Royal College of Pathologists
Examination regulations – 2018

MEDICAL GENETICS

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 Clinical Genetics therefore UK trainees in Medical Genetics must have completed the examinations for MRCP(UK) (or equivalent) prior to attempting the Certificate of Medical Genetics examination.

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. Some general guidance is given below.

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

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

The Certificate examination is a single paper consisting of a maximum of 20 compulsory Short Answer Questions (SAQs), to be answered in three hours. SAQs are designed to test factual knowledge and understanding across the range of the 2010 Medical Genetics Curriculum. Each question comprises a stem and six sub-questions. The stem defines the topic of the question and may include a short scenario or vignette. Each sub question is designed to elicit a specific piece of information, or demonstration of understanding of the topic and its context. Unless stated otherwise, the answer required will relate specifically to the material provided in the stem and not to the topic in general.

Points to note: SAQs are criterion-marked against an explicit model answer
Marks are only awarded for information required by the question – no marks are available for additional material

If a defined number of facts are requested (e.g. State two causes of.....), only that number of responses will be marked (e.g. Answer – correct cause, incorrect cause, correct cause, will only receive one out of two marks).
Answers requiring more than single word or phrase responses will be answerable in a single sentence or a small number of sentences.
Examiners will be looking for key concepts in these answers and no marks will awarded for extra information. Candidates should practise writing short, concise answers, which include only the information requested. Good use of English, avoidance of abbreviations, and clear handwriting are, however, essential. Candidates who write unnecessarily long answers are likely to penalise themselves because these answers waste time.

The mark allocation for each sub-question will be stated in brackets in each instance.

Please see the Past and Sample Papers section of the website for specimen questions with model answers

Examinations Department

The Royal College of Pathologists

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