

Paediatric pathology examination regulations

2026

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the 'Regulations and guidelines – College examinations for membership and diplomas'.



Entry and 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 intended Certificate of Completion of Training (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, it is not intended to be prescriptive.

Part 1

Candidates must sit the Part 1 histopathology examination. Candidates usually take this examination after 2 years of training in histopathology in a department recognised for training in paediatric pathology or, in the case of candidates with postgraduate experience in paediatrics, obstetrics or fetal medicine, 2 years of training in a department recognised for training in general histopathology.

Part 2

It is anticipated that most trainees will sit the Part 2 paediatric pathology examination after 4 years of training. Trainees must have completed at least 2 years' training in a recognised histopathology training programme and at least 18 months' training in a recognised paediatric pathology training programme at specialist trainee or registrar grade. 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

Candidates will take the Part 1 histopathology examination (see [Histopathology regulations and guidelines](#) for further details).

Part 2

The examination takes place over at least 2 days within the 3-week practical examination period and consists of:

- **a full perinatal or paediatric autopsy**, followed by a 2–3-hour viva



- **20 surgical cases** for which immunohistochemistry is not provided (3 hours); this may include anything that is not post-mortem material
- **special techniques** (2 hours) – 3–5 surgical or post-mortem cases in which the candidate will be provided with the H&E slides, and relevant histochemistry, immunohistochemistry electron microscopy and molecular biology
- **2–3 long cases** (2 hours) – perinatal autopsy cases on which a report including clinicopathological correlation will be requested
- **macroscopic examination**, which may involve surgical cut-up or fixed specimens (1 hour)
- **oral examination**, which may include all aspects of provision of a paediatric or perinatal pathology service including laboratory management, health and safety, and ethics (up to 1 hour).

The candidate should reach a minimum pass mark in all sections of the examination and be able to demonstrate competence in perinatal and paediatric pathology appropriate for an independent consultant paediatric pathologist and to enter the continuing professional development and external quality assurance schemes.

Additional information

Please note that changes to the Part 2 examination have been approved by the GMC. Candidates who intend to sit the examination in **spring 2027** are advised to read the document which is published on the examinations news and dates section of our [website](#).

Timing of the examinations

The Part 1 and Part 2 examinations will be offered twice a year in spring and autumn.

