

Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2020

Oral Pathology

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

ENTRY & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

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. 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

Trainees will normally require a minimum of 2½ years of training, which must include one year of experience in general histopathology in addition to oral pathology training.

Part 2

The Part 2 examination can normally be taken after a minimum of 4½ years of training.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Part 1

The Part 1 is a written test of core knowledge. The examination will comprise two papers with a combination of essay questions and short notes.

Paper 1 will cover general pathological principles and will include aspects of general histopathology relevant to oral pathology. Paper 2 will be slanted to oral pathology.

Part 2

The Part 2 examination comprises practical and oral components taken over two days and is designed to test the capability of the candidate to be an independent specialist in diagnostic oral pathology.

The examination is conducted in five sections (designated A, B, C, D and E) with specified objectives. Candidates must pass Section A in order to be eligible for a pass. The aggregation of the scores in the different parts of the examination and any compensation between parts is at the discretion of the three examiners, who will take into account the entire performance of the candidate over the two days in reaching their agreed final decision of pass or fail.

The objective of Section A is to test the candidate's competence to diagnose a wide range of the lesions that might present to an oral pathologist, taking cognisance of the specifications in the above section, 'The scope of oral pathology'. Section A comprises not more than 20 cases for diagnosis and lasts three hours.

The objective of Section B is to test the ability of the candidate to report complex cases. Six cases will be used. These may include a large resection, cases with multiple biopsies or cases requiring special stains, immunocytochemistry or molecular biology investigations for diagnosis. Section B lasts three hours.

The objective of Section C is to test the candidate's ability at specimen dissection, cut-up, selection and preparation of tissue blocks for histopathological examination. Candidates should expect to be required to dissect, at least partially, an appropriate resection specimen as well as smaller biopsy material. Section C lasts not more than 45 minutes.

The objective of Section D is to assess the candidate's ability to communicate the results and interpretation of histopathological findings in the context of a consultation using a multi-headed microscope. Section D lasts not more than two hours.

Section E is the oral examination and should last not more than one hour. The subject matter of the oral examination may include any aspect of the examination. It also includes areas not covered earlier in the examination, such as health and safety, the regulatory framework of laboratory practice, responsibilities of consultants and aspects of laboratory management.

TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The Part 1 and Part 2 examinations will be offered twice a year in Spring and Autumn.

Examinations Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
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