is satisfied with the check-in, they will connect the Aspeq exam delivery system.
- You will be monitored for the duration of the exam via the camera, speakers, and screen of your device.
- For the duration of the exam, candidates are not permitted (nor able) to access other websites on your device.
- Should the internet connection be lost, the remote invigilator will stop the exam and candidates will be required to re-book at a later date.

Exiting the examination room

- To exit the examination, advise the remote invigilator that you have finished, and they will end the examination.

Please refrain from asking the Examination Invigilator about exam content and/or results. If you have questions about the examination, please contact Ahpra.

Confidentiality, grounds for dismissal or cancellation of results

Confidentiality

- Candidates may not disclose or discuss with anyone, including instructors, information about the items or answers seen in your examination (this includes posting or discussing questions on the internet and social media websites).
- Candidates may not reconstruct exam items using your memory of your examination or the memory of others.
- Candidates may not seek help from any other party in answering items (in person, by phone, text or by email) during your examination (including during any breaks).
- Candidates may not remove examination items and/or responses (in any format) or notes about the examination from the examination room.
- Candidates may not copy or reconstruct examination items during or following your examination for any reason.
- Candidates will comply with any investigation that needs to be conducted.
- If as a candidate, you witness any of the above behaviour, or any irregular behaviour that is in violation of the candidate rules, you are required to report it to Aspeq and comply with any follow up investigation.
- Suspicious behaviours may be reported to Aspeq Customer Service team via email.

Grounds for dismissal or cancellation of results

A candidate who violates the in person or online regulations or rules, or engages in irregular behaviour, misconduct and/or does not follow the examination invigilator's warning to discontinue inappropriate behaviour may be dismissed from the examination and their examination fee will not be refunded.

Additionally, their examination result may be withheld or cancelled, and Ahpra may take other disciplinary action such as refusal of registration and/or disqualifying them from future Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ Examination registrations for registration. Behaviours that constitute irregular behaviour or misconduct are detailed in the rules in this handbook.

After the exam

Scoring of the examination

Each MCQ item carries one mark. Marks are not deducted for incorrect responses. Candidates must gain a score of 70% or greater to pass the examination.

A proportion of the exam are deemed safety questions and candidates must gain a pass of 70% in this group of questions to be successful in the examination. The safety questions are not identified separately within the examination.

Examination Results

Although the exam is scored as you complete each item, no results are released at the examination centre or via the online platform. The examination invigilator does not have access to the examination results.

Examination results will be made available via your Aspeq registration account within two (2) business days of you sitting the examination. If more than two (2) weeks have passed and you have not received your results, contact the Aspeq Customer Service team.

Candidates will receive a communication from Aspeq detailing their pass/fail result for the exam. There is no further result feedback available to candidates.

Candidate result slip

The candidate examination result slip is an individualised document that informs a candidate of their examination result. The result slip can be viewed or downloaded from your Aspeq account.

I passed the examination, what's my next step?

Candidates who passed the examination, are now eligible to undertake the Midwifery Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

The IQNM exams team will contact you via email in relation to your next steps for this process after your result has been released to you.

I didn't pass the examination; how do I re-sit the examination?

Candidate are advised to complete the following steps if choosing to re-sit the Ahpra/NMBA Midwifery MCQ Examination:

- Contact [Aspeq customer service team](#) and pay a second examination fee.
- Wait to receive confirmation of being Authorised to sit from Aspeq.
- Schedule your new exam date and time.
- As per Ahpra policy, there is a minimum 45-day wait between each exam. This length of time is determined by Ahpra and will be reflected in the new Authorisation to sit communication.