

Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2025

HAEMATOLOGY CLINICAL SCIENCE

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

ENTRY & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should be HPC-registered clinical scientists. 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. 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.

Part 1

In order to achieve the standard required to pass the Part 1 FRCPATH examination candidates will normally require at least 12 months of practice in haematology as a HPC-registered clinical scientist, following completion of an approved pre-registration training programme as evidenced by the Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Training in Haematology. Hence part 1 of the FRCPATH examination will normally be sat at least 12 months after obtaining the ACS Certificate of Attainment (i.e. after a minimum of 5 years of relevant postgraduate study and practice).

For candidates who have not completed an approved pre-registration training programme in haematology, the corresponding period of postgraduate practice will be at least six years.

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 as a HPC-registered clinical scientist.

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. Both papers will be marked using an open mark scheme with a pass mark calculated using a modified Angoff method.

Paper 1: Long Answer Paper

Paper 1 consists of four long answer questions, all of which must be answered. All candidates will answer the same four questions and be assessed in the same topic areas. Each question will address an important area of laboratory or clinical practice in the following areas: general and red cell haematology (including laboratory management), haematological oncology, haemostasis and thrombosis, and blood transfusion.

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 will be the core assessment of clinical and laboratory skills and consist of three parts in two modular components:

- 1) A practical examination covering laboratory practice in, either:
 - **General haematology & oncology:** an assessment of morphological skills, data interpretation and clinical judgement in general and oncological haematology and red cell haematology
 - **Haemostasis & thrombosis:** an assessment of data interpretation and clinical judgement in haemostasis & thrombosis
 - **Transfusion:** an assessment of data interpretation and clinical judgement in blood transfusion

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate clinical scientific knowledge and understanding of how the selected module relates to other areas of haematological practice (for example a candidate undertaking the haemostasis and thrombosis module would require knowledge of the pathogenesis of acquired disorders of haemostasis associated with haematological malignancy).

- 2) A structured *viva* following the practical examination.
- 3) Submission of either a dissertation on a specific area of haematology clinical science / a relevant PhD thesis / a portfolio of papers or a case book (10 cases) subject to the normal College regulations for Part 2 written submissions.

The practical and oral examination will be taken at the same time over the course of a single day; candidates must pass both components in the same

sitting. Candidates do not need to have passed the written option before sitting the practical and oral but must have submitted their proposal approved before applying.

TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The Part 1 examination is offered once a year in Autumn. The Part 2 examination is offered once a year in Spring.

Examinations Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
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