



MRCPI PART 1 MEDICINE OF CHILDHOOD

1. EXAMINATION FORMAT

The Examination consists of one paper, comprised of 100 questions, which includes : Best of Many (BoM) Questions, True/False Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) and Extended Matching Questions.

- The examination is of three hours duration, with no break.
- There is no negative marking.

Best of Five questions are used to test judgement and experience. A simple statement or short clinical scenario leads in to five options. All could be possible but only one is completely or the most correct. The candidate has to choose the best option.

For example:

- " The most likely diagnosis is"
- " The most useful investigation would be"
- " The next best step would be"
- " The best advice to give to the parent is"
- " The pathogenesis of this condition is best described as"
- " The commonest cause of this condition is"

The following question is an example of a "best of five" question:

Gastrointestinal disease is the most likely diagnosis in a 10 year-old girl whose only presenting symptom is:

- A polycythaemia
- B reduced height velocity
- C hypertrichosis
- D anaemia
- E café-au-lait spots

Answer B

Multiple true-false questions are most useful testing knowledge when there is an absolute Yes/No answer.

They may cover several aspects of a topic, including pathogenesis, clinical signs, genetics, treatment.

For example: "The following statements about X condition are true"

The following question is an example of a multiple true-false question:

Features of cystic fibrosis include:

- A a sweat sodium concentration of less than 20 mmol/L
- B rectal prolapse
- C precocious puberty
- D diabetes in late adolescence
- E hypercholesterolaemia

Items B and D are true; items A, C and E are false.

Extended matching questions (EMQs) are used in much the same way as “best of five” questions. A list of 10 possible answers is offered with three statements or clinical scenarios. The candidate chooses the best option from the introductory list. Again, all could be possible but only one is completely or the most correct. EMQs may be accompanied by laboratory results.

For example:

- "For each of the following case scenarios select the most likely diagnosis from the list above"
- "For each of the following case scenarios select the investigation most likely to give a definitive diagnosis from the list above"
- "For each of the following scenarios select the most appropriate action from the list above"

The following question is an example of an extended matching question:

Options:

- A acquired hypothyroidism
- B Turner's syndrome
- C coeliac disease
- D Crohn's disease
- E chronic renal failure
- F alpha thalassaemia trait
- G beta thalassaemia trait
- H sideroblastic anaemia
- I chronic fatigue syndrome
- J cystic fibrosis

For each of the following case scenarios select the most likely diagnosis from the list above:

1. A previously well 10 year-old girl has been overtaken in height by her 9 year-old sister in the last two years. She suffers from aphthous ulcers, is irritable and feels tired all the time.

Investigations show:

Bone age	equivalent to 8 years
Hb	9.2 g/dl (10.5 – 12.5)
Serum Ferritin	32 ng/ml L (10 – 140)
C reactive protein	2.6 mg/l
Hb electrophoresis	No abnormal bands
Serum Ca	2.2 mmol/l (2.1 – 2.6)
Serum Phosphate	0.9 mmol/l (0.8 – 1.8)
Alkaline phosphatase	320 U/L (145 – 420)
Serum creatinine	60 micromoles/l (20 - 80)
Serum Thyroxine	135 mmol/l (85 - 180)
Serum TSH	3.2 mU/mol (0.5 – 6.0)

Key D

2. A previously well 10 year-old girl has been having recurrent abdominal pain and finds school work difficult. She is irritable and feels tired all the time. Her school report showed poor interaction and performance in class

Investigations show:

Bone age	equivalent to 10 years
Hb	11.2 g/dl (10.5 – 12.5)
Serum Ferritin	12 ng/ml L (10 – 140)
C reactive protein	2.6 mg/l
Hb electrophoresis	No abnormal bands
Serum Ca	2.2 mmol/l (2.1 – 2.6)
Serum Phosphate	0.9 mmol/l (0.8 – 1.8)
Alkaline phosphatase	320 U/L (145 – 420)
Serum creatinine	60 micromoles/l (20 – 80)
Serum Thyroxine	(135 mmol/l (85 – 180)
Serum TSH	3.2 mU/mol (0.5 – 6.0)

Key I

2. HOW TO COMPLETE THE ANSWER SHEETS

Your answers must be recorded on the Answer Sheets provided. It is important that you fully understand how to complete the Answer Sheets before you sit the examination.

The completed Answer Sheets are computer marked, which means that the following instructions must be complied with fully otherwise the optical mark reader (OMR) may reject them.

- Use only the PENCIL supplied. The computer cannot read answers in ink or a different grade of pencil.
- First of all identify yourself – write your name and initials in the boxes provided. Next, enter your examination number using the appropriate rectangles.
- The Answer Sheet contains a row of boxes for each question. Each box refers to a single item and is numbered accordingly (i.e. 1A, 1B, 1C etc).

For **multiple true-false questions (MCQs)** there are two rectangles labelled T (= True), F (= False) in each box. You should indicate whether you think a particular item is True or False by pencilling in the appropriate rectangle. The following question is an example:

1. In congenital pyloric stenosis:
- manifestations are due to obstruction of the pyloric canal
 - the vomitus seldom contains mucus
 - girls are affected more often than boys
 - affected infants are usually very reluctant to feed
 - constipation can occur

Options A and E are true. Options B, C and D are false. This would be indicated on the Answer Sheet as follows:

1. a | b | c | d | e
 ~~[T]~~ [F] | ~~[T]~~ ~~[F]~~ | ~~[T]~~ ~~[F]~~ | ~~[T]~~ ~~[F]~~ | ~~[T]~~ [F]

For “**best of five**” and **extended matching questions**, candidates are asked to choose the best single answer from a list. The Answer Sheet contains a row of boxes for each question. If more than one answer is chosen no marks will be awarded for the question.

