

Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2010

HAEMATOLOGY – clinical scientists

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the *Regulations and Guidelines – College examinations for Membership and Diplomas.*

ENTRY & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

There is no specific timing for entry to the examination. Candidates should obtain guidance from their educational supervisor as to when to sit the examination. Planning should take into account planned CCT date (where applicable) but candidates should apply only when they are ready. Some general guidance is given below, but apart from the sequence in which the examinations can be sat is not intended to be prescriptive.

Part 1

Candidates will normally require at least one year's experience of postgraduate practice after completion of an approved pre-registration training programme in haematology, evidenced by a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Pre-Registration Training in Haematology in order to achieve the standard required to pass the Part 1 Examination i.e. after 5 years of relevant postgraduate study.

For candidates who have not completed an approved pre-registration training programme in haematology, the corresponding period of postgraduate practice will be at least six years.

Part 2

Candidates may not sit the Part 2 Examination until successfully completing the Part 1 Examination.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Part 1

The Part 1 Examination will be a written assessment of knowledge and clinical and laboratory judgement and comprises two three hour written papers. **Candidates must pass both papers at a single sitting to pass the Part 1 Examination.**

Paper 1: Essay Paper

Paper 1 consists of four essay questions. All candidates will answer the same four questions and be assessed in the same topic areas. Each question will address an important area of laboratory or clinical practice in the following areas: transfusion, coagulation, laboratory/general haematology/red cell haematology and haematological oncology.

Paper 2: Short Answer Questions (SAQs) Paper

Paper 2 contains 20 to 25 short answer questions (SAQs) designed to elicit knowledge across the whole breadth of the curriculum.

Part 2

The Part 2 Examination will be the core assessment of clinical and laboratory skills and consist of three parts:

- 1) one module covering laboratory practice, either .
 - **General & oncology:** an assessment of morphological skills, data interpretation and clinical judgement in general and oncological haematology and red cell haematology
 - **Haemostasis & thrombosis:** an assessment of data interpretation and clinical judgement in haemostasis & thrombosis
 - **Transfusion:** an assessment of data interpretation and clinical judgement in blood transfusion

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate clinical scientific knowledge and understanding of how the selected module relates to other areas of haematological practice (for example a candidate undertaking the haemostasis and thrombosis module would require knowledge of haematological malignancy and association with acquired disorders of haemostasis)

- 2) Submission of either a dissertation on a specific area of haematology clinical science / a PhD thesis / a portfolio of papers or a case book (10 cases) subject to the normal College regulations for Part 2 written submissions.
- 3) A structured viva

TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The Part 1 examination will be offered once a year in Spring. The Part 2 examination will be offered once a year in Spring.

Examinations Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
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