

Spring session FRCPath Part 1 examinations

Why is the College not delivering examinations online this session?

Following the issues with delivering the examinations online last autumn we have been working to identify the best option for delivering the FRCPath Part 1 examinations this session that would give confidence to candidates, especially those re-sitting from the autumn session. The logistics of each option were discussed, and it was felt that providing a paper-based examination this session presented the best option for candidates.

Why has this not been communicated until now?

It has taken some time to work through the viability of a range of options. In addition, permission had to be sought from the Trustee Board in order to move to examination centres and ensure that appropriate arrangements could be put in place. We have also sought approval from the General Medical Council. At this point, we are able to answer most questions about how the examinations will be delivered and provide at least 7 weeks' notice to candidates of the arrangements.

Where will the examination centres be?

The examination centres for candidates in the UK and the Republic of Ireland will be close to where the majority of candidates are based and with good transport links. Examination centres will be in

- Cardiff
- Glasgow
- London
- Manchester
- Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland (to be confirmed)

There will be 2 international examination centres in India and Dubai, again mapped to the region where the majority of candidates are based, as far as possible.

When will my examination be?

The examinations will be as follows:

Tuesday 24 March 2026	Certificate in Medical Genetics
	Combined Infection Certificate Examination/Part 1 Infection
	Diploma in Dermatopathology
	Part 1 Genetics
	Part 1 Haematology Clinical Science

	Part 1 Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics
	Part 1 Histopathology (PM only)
	Part 1 Medical Microbiology and Virology (AM only)
	Part 1 Reproductive Science
Wednesday 25 March 2026	Allergy & Clinical Immunology Certificate Examination/Part 1 Examination in Allergy & Clinical Immunology
	Part 1 Clinical Biochemistry (AM only)
	Part 1 Haematology
	Part 1 Molecular Pathology
	Part 1 Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Confirmation letters have been sent to all candidates on Monday 2 February.

How has my examination centre been allocated?

You have been allocated to the examination centre closest to your registered address. If there is a reason why this is not suitable for you, you can request a change of centre by **Monday 9 February** using the link provided in your allocation letter. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

What if I require reasonable adjustments to attempt the examination on a laptop rather than paper (e.g. typing answers for essay formats and short answer questions)?

Please make an [application](#) for a reasonable adjustment (on the right hand side of the webpage if using a laptop or PC) and supply the necessary evidence. Please submit your request by **Monday 9 February**. Candidates who have already made an application for a reasonable adjustment do not need to reapply but can contact the examinations team to clarify if their supporting evidence recommends use of a laptop.

The preference will be for candidates to bring their own laptop which must be able to have word processing capabilities without connecting to the internet (e.g. able to use desktop software while the internet is disconnected). At the end of the exam, candidates will be asked to save their answers to a memory stick provided by the examinations team and then delete the answers from their device under supervision (including from the recycling bin). Candidates will be asked to sign a disclaimer about the use of the laptop in the examination. There will be invigilators in the room who will be monitoring all candidates. If you will require the College to provide a

laptop, please let us know. Please note that you will not be able to attempt your examination outside of an examination centre.

What if I can't or don't want to travel to attempt my examination this session? Can I withdraw?

You can withdraw your examination application and receive a refund. Please note that we cannot transfer your application to the next session so you will need to reapply in the autumn. If you wish to withdraw, you can request this using the link provided in your allocation letter. Please inform the examinations team of your decision by no later than **Friday 13 February**. Please note that once requested, withdrawals are not reversible and that the College will be delivering examinations in examination/test centres in future.

What do I need to bring with me to the examination centre?

If you are completing the examination on paper, you will need to bring:

- Identification including a photograph (e.g. passport, driving licence or national identity card). NHS cards are not valid.
- Stationery including scientific calculator without internet connectivity in a clear pencil case or bag
- Analogue watch or other timer without internet connectivity or make a noise
- Drinks and snacks that are not disruptive
- Extra layers as we cannot guarantee the temperature of the examination venue

If you are attempting a Multiple Choice Question/Single Best Answer/Extended Matching Question (MCQ/SBA/EMQ) examination, please bring a black and blue pen and a pencil. Spare pens and pencils will be available.

Lunch will be provided for candidates who are undertaking a full day examination.

How will I write my examination?

For candidates undertaking examinations in a MCQ/SBA/EMQ format, they will have a question booklet and separate answer sheet to mark their answers in. For candidates undertaking written or essay style formats, they will have a question booklet and separate answer booklet.

Candidates must hand in their question booklets and all answer sheets/booklets at the end of the examination. Candidates must ensure that they write their candidate number on their answer sheets and on each page of their answer booklet.

Have the GMC approved the change to the delivery of the examinations for this session?

An application has been submitted to the GMC and the examinations are currently subject to GMC approval. We remain in close communication with the GMC and will confirm approval once granted.

How will the examinations be delivered in autumn 2026?

The aim for the autumn 2026 session is to deliver the examinations online in test centres with in-person invigilators in the UK and internationally. There was not sufficient time to have this ready for the upcoming session, but we are working on this in parallel with the delivery of the Spring examination session. Preparations include exploring increased numbers of international centres.

Will the College go back to allowing candidates to attempt their examinations at home or in the workplace?

No, allowing candidates to attempt their examinations locally was an interim measure due primarily to COVID-19. It was always a longer-term aim of the College to move to test centres. This is to ensure the security of the examination and standardisation of the process. In addition, it will better ensure consistent connectivity for candidates during their examination.

We have received feedback from the RCPATH Trainee Advisory Committee that they support the move to test centres.