CNS- General

Instructions in the CNS case may request one of the following:

1. Examine the CNS (General)…see below
2. Examine the lower limb (neurologically)…see Ch 6. CNS-Lower Limb
3. Examine the upper limb (neurologically)… see Ch 7. CNS-Upper Limb
4. Examine the cranial nerves… see Ch 8. CNS-Cranial Nerves
5. Examine the gait… see Ch 9. CNS-Gait
6. Examine the speech and higher cerebral functions… see Ch 10. CNS-Speech & Higher Cerebral Functions
7. Examine the cerebellar system… see Ch 11. CNS-Cerebellar

CNS – GENERAL
STEPS OF EXAMINATION

(1) APPROACH THE PATIENT

- Read the instructions carefully for clues
- Approach the right hand side of the patient, shake hands, introduce yourself
- Ask permission to examine him
- Expose the upper and lower limbs completely and keep the patient descent (genital area is covered)

(2) GENERAL INSPECTION: see "Ch 6. CNS – Lower Limb"

(3) EXAMINATION OF LOWER LIMBS (you may wish to start with the lower limb rather than the upper limb as it takes shorter time and gives more information): see "Ch 6. CNS – Lower Limb"

(4) EXAMINATION OF UPPER LIMBS: see "Ch 7. CNS – Upper Limb"

(5) CRANIAL NERVES: see "Ch 8. CNS – Cranial Nerves"

(6) GAIT AND ROMBERG'S TEST: ask the examiner's permission to examine the patient's gait and perform Romberg's test: see "Ch 9. CNS – Gait"

(7) ADDITIONAL SIGNS: according to diagnosis, for example:

- Look for cataract and scar for pacemaker, palpate for local spinal tenderness and examine for sensory level
- Tell the examiner that you would normally extend your examination to perform … (mention what is missed in your examination because of lack of time) and woud ask about swallowing (Dystrophia myotonica), bladder symptoms, test the anal tone (spinal cord syndrome), and to dipstick urine for DM.

(8) THANK THE PATIENT AND COVER HIM (HER)