

TIPS: Guidance for Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Qualifying Exam II (QE2) Test Takers

Overview

These tips were compiled from a survey of past takers of the MCC QEII Exam. The sequence of tips reflects the key advice that was most emphasized by those who were successful in the recent exam. Sample quotes are also shared for each tip.

Tips

1 Focus on the "key features" of each scenario of each case during the exam.

"The single most useful piece of help was to concentrate on identifying the 'key features' of each scenario."

2 Study with a group if able. In a group or on your own, to be ready for the MCC exam make sure you have a solid understanding of: professional guidelines (e.g. CPSO, CMPA), reporting mandates, sample MCC scoring rubrics.

"A really helpful preparation tip was understanding the background of the exam/components tested and simulating practice with a group"

3 Emphasize the communication, social & safety aspects of the exam case. (i.e. Do not excessively study the detailed 'medical content' as you need to be well rounded in all aspects in your approach to the exam)

"Focus on major concepts and addressing potential safety issues at any given station (e.g., making follow up plans and appropriate referrals) rather than trying to "check off" minor details of physical exams and patient histories"

"Make sure you deliberately show the examiner you're listening to the patient; ask the patient what they think and try to figure out the hidden agenda."

4 Understand the changes that have been made to the MCC exam and focus your study on the new information. (i.e. Versions before 2019 key feature style exam will mislead you.)

"It is very important to understand the change to the blueprint of the exam and review in detail the components being tested, specifically communication, professionalism, and safety principles. I feel that although residency programs do not get involved in preparation for MCCQE2 exams, there should be a general information session provided to ALL residents about what the exam is all about."

5 Fully prepare yourself by increasing your study time.

"Before the 1st attempt, I did not have sufficient time to practice or study for the exam as I, unexpectedly, had other things that had to be taken care of. For every exam, I believe, you need to prepare yourself. The second time, I tried to study more and be prepared."

6 Attend available PGME sessions

"[I learnt more] about the reality of exam intentions after attending PGME sessions."

"Hearing Dr. Fok-Han Leung's session was the most useful into changing my mindset and assumption of the exam and allowed me to prep differently."

Study resources

- The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) is the 'source of truth' for information about the MCC Qualifying Exam (QE) Part II (II) (i.e. MCC QE II)

MCC resources

- Remember to see the MCC website for [information about the MCCQE Part II](#).
- For the COVID-19 related modifications to the MCCQE Part II, see the [MCC QE II FAQs](#).
- For the 3 section MCC Online Orientation to the MCCQE Part II, watch [here](#).

 **9-minute PGME Video** about Tips to Prepare for Key Features exams, watch [here](#).

 **CPSO Online resources:**

Resources to review include: [CPSO Policies and Guidance](#) including detailed [Practice Guide](#), [Policies](#), [Statements & Positions](#), and [Professionalism & Practice Programs](#) including 4 Modules: [Boundaries & Sexual Abuse](#); [Medical Professionalism](#); [Medical Records](#); and [Social Media](#).

 **CMPA Online resources:**

Resources to review include: [Advice and Publications](#) including [Medical legal handbook](#); [Good Practices Guide](#); See agenda for [Resident Symposium](#) to identify important topics as residents who did the exam noted that attendance was helpful preparation.

 **"99 Topics":**

This online resource, developed by the Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM), is a repository of peer reviewed, evidence based tools and resources. In preparing for the MCC QEII, the topics are organized traditionally by '[system](#)', as well as perhaps more importantly by [topics](#) (i.e. [Addiction Medicine](#); [Behavioural Medicine](#); [Care of the Elderly](#); [Child and Adolescent](#); [End of Life Care](#); [Emergency and Acute Medicine](#); [Infectious Disease](#); [Maternal Care](#); [Mental Health](#); [Oncology](#)). These topics are a good resource for general medical practice.