

Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2010

HAEMATOLOGY

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

ENTRY & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Possession of MRCP(UK) is a mandatory requirement for the award of a CCT in Haematology therefore UK trainees in Haematology must have completed the examinations for MRCP(UK) (or equivalent) prior to attempting the MRCPPath examinations in Haematology.

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

Trainees will normally require two years' experience of specialty training in Haematology in order to achieve the standard required to pass the Part 1 Examination.

Part 2

It is anticipated that most trainees will complete the Part 2 Examination after three years of specialty training in Haematology. Candidates may not sit the Part 2 Examination until 12 months after successfully completing the Part 1 Examination.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Part 1

The Part 1 Examination 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 one of the following four areas: (i) blood transfusion; (ii) general haematology (including laboratory management); (iii) haematological oncology and (iv) haemostasis & thrombosis.

Paper 2: MCQ Paper

Paper 2 contains 125 multiple choice questions examining the candidate's knowledge of a broad range of haematological diseases, laboratory practice and clinical practice. Fifty questions will be 'best from five' format. Seventy-five questions will be 'extended matching' format.

Part 2

The Part 2 Examination comprises three written components and an oral examination. It is held over three days at accredited examination centres using identical questions and clinical material. **Candidates must achieve a pass mark in all three written components and demonstrate competence in the oral examination at a single sitting to pass the Part 2 Examination.**

Written Components

Morphology

This consists of two papers:

Short Answer Questions: twelve questions that require a diagnosis from a blood film, bone marrow aspirate/trephine biopsy or from data interpretation to be answered in one hour and thirty minutes.

Long Cases: three clinical cases, in which more detailed answers are required of the clinical material provided to be answered in one hour and thirty minutes.

Coagulation

This consists of eight to ten questions, to be answered in two hours. They comprise data interpretation on a wide range of clinical and laboratory problems found in coagulation.

Transfusion Medicine

This consists of ten questions in two separate sections to be answered in two hours, which require interpretation of transfusion medicine data.

Oral Examination

This consists of two oral examinations with a pair of examiners, each lasting 30 minutes and using a structured format to assess the candidate's knowledge of the topics examined and competence in the management of clinical or laboratory scenarios related to these topics. One oral examination will assess topics on laboratory haematology/general haematology and haematological oncology. The second oral examination will assess topics on blood transfusion and haemostasis/thrombosis.

TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The Part 1 and Part 2 examinations will be offered twice a year in Spring and Autumn.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Candidates who have sat old format examinations

Candidates who have successfully passed the entire old format Part 1 written and practical examinations must complete the old format Part 2 oral examination when eligible.

The College will continue to run the old format Part 2 oral examination until all trainees have either passed this examination or completed the maximum number of attempts.

Candidates who have successfully passed only the old format Part 1 written examination but either have not attempted or have not passed the old format Part 1 practical examination, must sit the new format Part 2 examination when eligible.

Candidates who have attempted but not passed the old format Part 1 written examination must sit the new format Part 1 examination.

Candidates undertaking examinations in the old format under the previous regulations who do not possess MRCP(UK) or a recognised equivalent must sit a Part 2 Clinical Examination in addition to the Part 2 Oral Examination.

Examinations Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
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