

THE KEY FEATURE PROBLEMS FORMAT
Information for Candidates _____

Key Feature Problems (KF-T) test clinical decision making skills in general practice. They deliberately focus on critical aspects in the resolution of a general practice problem, typically involving decisions relating to data gathering (eg history-taking, physical findings or laboratory tests), the formulation of diagnoses or decisions relating to clinical management. KFP cases are written by teams of practising general practitioners to reflect the typical decision making challenges faced by Australian GPs.

In the KFP format, a general practice case scenario is briefly described and then followed by a number of related questions (usually two to four) addressing the key features of the case. Each question is answered by selecting choices from a numbered list of options, or by writing in the answer(s) in the space(s) provided, **in note form only**.

The KFP format differs from applied knowledge question formats in that questions differ in terms of:

- (i) the number of options listed (usually between 10 and 30), or written answers required, (ii) the number of options or written answers that are correct, and (iii) the maximum number of options or written answers that are to be provided without penalty.

It is therefore important that the case description, the question, and if applicable, the option list be read carefully.

In most questions, the maximum number of choices from the option list or maximum number of written answers will be specified eg "Fill in **up to four (4)** ovals from the following list" or "List, in note form only, up to two (2) diagnoses".

Alternatively, the maximum number of options to be selected, or written answers to be provided is **not** slated, eg "Fill in **as many ovals as are appropriate**". In this type of question, a maximum number of allowable answers or options may have been pre-set in the scoring key. Here, the candidate is expected to focus their answers carefully to the key information that has been asked for in the question.

Each problem (case) is of equal value. Incomplete answers **usually** receive a partial mark provided that:

- The number of answers or options selected did not exceed the maximum.
- Any option or answer rated as 'essential' was included.

The question will receive **no** mark if:

- The number of answers or options selected exceeded the maximum.
- Any option rated as 'dangerous' was included in the answer(s) or options selected.
- An option or answer rated as 'essential' was not included.

'WRITE IN' RESPONSES

When providing a 'write in' answer, the following points are important:

- Write, in note form only, in the space provided. Do not write in sentences. For example, if two diagnoses are required, simply list them as follows:

Rheumatoid arthritis
Polyinvalgia rhenniulica

- Generally components of the 'write in' answers are expected to be conceptually distinct. Therefore avoid giving multiple versions of the same answer. For example, if three (3) differential diagnoses are required **do not** write

Gastric/duodenal ulcer
Peptic ulcer
Gastrodnodenal ulcer

- Please write clearly and neatly. If your handwriting is difficult to read, please **print** your answers. **Illegible answers cannot be marked.**
- Avoid abbreviations which are not commonly used and which may not be clear to an examiner, or may be in local use only.
- Use keywords or very brief notes only.
- Multiple answers are marked irrespective of the order in which they are given.

'FILL-IN' RESPONSES

Mark your answer by filling in the appropriate oval(s) on the paper.

The quickest way of filling in the oval is in a left to right fashion, covering most of the space within the oval, from top to bottom. Do not attempt to fill in exactly within the lines.

Errors must be clearly marked with a cross.

Please do not fold or bend your paper in any way.

Finally, most candidate errors arise from failing to read the question carefully. Every question is different. It may help you to underline key features in the scenario provided, and key words in the question, to assist you in providing exactly what is being requested.