



**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

**KEY FEATURE PROBLEMS**

**PRACTICE PAPER**

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES  
AND  
SCORING SHEETS**

## THE KEY FEATURE PROBLEMS FORMAT

### *Information for Candidates*

Key Feature Problems (KFP) 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** stated, 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*  
*Polymyalgia rheumatica*

- 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*  
*Gastroduodenal 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, as follows:

### CORRECT



### INCORRECT



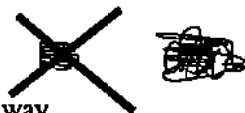
The quickest way of filling in the oval is in a left to right fashion, covering most of the space within the oval, from top to bottom. Do not attempt to fill in exactly within the lines.

Errors must be clearly marked with a cross, as follows:

### CORRECT



### INCORRECT



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.**

**KEY FEATURE PROBLEMS  
SCORING SHEETS FOR PRACTICE PAPER**

**CASE 1**

**Question 1**

Cytomegalovirus (Score 1)  
Epstein Barr Virus (Infectious mononucleosis) (Score 3)  
Leukaemia (Score 1)

Selecting more than three (3) diagnoses, score = 0.  
Total score = 5.

**Question 2**

Two of the following are required:

CMV serology (Score 1)  
Epstein Barr Virus serology (Score 2)  
Full Blood Count (FBC) (Score 2)

Answer must include Full Blood Count (FBC).  
Selecting more than two (2) tests, score = 0.  
Total score = 4.

**CASE 2**

**Question 1**

Deep venous thrombosis must be included in the differential diagnoses (Score 1)

Providing more than two (2) diagnoses, score = 0.  
Total score = 1.

**Question 2**

Any seven (7) of the following items are required:

Activity at onset of symptoms  
Cigarette smoking  
Previous knee problems  
Previous neoplasia  
Recent immobilisation  
Recent surgery  
Recent work environment  
Wounds on foot

All score 1. Selecting more than seven (7) items, score = 0.  
Total score = 7.

### **CASE 3**

#### **Question 1**

Must list **both** of the following two (2) diagnoses:

Peptic ulcer  
Colon cancer

and *two(2)* of the following three (3) diagnoses:

Gastric cancer  
Vascular malformations  
Diverticular bleeding

All of the above score 1. Providing more than five (5) diagnoses, score = 0.  
Total score = 4.

#### **Question 2**

Must select:

Colonoscopy (Score 1)

Selecting more than three (3) items, score = 0.  
Total score = 1.

### **CASE 4**

#### **Question 1**

Must list **both** of the following diagnoses:

Osteoporotic crush fracture  
Malignant infiltration/bony secondary

Both diagnoses score 1. Providing more than three (3) diagnoses, score = 0.  
Total score = 2.

#### **Question 2**

Bone scan  
Plain X-ray spine

Both investigations score 1. Selecting more than three (3) investigations, score = 0.  
Total score = 2.

## **CASE 5**

### **Question 1**

Urinary tract infection  
(L) lower lobe pneumonia

Both score 1. Providing more than three (3) diagnoses, score = 0.  
Total score = 2.

### **Question 2**

CXR (PA and lateral)  
Midstream urine

Both score 1. Providing more than two (2) investigations, score = 0.  
Total score = 2.

## **CASE 6**

### **Question 1**

Any three (3) of the following are required:

Antibody screen  
Blood group  
Blood sugar level  
Pap smear

All score 1. Providing more than three (3) tests, score = 0.  
Total score = 3.

### **Question 2**

The following item is required:

Contact Geelong Hospital for details of last pregnancy (Score 1)

Total score = 1.

## **CASE 7**

### **Question 1**

Acute infection  
Cerebral secondaries

Both score 1. Providing more than three (3) diagnoses, score = 0  
Total score = 2.

### **Question 2**

Any five (5) of the following are required (all score 1):

Admission to general hospital  
Arrange social worker review  
Blood gases/oximetry  
Chest X-ray  
CT brain  
Urine culture

Selecting more than five (5) options, score = 0.  
Total score = 5.

## **CASE 8**

### **Question 1**

NIDDM **must** be included (Score 2).

Plus any four (4) of the following:

Drug induced/drug side effects (Score 2)  
Chronic renal failure (Score 2)  
Stress of family situation/depression (Score 1)  
Hypothyroidism (Score 1)  
Anaemia (Score 1)  
Menopause (Score 1)

Providing more than five (5) diagnoses, score = 0  
Total score = 8.

### **Question 2**

Blood sugar  
Full blood count (FBC)  
T.S.H.  
Urea, creatinine and electrolytes  
Urinalysis

All score 1. Selecting more than five (5) options, score = 0.  
Total score = 5.

## **CASE 9**

### **Question 1**

CRP or ESR (Score 1)

Full blood count/full blood examination/blood count (Score 1)

Selecting more than two (2) options, score = 0.

Total score = 2.

### **Question 2**

Arrange to review child the following morning (Score 1)

If any of the following selected, score = 0:

Commence a five day course of low dose steroids.

Request MRI scan left hip.

Withhold further investigation and review in 48 hours.

Selecting more than two (2) options, score = 0.

Total score = 1.

## **CASE 10**

### **Question 1**

Maternal transmission may occur

May be treated with Interferon alpha

PCR testing

Results in chronic liver disease in up to 50% of cases

Serial liver function tests of infected individuals are recommended

Signs of infection are often subclinical

Vaccination is not available

All score 1. Selecting more than seven (7) options, score = 0.

Total score = 7.

### **Question 2**

Any six (6) of the following:

Do not donate blood, tissue or organs (Score 2)

Advise health care workers eg dentist, etc (Score 2)

Do not share intimate equipment eg toothbrush, razor, etc. (Score 2)

Correct and specific advise re handling obvious blood loss (Score 2)

Safe sex practices (Score 2)

Do not share needles (Score 2)

Continue normal universal precautions (Score 2)

Inform husband (other sexual partners and offer testing) (Score 1)

Pregnancy/perinatal advice eg. risk of maternal transmission (Score 1)

Avoid, consider or discuss avoiding invasive procedural duties eg. ICU, theatre nursing, etc. (Score 1)

Selecting more than six (6) answers, score = 0.

Total score = 12.

## **CASE 11**

### **Question 1**

Viral, eg rotavirus/adenovirus (Score 2)

Campylobacter (Score 2)

E.Coli (Score 2)

Salmonella (Score 2)

Shigella (Score 2)

Staphylococcus (Score 2)

Any of giardia, entamoeba, cryptosporidium (Score 1)

Providing more than seven (7) pathogens, score = 0.

Total score = 13.

### **Question 2**

Stool for microscopy, culture & sensitivity (Score 2)

Providing more than one (1) investigation, score = 0.

Total score = 2.

### **Question 3**

Fluid replacement/gastrolyte (Score 1)

Rest in bed/off work/exclude from food handling (Score 1)

Providing more than two (2) features, score = 0.

Total score = 2.

## **CASE 12**

### **Question 1**

Senile dementia/Alzheimer's disease (Score 2)

Depression (Score 1)

Hypothyroidism (Score 1)

Poor nutrition/anaemia etc (Score 1)

Other organic brain pathology eg. multi infarct dementia, tumours, sub dural haematomas etc.  
(Score 1)

Providing more than five (5) diagnoses, score = 0.

Total score = 6.

### **Question 2**

Any six (6) of the following:

CT scan of the head/MRI (Score 1)

Thyroid function tests (Score 1)

Folate B<sub>12</sub> (Score 1)

Urea, creatinine and electrolytes (Score 1)

Full blood count (Score 1)

Urinalysis/MSU (Score 1)

VDRL (Score 1)

Providing more than six (6) investigations, score = 0.

Total score = 6.