

Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2021

MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

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

Medically qualified candidates are required to have trained in a recognised regional higher specialist training (HST) programme in microbiology for a period of normally not less than 12 months.

Non-medically qualified candidates are required to have trained in a recognised training programme in microbiology for a period of normally not less than 12 months.

Part 2

Medically qualified candidates must have passed the Part 1 examination and are required to have trained in a recognised regional HST programme, including CIT, in microbiology for a period of normally not less than two and a half years.

Non-medically qualified candidates must have passed the Part 1 examination and have at least four years' experience in a laboratory recognised for higher specialist training.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Part 1

For medically qualified candidates in a UK training programme, information regarding the Infection Part 1 examination is available in the Infection Regulations and Guidelines.

For overseas based and scientifically qualified candidates, the Part 1 examination consists of 125 multiple-choice questions (MCQ). The three-hour examination is designed to test both knowledge and understanding.

Part 2

The Part 2 examination takes place over two days within the examination period and consists of written and practical components. Candidates must apply for and attempt both components in the same session.

The examination consists of four papers:

Paper 1: an essay and short answer question paper

Paper 2: a critical appraisal and short answer question paper

Practical scenarios

OSPE

The written and practical/OSPE components component will carry equal weight and candidates will be required to pass both components in the same session to pass the Part 2 Examination.

The written component (a balance of essays, short notes, scientific paper evaluation and short answer questions) will test knowledge and understanding across the curriculum, as well as critical appraisal.

The practical and OSPE examination tests competence in basic practical laboratory skills, interpretation of relevant clinical and laboratory data, management of infection, the ability to give appropriate clinical advice and in infection control practice.

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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