



**Swiss College
of Surgeons**

Content of the CSC-Assessment

General information

The content covers general surgical knowledge, which is derived from the White Book of the Core Surgical Curriculum published by the Swiss College of Surgeons.

The CSC Assessment is designed to test the ability of trainees to handle common, simple conditions independently (e.g., in the emergency department). The assessment also determines whether trainees can recognize urgent and potentially life-threatening conditions, understand when to call for help, and know how to manage the patient until a specialist is available.

Content distribution per topic

Topic	Proportion	Number of Questions
General Surgical Knowledge	100%	90

General Surgical Knowledge (G)

Derived from the White Book of the Core Surgical Curriculum

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Topic	Proportion*	Number of Questions
General Surgical Knowledge	100%	90
Preoperative care of the surgical patient	15%	13.5
Perioperative care of the surgical patient	27%	24
Postoperative care of the surgical patient	17%	15
Postoperative complications	19%	16.5
Acute surgical conditions	13%	12
Management of the dying patient	3%	3
Legal and administrative knowledge	3%	3
Research	3%	3

*Proportions are in relation to entire exam.

Content Description	Proportion	Number of Questions
Preoperative care of the surgical patient	15%	13.5
Informed consent Legal basis, most common complications, capacity of patient's discernment	3.3%	3
Assessment of surgical patients Contraindication for surgery, assessment of surgical risk, preoperative blood tests and imaging	5%	4.5
Prophylaxis Thromboembolism, antibiotics, vaccination, protective measures against transmissible pathogens	3.3%	3
Management of comorbidities Safely prescribe medications used for the treatment of chronic diseases and modify their use appropriately for the perioperative period	3.3%	3

Perioperative care of the surgical patient	27%	24
Anesthesia, analgesia, and sedation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and how to administer local anesthetic agents • Different agents, indications, risks, contraindications • Basic principles of general anesthesia • Basic principles of sedation 	3.4%	3
Surgical site approach Different surgical approaches (e.g., open, minimally invasive) and related benefits, risks, indications	3.4%	3
Positioning and prepping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning a patient on the operating table • Surgical site skin preparation and draping 	1.7%	1.5
Electrocoagulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles and settings of electrocoagulation • Various energy devices 	1.7%	1.5
Surgical instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common instruments, terminology, application • Electrical devices 	3.4%	3
Wound closure Suturing material (threads and needles), suture techniques, wound dressings	3.4%	3
Fractures Principles of closed reduction, immobilization	1.7%	1.5
Drains Indications, types, insertion techniques, fixation, removal	1.7%	1.5
Chest tubes	1.7%	1.5
Urinary catheters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indications of, care for, and risks of transurethral catheters • Suprapubic bladder catheters 	1.7%	1.5

Patient safety and quality control • Team time out • World health organization (WHO) checklists, critical incident reporting system, morbidity and mortality conferences	3.4%	3
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Postoperative care of the surgical patient	17%	15
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Postoperative pain management	5.1%	4.5
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Wound healing knowledge • Different wounds and implications for therapy and healing, including vacuum assisted closure (VAC) • Factors influencing wound healing, surgical site infection, scars, and contractions	3.4%	3
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Intensive care • Shock and its management • Fluid resuscitation • Noninvasive ventilation	3.4%	3
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Nutrition • Postaggression metabolism • Methods of enteral and parenteral nutrition • Stool regulation	3.4%	3
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Discharge • Discharge information • Legal implications of sick notes	1.7%	1.5
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Postoperative complications	19%	16.5
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Cardiac Arrhythmias, ischemia, cardiac decompensation, high blood pressure, hemodynamics, diuretics	3.5%	3
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Pulmonary • Pneumonia, pneumothorax, pleural effusion • Respiratory failure	3.5%	3
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Complications after abdominal surgery Emesis, ileus, constipation, stoma complications, anastomotic leakage, abdominal compartment syndrome	1.7%	1.5
Hematology • Surgical hemorrhage control • Blood transfusion, supplementing factors • Tranexamic acid • Anemia, thrombopenia • Coagulation disorders	3.5%	3
Infections • SIRS, bacteremia, sepsis • Antibiotic therapy	5.2%	4.5
Renal failure, diabetology, neurologic symptoms	1.7%	1.5

Acute surgical conditions Differentials, diagnostic tools, assessment of urgency, most common causes, and their therapy	13%	12
Abdominal pain, acute abdomen • Differentials (age-specific, likely cohort) • Assessment of urgency • Diagnostics	4.9%	4.5
Respiratory failure	1.6%	1.5
Acute swelling of a limb Including septic arthritis and deep infection	1.6%	1.5
Acute ischemia of a limb or finger • Typical symptoms, paralysis, and paresthesia as grading tool • Origin of embolus • Initial management: heparin	1.6%	1.5
Postoperative bleeding	1.6%	1.5
Compartment syndrome	1.6%	1.5

Management of the dying patient	3%	3
Resuscitation status, organ donation		
Diagnosing death after irreversible brain damage		
Declaring death and completing forms		

Legal and administrative knowledge	3%	3
Insurance, billing • Tarmed • DRG		
Prescriptions		

Research	3%	3
Literature research		
Study types , level of evidence		
Critical appraisal of an article		

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