

## Royal College of Pathologists

### Examination regulations - 2018

#### TRANSFUSION SCIENCE

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

#### ENTRY & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be HPC-registered clinical scientists. There is no specific timing for entry to the examination. Candidates undertaking the HSST curriculum would normally have taken the Part 1 examination by the end of the second year (curriculum phase I). Candidates should obtain guidance from their educational supervisor as to when to sit the examination. 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 experience. Some general guidance is given below, but apart from the sequence in which the examinations can be sat is not intended to be prescriptive.

Note that this examination is not appropriate for medically trained candidates who aim to fulfil specialist training requirements for a UK consultant post.

##### Part 1

In order to achieve the standard required to pass the Part 1 FRCPATH examination candidates will normally require at least 24 months of practice in Transfusion Medicine.

##### Part 2

Candidates may not sit the Part 2 Examination until having successfully completed the Part 1 Examination and having acquired significant experience of practice in transfusion science.

#### 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.**

The examination will cover the Stage 1 curriculum for the Transfusion Science HSST curriculum for Clinical Scientists.

It is a test of knowledge and clinical skills as indicated in the curriculum and their application to the following subjects:

- The Immunological basis of Transfusion
- Basic Haematology

- Blood Group Systems
- The Principles of Blood Group Serology
- Transfusion Laboratory Practice
- Transfusion Therapy
- Donor Recruitment, Selection and the Donation Process
- Preparation, Testing, Labelling and Storage of Blood Components
- Information Technology and Laboratory Automation
- Quality Systems and the Management of Clinical Incidents in Transfusion Practice

### **Paper 1: Essay Paper**

Paper 1 consists of five essay questions, two of which are mandatory and a choice of two from the remaining three.

### **Paper 2: Short Answer Questions (SAQs) Paper**

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

### **Part 2**

The Part 2 examination is in development.

### **TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS**

The Part 1 examination is offered once a year in Spring.

Examinations Department  
The Royal College of Pathologists  
November 2017