Work Psychology Group
Thinking differently

FAQs re. MSRA Scaled Scores

The Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA) consists of two parts:

1) The Clinical Problem Solving (CPS): Measures applicants' ability to apply clinical knowledge in a relevant context and make clinical decisions in everyday practice. It aims to test high level synthesis and evaluation of medical knowledge.
2) The Professional Dilemma Test (PDT): Applicants are presented with a set of hypothetical work relevant scenarios and asked to make judgements about possible responses.

Why are scores scaled?

MSRA scores are scaled for each specialty so that they can be combined with the rest of the selection process, and appropriately weighted, as intended. For Neurosurgery National Selection, the MSRA is used to rank applicants from highest to lowest, to invite applicants to the selection centre. The MSRA is weighted at 40% of the final shortlisting total and scaled onto a 0-36 point scale (0-18 CPS, 0-18 PDT).

The MSRA scaled score is then combined with the verified self assessment score which is weighted at 60% (max score 0-54). This produces a maximum overall shortlisting total of 90 points. Please note that this differs from previous years. Following the selection centre, the overall shortlisting total (MSRA and verified self assessment) contributes 30% and the selection centre score accounts for 70% towards the overall selection score.

What is a standardised score?

The standardised score which you were provided with converts applicant's scores on the CPS and PDT test to a scale with a mean of 250 and a standard deviation of 40.

How did I get a scaled score of 0?

For Neurosurgery National Selection, the scores of the MSRA (PDT and CPS combined) have each been scaled onto a 0-36 point scale. This means that the mean score for the population of shortlisted applicants to the specialty sits approximately in the middle of this scale. If your score was several standard deviations below the mean score of the shortlisted population when the scores were scaled, your score may have sat at 0.

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