## Marking Descriptors for Orals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Judgment</th>
<th>Quality of Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Communication skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to justify</td>
<td>Clinical reasoning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1
- Did not get beyond default questions
- Failed in most/all competencies
- Poor basic knowledge/judgment/understanding to a level of concern
- Serious lack of knowledge

**Q:** Does not get beyond default questions
**A:** Disorganised/confused/inconsistent answers, lacking insight
**P:** Un-persuadable – prompts do not work

### 2
- Demonstrated a lack of understanding
- Difficulty in prioritising
- Gaps in knowledge
- Poor deductive skills
- Poor higher order thinking
- Significant errors
- Struggled to apply knowledge/judgment/management
- Variable performance

**Q:** Frequent use of default questions
**A:** Confused/disorganised answers; hesitant and indecisive
**P:** Required frequent prompting

### 3
- Good knowledge and judgment of common problems
- Important points mentioned
- Instills confidence
- No major errors

**Q:** Copes with competence questions
**A:** Methodical approach to answers; has insight
**P:** Requires minimal prompting

### 4
- Ability to prioritize
- Coped with difficult topics/problems
- Good decision making/provided supporting evidence
- Reached a good level of higher order thinking
- Strong interpretation/judgment but didn’t quote the literature

**Q:** Goes beyond the competence questions
**A:** Logical answers and provided good supporting reasons for answers
**P:** Fluent responses without prompting, but some prompting on literature

### 5
- At ease with higher order thinking
- Flawless knowledge plus insight and judgment
- Good understanding/knowledge/management/prioritisation of complex issues
- Had an understanding of the breadth and depth of the topic, and quoted from literature
- High flyer
- Strong interpretation/judgment

**Q:** Stretches examiners – answers questions at advanced level
**A:** Confident, clear, logical and focused answers
**P:** No prompting necessary

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[Q: questions  A: answers  P: prompting]

Adapted from Intercollegiate Specialty Boards

Marking descriptors for orals  M. Calcagni, November 2012