Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2018

HAEMATOLOGY

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the *Regulations and Guidelines – College examinations for Fellowship 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 FRCPath 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. It is very important that candidates do not sit the examination too early before they have acquired the necessary clinical and laboratory experience (particularly the latter). Some general guidance is given below, but apart from the sequence in which the examinations can be sat is not intended to be prescriptive.

Both parts of the examination will cover topics from general haematology, malignant haematology, diagnostic haematology, coagulation and transfusion and this should be borne in mind when deciding to present for the examination.

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 questions consisting of both multiple choice and extended matching format 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 using identical questions and clinical material at each host centre. **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.** Because of the differing skill sets examined in morphology candidates must pass at least seven of the thirteen questions in the exam and this must include one long case.in addition to achieving the overall pass mark for the two papers to pass the component overall. This also applies to the oral examination which involves a total of 8 topics.

Written and Practical Components

Morphology
This consists of two papers:
Short Answer Questions: up to twelve questions (usually ten) that require a diagnosis from a blood film, bone marrow aspirate/trephine biopsy or from data interpretation to be answered in an hour and a half.

Long Cases: up to three clinical cases, in which more detailed answers are required of the clinical material provided to be answered in an hour and a half.

Coagulation
This consists of eight to ten questions (usually eight), 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 eight to ten questions (usually eight), 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.

Questions on quality assurance may appear in one or more sections of the Part 2 examination.

TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS

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

Examinations Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
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