

FRCPath Part 1 Examination – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Introduction

This guide explains what candidates can expect before, during and after sitting the FRCPath Part 1 examination in a British Council test centre.

From Autumn 2026, the FRCPath Part 1 examination will be delivered electronically using the Risr assessment platform, but within secure British Council test centres. This approach combines the benefits of computer-based assessment with the consistency, security and reliability of professionally managed examination venues.

1. What is changing?

The FRCPath Part 1 examination will now be delivered electronically using the Risr assessment platform in British Council test centres. Candidates will no longer sit the examination remotely or complete a paper-based examination.

2. Why has the College made this change?

The College has extensive experience of delivering computer-based examinations and continually reviews its examination processes to improve the candidate experience. Delivering examinations in British Council test centres provides a controlled testing environment with reliable internet connectivity, standardised equipment and on-site support. This helps reduce the risk of disruption and ensures a fair and consistent experience for all candidates.

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

An application was submitted to the GMC and has provisionally been approved, subject to the outcome of a pilot which took place on 15 July.

4. Is the examination content changing?

No. The examination syllabus, blueprint, format, number of questions, standard setting process and pass standard remain unchanged. Only the method of delivery has changed.

5. Will I use the Risr platform?

Yes. The examination will be delivered through the Risr assessment platform. Candidates who have previously sat College examinations using Risr will find the interface familiar.

6. Where can I sit the FRCPath Part 1 examination?

The FRCPath Part 1 examination is delivered in British Council test centres in locations across the United Kingdom, Ireland, and internationally.

Autumn 2026 locations United Kingdom and Ireland

- London
- Manchester
- Edinburgh
- Bristol
- Dublin

International

- New Delhi, India
- Karachi, Pakistan
- Amman, Jordan*
- Singapore, Singapore**
- Colombo, Sri Lanka***
- Yangon, Myanmar***

The College has selected these locations to provide broad geographical coverage while ensuring that examinations are delivered in secure, professionally managed test centres.

Note:

*Amman, Jordan will be offered subject to venue availability on a rotating basis with Kuwait and Qatar

**Singapore will be offered as a venue in the autumn sitting and rotate with Hong Kong in the spring

***Centres will be offered on an annual basis in Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

The College will continue to review the availability of test centres and may amend or expand the list of examination locations for future examination diets in response to candidate demand and operational requirements.

7. How will my test centre be allocated?

You will be 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 **using the link provided in your confirmation letter** which will be emailed to you on 31 July. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Centres will only go ahead if there are sufficient candidates to make it viable. Where a centre needs to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers (<10), candidates will be given as much notice as possible and the option to change to a different centre.

8. 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 spring. If you wish to withdraw, you can request this by emailing exams@rcpath.org. Please inform the examinations team of your decision by no

later than Friday 17 July, requests to withdraw after this date will only be refunded if there are exceptional circumstances. Please note that once requested, withdrawals are not reversible and that the College will be delivering examinations in examination/test centres in future.

9. What should I bring on the day?

Candidates should bring:

- Identification including a photograph (passport, driving licence or national identity card). NHS cards are not valid. If your photo ID is in a different name to the one on your application, please bring supporting ID (e.g., marriage certificate, deed poll change) with you.
- A copy of either your confirmation of entry email which will be sent on 31 July or the follow up email with your centre location details.
- A scientific calculator without internet connectivity
- Analogue watch or other timer without internet connectivity and that does not make a noise. Smartwatches and smartglasses will not be allowed in the exam room.
- Drinks in a clear bottle and non-disruptive or messy, unwrapped snacks in a clear container. You will be asked to remove any labels prior to entering the examination room.
- Any medication you may need to take during the exam and have advised us of in advance
- Extra layers (but not coats) - we cannot guarantee the temperature of the examination venue.

Further information will be included in the candidate guidance issued before the examination. The examination centre will provide scrap paper and a pencil for notes and simple earplugs.

You will not be able to bring any bags or coats into the exam room and all electronic devices must be stored in the lockers provided. **Please note that only small lockers will be provided at the centres so please do not bring large bags or suitcases as these will not be stored.**

10. What should I expect when I arrive?

On arrival, British Council staff will:

- Verify your identity
- Explain the examination procedures
- Escort you to your workstation
- Provide instructions before the examination begins

You should arrive with sufficient time to complete the check-in process.

There may be other examinations taking place at centres, but you will be in a room only with other RCPATH candidates.

