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CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE BEST ANSWER (SBA) QUESTION WORKSHOP BY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

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The single best answer (SBA) question, otherwise known as one best answer (OBA) question, is popularly used in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education assessment. It is an assessment tool for the cognitive domain that is best used to assess problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills. Therefore, constructing a high-quality SBA question can be daunting for academicians, especially if no prior training is given, as it necessitates a solid understanding of the learning outcomes (LOs).

In pursuit of our goal to create exemplary exam questions, the Department of Medical Education has taken a proactive step by organizing workshops focused on constructing Single Best Answer (SBA) questions. These workshops were conducted on 11th May 2023, 5th July 2023, and 18th August 2023. The intention behind offering multiple dates is to accommodate the busy schedules of our esteemed academicians, ensuring that they can participate and benefit from the workshop.

The workshops were genuinely enriched by the presence of Associate Professor Dr. Nurul Alimah Binti Abdul Nasir, Head of the Medical Education Department, as the speaker and Professor Dr. Jamiyah Binti Hassan as the facilitator. Their combined expertise in the domain of curriculum and assessment added immeasurable value to the workshops. Assoc. Professor Dr. Nurul Alimah and Professor Dr. Jamiyah both brought to the table a wealth of knowledge and skills that significantly contributed to the workshop's success.



The workshops consisted of lectures and hands-on sessions, allowing a comprehensive learning experience for the participants. The hands-on activity required the participants to construct SBA questions and discuss them collectively during the vetting session.

The inclusion of these components allowed participants to acquire essential knowledge and practical skills in producing high-quality Single Best Answer (SBA) questions. Additionally, at the end of the workshop, all participants were also provided with an SBA checklist to ensure that the knowledge and skills gained are effectively retained and applied later.

Furthermore, the survey conducted by the Department of Medical Education following the completion of the workshops was a commendable initiative to assess the impact and effectiveness of the programme. The survey result showed that the majority of the participants exhibited a clear understanding of the critical elements necessary for constructing high-quality SBA questions, as well as recognizing the importance of this skill.

In a nutshell, the Medical Education Department was delighted with the overall outcomes of these workshops. It is hoped that the workshops have benefitted everyone in many ways, and the Medical Education Department will continue to serve by providing more exciting and impactful training opportunities for academicians in the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM.