

**Mapping *Practical Neurology* articles to the Neurology Specialty Certificate
Examination Curriculum**

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Preparing for the Neurology Specialty Certificate Examination (SCE) can be challenging, not least because of the breadth of knowledge required and the difficulty identifying high-quality, syllabus-relevant learning resources. In July 2024, the examination was sat by 198 candidates, including 58 UK resident doctors, with the remainder comprising non-UK or undeclared candidates, highlighting its increasingly international reach. *Practical Neurology* is widely used by trainees for exam preparation, and although previous mapping of its content to the Neurology SCE curriculum is available,¹ there is a need for an updated and more accessible resource.

To address this, we have mapped high-yield *Practical Neurology* articles, predominantly written over the past 10 years, to the official SCE curriculum modules, creating an indexed, curriculum-aligned resource to support focused revision (Figure 1). We also ensured that the classic *Bare Essentials* manuscripts and other seminal papers published before this 10-year

period were not overlooked. This work was undertaken by trainee neurologists with the aim of producing a practical and usable tool rather than an exhaustive academic exercise.

Figure 1 Neurology SCE curriculum mapping design (<https://pn.bmj.com/pages/sce>)

The resulting online curriculum index spans all SCE domains, including (but not limited to) cerebrovascular disease, cognitive and behavioural neurology, epilepsy, neuro-inflammatory disease, neuromuscular disorders and movement disorders. Within each module,

relevant *Practical Neurology* content is listed, clearly labelled by article type (for example, Review, How to do it, What neurologists need to understand outside their own speciality), publication year, and availability of free access, video or podcast material.

This format allows trainees to target their revision efficiently. For example, a trainee revising epilepsy can rapidly identify core reviews focal epilepsy localisation, status epilepticus, epilepsy surgery and genetics, alongside practical articles on driving regulations, ketogenic diets and managing medication interruptions. Similarly, those revising neuro-inflammatory disease can access up-to-date guidance on autoimmune encephalitis, multiple sclerosis disease-modifying therapies, paraneoplastic syndromes and immunomodulatory treatments.

The index also highlights the breadth of *Practical Neurology*'s educational output and stands as a testament to the consistently high-quality contribution of its authors. Particular strengths of these articles lie in their emphasis on clinical reasoning, including the exploration of “mimics and chameleons”, and real-world management dilemmas that frequently feature in the best-of-five multiple-choice format of the SCE. The inclusion of videos and podcasts supports different learning styles and reflects the increasing importance of multimodal learning in postgraduate medical education.

We hope this curriculum-mapped index will serve as a living resource for neurology trainees, complementing formal textbooks and guidelines, and encouraging structured engagement with *Practical Neurology* throughout training. It may also be useful for trainers supporting SCE candidates, for trainees identifying gaps in their knowledge, and guide the editorial team in commission high-impact content to extend the journal's reach.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors of *Practical Neurology*. Their consistently high-quality, clinically accessible and up-to-date contributions make this

resource possible and, as the journal enters 2026, continue to set the benchmark for educational neurology resources.

The full curriculum index is freely accessible on the *Practical Neurology* website and will be updated periodically as new content is published.

The SCE mapping was undertaken by Laura White, Emer O'Connor and Jonathan Cleaver.

References

- 1 Sokhi Dilraj, Brockington Alice, Lo Christine. Practical Neurology linked to the curriculum: an online resource. *Pract Neurol* 2017;17(1):2–3. Doi: 10.1136/PRACTNEUROL-2016-001575.