

COMMON GRADING SCHEME (Clinical case reports and Clinical and Professional Reasoning Questions - Postgraduate)

This follows the RVC's common grading scheme as amended in March 2023 and is to be used for clinical case reports.

Each mark has a short descriptor and a full definition of what is to be expected of an answer that is assigned that mark. Only those percentages that appear with descriptors in the marking scheme are to be used; percentages that fall between these **must not** be used.

The descriptors indicate how marks should be allocated according to the standard of a piece of work in three different categories; "selection and coverage of material", "understanding" and "structure, clarity and presentation". This includes a reflective component which should be present in the clinical case reports. If the marks in the three different categories are not the same, the median of the three categorical marks should be allocated as the overall mark for the piece of work. This will ensure that the mark is a synthesis of the different aspects of the work and appears on the 17-point scale. Where an answer comprises entirely or almost entirely incorrect information, no credit will be given for Structure, Clarity and Presentation.

Descriptor	Clinical Case Reports & CPRQ	Mark	CertAVP/PGDip /PGCert/VCP Grade
No Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material Nothing presented or completely incorrect information or containing nothing at all of relevance.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Understanding None evident.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation None or extremely poor.</p>	0	Fail
Extremely Poor Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material Hardly any information or information that is almost entirely incorrect or irrelevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Understanding No or almost no understanding evident.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation None or very poor.</p>	15	Fail
Very Poor Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material Very limited amount of information that is correct and relevant and/or patient safety or welfare compromised.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Understanding If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Very poor.</p>	27	Fail
Poor Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material Incomplete or inaccurate clinical information, and/or inadequate description of diagnostic procedures, and/or therapeutic plans and/or a large number of errors, and/or patient safety or welfare compromised without adequate explanation.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Understanding If any, very limited evidence of understanding with many unexplained observations or assertions likely. Little or no evidence of original/innovative thinking. Very limited reference to published work from authoritative sources. No application of theory to practice.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Poor.</p>	35	Fail
Clearly Deficient Answer	<p><i>As for 45 but with a greater number, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.</i></p>	42	Fail

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Deficient Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial coverage of clinical information and methods of practical work, and/or incomplete justification of clinical reasoning, and/or flawed by errors and/or omissions, and/or patient safety or welfare potentially compromised without explanation, and/or little comment on most observations and/or where relevant, a case which has been inappropriately selected can score no higher than 45%. • There is descriptive, superficial writing without evidence of reflection or introspection or a very poor level of reflection and no evidence of critical evaluation of information or application of theory to practice. <p>and / or</p> <p>Understanding Likely to be inaccuracies in data analysis and/or interpretation and unexplained observations or assertions. Little or no evidence of original/innovative thought. Very limited reference to published work from authoritative sources.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Adequate, although may not be entirely systematic.</p>	45	Fail
Marginally Deficient Answer	<i>As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information. The candidate does not show adequate evidence of reflection as for 45.</i>	48	Fail
Adequate Answer	<i>As for 55 but with more numerous, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.</i>	52	Pass
Sound Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic account of clinical information and methods of practical work. Adequate justification of clinical reasoning. No significant errors, omissions or inaccuracies. Appropriate speculation is unlikely or, if present, is likely to be unsubstantiated. (A case which has been inappropriately selected can score no higher than 45%). • Sound reflection: There is sufficient evidence of reflection, however the candidate does not elaborate an adequate description of transformative learning. • Evidence of critical evaluation of information and application of theory to practice. <p>Understanding Limited evidence of original/innovative thought. Sufficient reference to published work from authoritative sources. Data are largely accurate but there may be some unexplained observations or assertions.</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Reasonably well-organised and logically presented.</p>	55	Pass
Very Sound Answer	<i>As for 55 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors and more evidence of critical ability and/or powers of argument and clarity of expression.</i>	58	Pass
Quite Good Answer	<i>As for 65 but with less evidence of critical judgement and more, or more important, omissions/ inaccuracies/errors. There is likely to be less evidence of wider reading through reference to published work from authoritative sources.</i>	62	Pass

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Good Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic and accurate account of clinical information and justification of clinical decision-making. Full record of aims and methods of clinical work and no significant errors or omissions. Some speculation, where appropriate, but may not be fully supported. (A case which has been inappropriately selected can score no higher than 45%). • Good reflection: There is evidence of reflection with description of transformative learning. The candidate clearly describes their professional and personal progression and some clear take home messages developed from the case reflection. • Strong evidence of critical evaluation of information and sound application of theory to practice. <p>Understanding Thorough grasp of concepts with reasonable comment on all observations with all observations and assertions fully supported. Some evidence of original/innovative thinking. Appropriate reference to published work from authoritative sources. Data manipulated and analysed correctly.</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Logical and well-organised account with clarity of expression.</p>	65	Merit
Very Good Answer	<i>As for 65 but with more evidence of critical judgement and fewer and/or less significant omissions/inaccuracies/errors. There is likely to be more evidence of wider reading through reference to published work from authoritative sources.</i>	68	Merit
Extremely Good Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full and accurate account of task, aims and methods of clinical work with few errors and/or omissions and none of significance. Complete justification of clinical reasoning. Where appropriate, sensible speculation, supported by evidence. (A case which has been inappropriately selected can score no higher than 45%). • Excellent reflection: high level of reflection with the evidence being analysed critically and contextualised appropriately to the case. The student demonstrates the impact of the case on their professional/personal development and outlines change in practice and/or is able to constructively criticise current practice. • Excellent evidence of critical analysis of information and application of theory to practice. <p>Understanding Thorough grasp of concepts with some critical and/or comparative comment on all observations. Clear evidence of original/innovative thinking. Published work from authoritative sources used extensively and appropriately.</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Very well-organised.</p>	75	Distinction
Excellent Answer	<i>As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, frequent insights and much evidence of original/innovative thinking. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance.</i>	82	Distinction
Outstanding Answer	<i>As for 82 but with strong evidence of original/innovative thinking throughout and no omissions or factual errors. Would be of publishable standard with only minor modifications to content.</i>	90	Distinction

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Exceptional Answer	<p>Selection & Coverage of Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional depth of coverage with no identifiable errors or omissions. (A case which has been inappropriately selected can score no higher than 45%). • Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. Considerable evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature. • Exceptional reflection: exceptional level of reflection and/or excellent application of theory to practice with the evidence being analysed critically and contextualised comprehensively to the case. The student demonstrates the impact of the case on their professional/personal development and change in practice and is able to constructively criticise current practice. <p>Understanding Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight.</p> <p>Structure, Clarity & Presentation Flawless. Of publishable standard with only amendments in style/formatting required.</p>	100	Distinction