The following is an example of a “best of five” question:

Gastrointestinal disease is the most likely diagnosis in a 10 year-old girl whose only presenting symptom is:

- A polycythaemia
- B reduced height velocity
- C hypertrichosis
- D anaemia
- E café-au-lait spots

Answer B is correct and would be indicated on the Answer Sheet as follows:

1.

A	B	C	D	E
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The following is an example of an extended matching question (see Section 1 above for the complete example question):

Options:

- A acquired hypothyroidism
- B Turner’s syndrome
- C coeliac disease
- D Crohn’s disease
- E chronic renal failure
- F alpha thalassaemia trait
- G beta thalassaemia trait
- H sideroblastic anaemia
- I chronic fatigue syndrome
- J cystic fibrosis

For each of the following case scenarios select the most likely diagnosis from the list above:

1. A previously well 10 year-old girl has been overtaken in height by her 9 year-old sister in the last two years. She suffers from aphthous ulcers, is irritable and feels tired all the time. Investigations show.....
2. A previously well 10 year-old girl has been having recurrent abdominal pain and finds school work difficult. She is irritable and feels tired all the time. She has had an adverse school report. Investigations show.....

Answers D and I, respectively, are correct. These would be indicated on the Answer Sheet as follows:

1.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
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2.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
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- d) You may erase an answer by using the rubber provided. To avoid too many erasures on the Answer Sheets you may find it helpful to indicate your choices of the True and False items in the question book in the first instance before transferring them to the Answer Sheet. Remember to allow sufficient time to do so, as no extra time will be allowed for the transfer of marks.
- e) Do not fold or crease the Answer Sheets.

- f) At the end of the examinations the Questions Book and Answer Sheets must be left on the desk. They must on no account be removed from the Examination Hall.

3. EXAMINATION LOCATIONS

The Part 1 Medicine of Childhood exam is usually held in Dublin together with the following overseas centres:

- Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
- Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Kolkata, India

Further details about the overseas exam may be obtained from the local representatives at the overseas centres – overseas contact details are available in the Overseas webpage.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

- (a) Candidates are permitted an unlimited number of attempts at the Part 1 Examination.
- (b) Candidates must pass the Part 1 Examination before applying to enter the Part 2, unless they have been granted exemption. (See MRCPI General Information Section 5).
- (c) The Part 1 Examination is designed to assess a candidate's knowledge and understanding both of the basic sciences relevant to medical practice and of the common or important disorders, to a level appropriate for entry to specialist training. For a guide to the examination syllabus please click [here](#).

5. ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) Every candidate for the Examination must hold a medical qualification.
- (b) Candidates will not be accepted for the Examination before the expiry of 18 months from the date given on their diploma of medical qualification.
- (c) Candidates are not required to have undergone training in specific posts before entry to the Examination, but the College recommends that candidates prepare by spending time gaining clinical experience in suitable hospital posts, studying up-to-date clinical textbooks, and by reading the current medical journals. In addition it is recommended that candidates study the section in this booklet dealing with multiple choice question papers and best of many question papers (see Section 6 below).
- (d) An application form must be complete in every detail and be accompanied by the appropriate fee and any other documents required, as well as two passport size photographs. An Identity Card will be issued to each candidate, which must be produced at all parts of each examination.
- (e) Applications will not be accepted by the College before the published opening date or after the published closing date.
- (f) Applicants are advised to submit their application as early as possible, because the number of applications regularly exceeds the number of places available.
- (g) No allowance can be made for postal or other delays. Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted. Nor does the college take responsibility for returned documents mislaid in the post.

6. HOW TO ENTER THE EXAMINATION

- (a) (i) **Dublin.**
Application for entry must be made on the appropriate form which, together with the Examination calendar, may be downloaded from the College's website at www.rcpi.ie
- (ii) **Overseas**
Candidates must either apply directly to the local centre (India, Jeddah) or directly to our Dublin offices in the case of the other overseas centres. Opening and closing dates may vary from the dates published on the College website.
- (b) Candidates must ensure that they indicate clearly on the top of the application form the option they wish to sit.
- (c) Careful note should be taken of the dates of entry.
- (d) Candidates must submit certified copies of their original diplomas of Medical Qualification, which must be adjudged to be satisfactory to the College. The receipt of the retention fee issued by the Medical Council is not acceptable as evidence of registration. Official translations will only be accepted if they have been prepared and/or authenticated by: (i) The issuing University or Medical School (ii) an Irish or British Consulate (iii) the candidate's own Embassy or High Commissioner in Ireland or the United Kingdom.
- (e) Two recent passport size photographs are required.
- (f) Applications will not be accepted before the results of any previous attempts are known. Candidates achieving a Bad Fail will be advised to defer for one attempt.
- (g) Following successful completion of Part 1, no further application to enter that Part will be allowed, except under the special circumstances indicated in section 1(c) of the MRCPI Part 2 General Information sheet. Candidates who take Part 1 Medicine of Childhood may take Part 2 in any available specialty, regardless of the paper in which they were successful in Part 1.

7. EXAMINATION GUIDE NOTES

General Notes:

- (a) Question papers are individually numbered with Examination Numbers in the top right hand corner. You must sit at the desk where the question paper is marked with your examination number.
- (b) At the end of the examination, the question books and answer sheets must be left on the desk. They must on no account be removed from the Examination Hall.
- (c) Results are sent by post and posted on the website no earlier than three weeks after the date of the examination. Results will not be given over the telephone.
- (d) It is important that you fully understand how to complete the answer sheet before you sit the examination.