

# Student Perspectives on the SJT

**Omar Shariq**

UKFPO Medical  
Student Advisor



# The role of the Medical Student Board

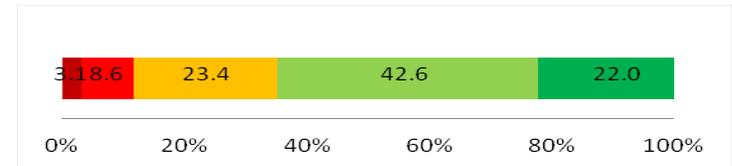
- For the UKFPO to share information about developments in the Foundation Programme with medical students.
- For medical students to collaborate in the development of the recruitment process.
- All final year reps have been nominated to act as local PRE Student Champions.

# Candidate reactions

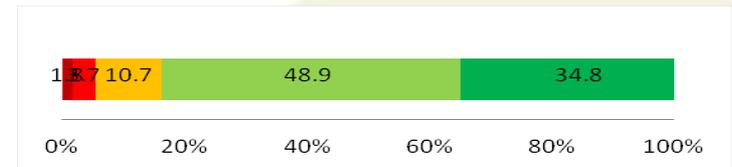
- **99.2% (6,788) of the participants completed an evaluation questionnaire.**
- **Positive Reactions:**
  - 65% thought the information given about the pilot was helpful.
  - Approx 80% agreed or strongly agreed that the instructions for the test were clear and helpful and that the test seemed well-run and invigilated.
  - Approx 80% agreed or strongly agreed that the content seemed relevant to the FP and seemed appropriate for their level of training.
- **Mixed Reactions:**
  - 66.4% believed the level of difficulty was appropriate – out of those who believed the level was *inappropriate*, most (80.6%) stated that the test was too difficult.
  - 41.6% of the candidates thought the test appeared to be fair, although 31.4% were indifferent.
  - 27.5% believed that the results of the test should help selectors to differentiate between weaker and stronger candidates, whilst 40.6% believed it should not.

# Candidate reactions

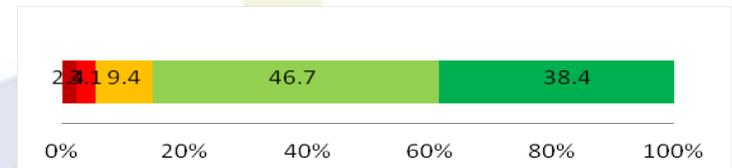
**The information I received in advance of the SJT was clear and helpful**



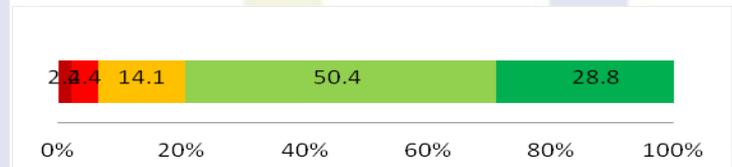
**The instructions for the test were clear and easy to understand**



**The test seemed well-run and well-invigilated**

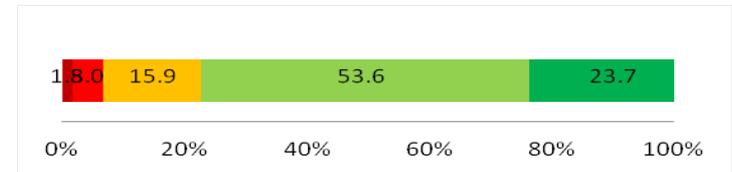


**The content of the test seemed relevant to the Foundation Programme**

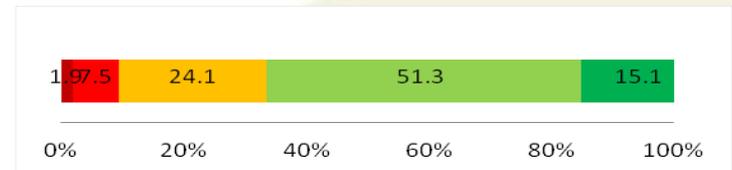


# Candidate reactions

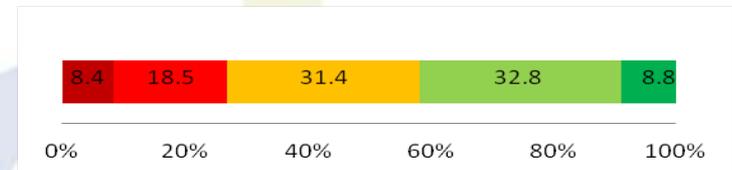
**The scenario content seemed appropriate for my training level**



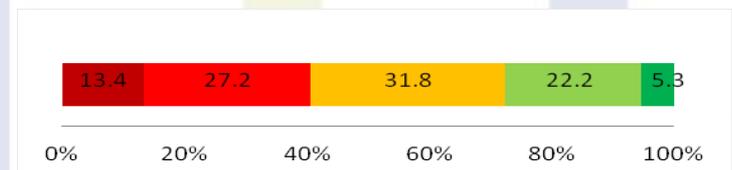
**The level of difficulty of the test was appropriate**



**The content of the test appeared to be fair**



**The results of the test should help selectors to differentiate between weaker and stronger candidates**



## ■ Timing issues:

- “The questions were very thought provoking and thus required more time for analysis and decision making. In the real world, such decisions would require more thought ”
- “I understand that the time limit cannot be indefinite but think that perhaps two minutes per question would suit the paper better”

# Mixed reactions

- Discriminating between strong and weak candidates:
  - “The thing that you would do is very obvious as is the thing you wouldn’t do, but the in-betweens were really hard to place/rank and often felt like they could all have had equal importance.”
  - Answers were either very obviously correct or very obviously wrong with some vague answers in between- hence everyone would put down the same answer
  - “I was concerned that if I got one answer numbered wrongly - did it mess up your subsequent answers to the questions as the order of preference would be wrong?”

## ■ Validity:

- “What one would do in reality is possibly different to what the examiners were looking for in their answer”
- “By testing what we 'should' do rather than what we 'would' do, doesn't test our abilities or judgements to practice medicine, but merely our ability to correctly guess what we think the examiners want to hear.”
- “In reality many of the options would be done all at once and distinguishing between them seems arbitrary”

# Positive reactions

- “I thought it was a fairer way of doing it than the white-space questions as it takes the 'coaching' element away and actually tests what the person would do (not their friends/parents etc.)”
- “It was a good balance of clinical and ethical scenarios, to assess a candidate's lateral thinking and judgement, and was overall, well received by my friends and colleagues.”
- “ I think the SJT was a suitable test, generally. It was not too anxiety-provoking to take and seems representative of the types of situations FY1s encounter, as I've seen so far

# Questions for the future

- “It would be interesting to compare people’s scores with the current application method vs the SJT.”
- “I think how one is supposed to tackle these situations would need to be addressed in the medical student curriculum in order for the SJT to be a fair test of aptitude.”

# Conclusions

- Overall, the SJT was felt to be a fairer exam than the existing system and is representative of the situations an FY doctor will encounter.
- Students still have questions regarding the discriminatory value and validity of the test as well as timing issues.