11. What happens if I arrive late to the examination?

Candidates are expected to arrive at the test centre in sufficient time to complete the registration and identity verification process before the examination begins. If you are running late due to circumstances beyond your control, please notify the College Examinations Team as soon as possible so this can be reported to your centre. The reporting time will be provided in your examination confirmation and candidate instructions. If you arrive after the stated reporting time but before the examination has started, British Council staff will make every effort to admit you, provided that all pre-examination procedures can be completed without delaying the examination for other candidates.

If you arrive after the examination has started, you may not be permitted to enter the examination room. This is to protect the integrity and security of the examination and to ensure fairness for all candidates. **If you are allowed to enter the examination you will not receive the full time allowance and your examination will be stopped at the same point as other candidates.**

12. What if I am unable to attend my examination because of severe weather, transport disruption or another unforeseen event?

Candidates are responsible for planning their journey to the test centre and allowing sufficient time for travel. We strongly recommend checking travel arrangements in advance and allowing extra time, particularly if travelling long distances or during periods of anticipated disruption.

If severe weather, major transport disruption or another unforeseen event prevents you from attending your examination, you should contact the Examinations Team as soon as possible using the contact details provided in your candidate information.

13. What if I require reasonable adjustments?

The College remains committed to ensuring that all candidates have equitable access to the examination. Candidates requiring reasonable adjustments should apply through the existing College process no later than 2 weeks after the closing deadline for the session. Approved adjustments will be communicated to the British Council to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place at the test centre.

Where possible, candidates who require additional time will be placed in a separate room with other candidates with the same time allowance. Candidates will not be allocated individual rooms.

14. What happens if there is a technical problem during the examination?

British Council staff will be available throughout the examination.

If a technical issue occurs, it will be managed in accordance with the College's examination procedures.

15. Will my work be lost if there is a technical issue?

The Risr platform includes measures to protect candidate responses throughout the examination. Should a technical issue occur, trained staff will work with the College

to restore access as quickly as possible while ensuring that candidates are treated fairly.

16. Who should I speak to if I experience a problem during the examination?

Please notify an invigilator immediately. Do not attempt to resolve technical issues yourself or leave your workstation without informing an invigilator.

17. 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.

Specific Questions for Written Examinations

1. I am unsure about using an online system I haven't used before. Is there any way of previewing the software prior to launch day?

Yes. You will be sent a link to the demo interface approximately 1 week in advance of your exam date to take a tutorial exam so that you can familiarise yourself with the system.

2. How long will I get to familiarise myself with the system? Will it just be one session or will I be able to access it whenever I want to in the run-up to the exam?

You will be able to try out the tutorial as many times as you want to in the run up to the examination.

3. Can I return to previous questions during the examination?

You will be able to move forwards and backwards through the examination and flag questions that you wish to revisit before submitting your paper.

4. Can I make notes during the examination?

Candidates will be provided with suitable materials by the test centre for rough working where permitted under the Examination Regulations. Any materials provided must be returned to the invigilator before leaving the examination room for destruction. Candidates must not remove examination notes or reproduce examination content in any form, any attempt to do so will be considered candidate misconduct and investigated accordingly.

5. I type slowly and can write much faster so I am worried that I will not be able to answer all the questions in the time allowed.

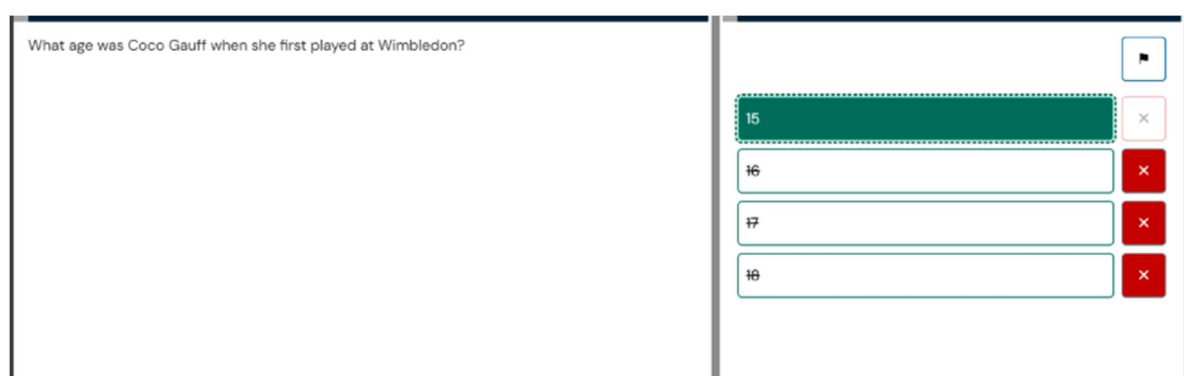
We would encourage you to practice typing if you are sitting a paper with long answer questions. However, even with a very slow typing speed it is expected

candidates will have enough time to complete the question/s. Remember, quality is far more important than quantity. For short answer/notes questions, you will not be required to write more than a few sentences for your answers.

An additional five minutes per hour will be added to all written examinations – SAQ, short note and long answer questions (but not MCQ/EMQ) - to account for typing concerns.

6. How do I complete the MCQ/EMQ answers?

For each question, there will be an option list of potential answers and you will click on the one that you think is correct. **You must ensure that you select your chosen answer by clicking the box with the answer you think is correct before moving on to the next question or you will not receive a mark.** You will be able to strike out answers you think are incorrect by clicking the x next to the answers whilst you consider your final answer.



What age was Coco Gauff when she first played at Wimbledon?

15	x
16	x
17	x
18	x

7. Can I include diagrams as part of my answers?

Unfortunately, this feature is not available in Risr. All exam papers have been written with this in mind, and diagrams will not be required for any questions.

You will not be able to add tables to your answer, where a question requires you to complete a table as part of the answer the relevant cells will be clearly labelled for you to replicate.

8. Can I use a calculator during the exam?

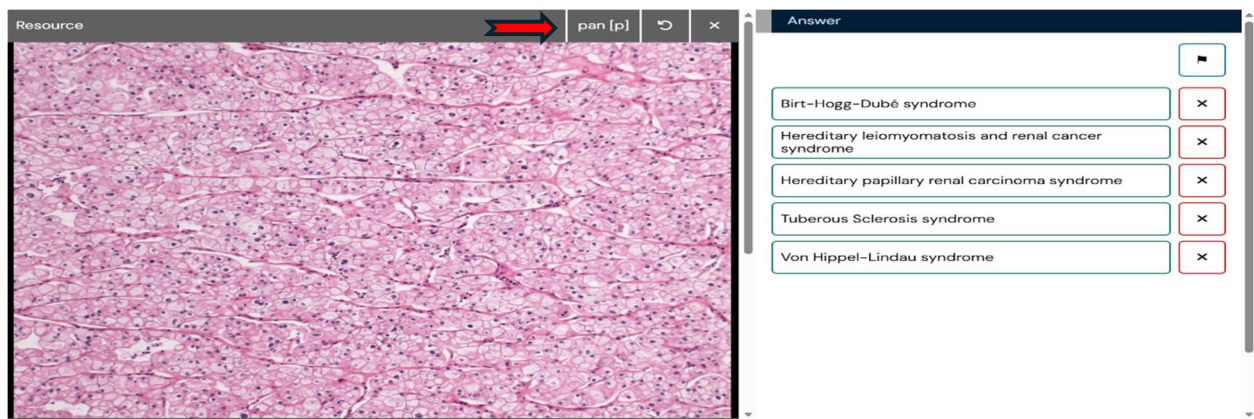
Candidates are permitted to use their own non-programmable scientific calculator during the exam if this is required. The calculator will be checked by the invigilator/proctor prior to starting the exam.

There is also a calculator feature within the system, but this only covers basic arithmetic functions.

9. Will images form part of the online exams e.g. histology images in the FRCPath Part 1? Will I be able to zoom in closer to look at them if needed?

Yes, there will be images in several papers and you will be able to zoom in on these if needed. If you click on the image in the question, it will enlarge as a pop-out and

you will then be able to zoom in using the menu shown in the images below. Once zoomed in, you can use pan to move around the image.



10. Can I change the way my screen looks in Riser?

You can change the background colour in Riser but you are not able to change the screen layout.

11. What happens if I finish the examination early?

If you complete the examination before the allocated finishing time, you may submit your responses early. Before submitting, the examination platform will alert you to any unanswered or flagged questions. Once your examination has been submitted, you will not be able to re-enter or amend your responses. You should remain seated until instructed by the invigilator to leave the examination room. You may not leave during the first 30 or last 10 minutes of the exam to minimise disruption to other candidates.

12. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any questions about the examination, please contact the Examinations Team using the details provided on the College website or in your examination confirmation email. The College will also publish updated candidate guidance and any important announcements on its website under Examinations News and Dates.