

Arab Board Fellowship of Interventional Radiology

*Fellowship Examination
Candidate's Orientation Guide*

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EXAM PURPOSE

This guide summarizes key information from the official examination blueprint to help you understand the structure, content, and assessment criteria for the Arab Board Fellowship in Vascular and Interventional Radiology final certifying examination.

The exam is a Structured Oral Examination (SOE) designed to determine if you have achieved the competencies required for independent specialist practice in Interventional Radiology. It is a summative assessment after completion of your formal fellowship training in interventional radiology.

Exam Structure & Format

Format: Structured Oral Examination (SOE).

Total Duration: 120 minutes.

Examiners: You will be examined by four examiners in total, divided into two committees.

Number of Cases: You will face a total of 12 cases (3 cases from each of the 4 examiners).

Case Types: A mix of complex (10-12 minutes each) and standard (6-8 minutes each) cases.

Question Flow: Cases follow a structured format, typically starting with image interpretation and moving through indications, procedural planning, complication management, and post-procedure care.



EXAM CONTENT & WEIGHTING

The exam covers the following primary Interventional Radiology systems, with the specified weight:

| Primary System | Weight | Number of Cases |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Vascular IR | 30% | 4 |
| Non-Vascular IR | 30% | 4 |
| Interventional Oncology | 20% | 2 |
| Emergency & Trauma IR | 20% | 2 |

Important Content Notes:

- All four systems above will be represented in your exam.
- Oncology and Vascular cases will appear in every exam session.
- Emergency cases will test rapid decision making, reasoning and teamwork.
- At least one case will emphasize device knowledge, complication recognition, or technical planning.

What You Are Assessed On (Competency Domains)

Your performance is evaluated across six core competency domains:

1. **Medical Knowledge** – Scientific foundations of IR.
2. **Clinical Patient Management** – Managing patients through the IR care pathway.
3. **Technical & Procedural Skills** – Safe and effective performance of procedures.
4. **Patient Safety & Risk Management** – Commitment to safety and quality.
5. **Communication & Teamwork** – Effective collaboration and communication.
6. **Professionalism & Ethics** – Professional behavior and ethical practice.

For most core procedures, you are expected to demonstrate you can perform as an independent practitioner at a specialist level.

Scoring & Results

Scoring Scale:

Each case is scored on a scale of 1 to 5 for specific learning objectives.

- 5 = Consultant level
- 4 = Independent specialist level
- 3 = Borderline but safe
- 2 = Significant deficiencies
- 1 = Unsafe / unacceptable

Critical Fail Rule:

An unsafe response (score of 1) in a critical area like patient safety can result in automatic failure of that case, regardless of other answers.

Global Rating per Case:

Your performance on each case receives an overall rating:

- Distinction ($\geq 85\%$)
- Pass (70%-84%)
- Borderline (60%-69%)
- Fail ($<60\%$)



Final Result Determination:

Your final pass/fail outcome is based on your aggregated performance across all 12 cases:

- **PASS:** You must pass 8 or more individual cases.
- **BORDERLINE:** Passing 6 cases, with at least 2 in the borderline range, may trigger a committee review.
- **FAIL:** Passing fewer than 6 cases results in failure, regardless of scores on other cases

Tips for Exam Preparation

Focus on Core Competencies: Review the six competency domains and ensure you can apply knowledge to clinical decision-making, safety, and communication.

Practice Structured Oral Responses: Practice explaining your thought process clearly and logically, from diagnosis to follow-up.

Prioritize Safety: Always emphasize patient safety, risk assessment, and complication management in your answers.

Review All IR Systems: Be prepared for cases across Vascular, Non-Vascular, Oncology, and Emergency/Trauma IR, as per the weighting.

Time Management: Be concise. Standard cases are time limited (10 min), so practice delivering key points efficiently.