

MRCPI PART 2 GENERAL MEDICINE

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Candidates must complete all their attempts at the Part 2 Written Examination within seven years of the date of their success in Part 1 MRCPI. There will be no extensions to this seven year period. However if more than seven years have elapsed since passing Part 1, that Part can be retaken.
- (b) The Part 2 MRCPI Written examination must be passed before a candidate is eligible to sit the Part 2 Clinical Examination. Candidates who successfully pass the Written section will be permitted a period of two years to pass the Clinical section before being required to re-sit the Written section.
- (c) Candidates must have completed 2 years of clinical training following the date of graduation. This training should include a strong emphasis on responsibility for unselected emergency admissions.
- (d) Every candidate for Part 2 of the Membership must have submitted testimonials of his/her professional qualification and character from two Medical Practitioners of at least five years standing and statements on the approved form regarding:
 - Professional experience acceptable to the Education & Examination Committee.
 - Not keeping an open shop for the sale of medicine.

2. EXAMINATION FORMAT

- (e) The Part 2 MRCPI General Medicine Examination is composed of two free-standing sections, namely a Written examination and a Clinical examination, held on separate dates.
- (f) Candidates are allowed an unlimited number of attempts. **PLEASE NOTE: when demand for clinical places is high, priority will be given to candidates living in the E.U. Candidates living in countries other than the E.U. will be permitted to apply for clinical exams held in Ireland but they are advised to apply to the College's overseas exam centres whenever possible (candidates living overseas will be given priority when applying to the College's overseas exam centres).**
Please note: an application resulting in the allocation of a place on an exam will be treated as an attempt – whether or not the candidate subsequently attends that exam.
- (g) The Part 2 MRCPI Written examination will be held in Dublin and Overseas Centres simultaneously.
- (h) The Clinical examination may be held in a hospital anywhere within the island of Ireland, or on occasions in an overseas centre.
- (i) **Written Section**

The Written Section consists of two papers that pose questions about the diagnosis and management of patients. Each paper will be composed of 75 Best of Many format questions, with 2½ hours allocated for each paper. Each question consists of an initial stem followed by 5 possible answers, identified A, B, C, D and E. Candidates should select one item they believe to be correct. Every other item in that question must be left blank. Questions may include printed photographic reproduction of clinical findings including retinal photographs, imaging and graphical data or on occasions, pathological material relating to the questions concerned.

The marks of the two papers answered will be combined. Each correct answer will be awarded 5 marks making a total of 375 available for each Paper. There is therefore a total combined mark of 750. Candidates will not be required to pass both papers individually. The standard necessary to achieve a pass is established via methods including criterion referencing, and thus the pass mark and overall pass rate may vary from diet to diet of the Examination. Every effort is made to ensure that the standard required is fair and consistent at each Examination.

(j) **Clinical Section**

(i) LONG CASES

In the long case section the candidates are given 45 minutes with a patient and subsequently examined by a pair of examiners for 30 minutes on their ability to take and interpret an adequate history and to elicit the physical signs where present and to discuss the relevant investigation and management of the patients overall clinical problems and aftercare. A candidate's ability to communicate will be tested during this section either by means of observed history taking or by undertaking the communication task requested by the Examiners.

(ii) SHORT CASES

Candidates will be examined by a pair of Examiners for 30 minutes on their ability to elicit and interpret physical signs in various clinical systems in a number of different patients.

Candidates will be graded by the Examiners from 1 (*Bad fail*) to 5 (*Clear pass*) in the long case and in the short cases. Candidates must achieve a combined total mark of 8 or more to pass the Clinical section.

(k) **Examination Timetable**

Details of the Clinical examinations will normally be available on the College's Website but it is the candidate's responsibility to confirm that the website information is accurate.

3. SAMPLE QUESTION

SAMPLE BEST OF MANY QUESTION

1. A 19-year-old woman has had fatigue, fever and sore throat for the past week. She has a temperature of 38.3°C (101 F), cervical lymphadenopathy and splenomegaly. Initial laboratory studies show a leukocyte count of $5.0 \times 10^9/l$ (80% lymphocytes with many lymphocytes exhibiting atypical features). Serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activity is 200 IU/L (1 – 31). Serum bilirubin concentration and serum alkaline phosphatase activity are within normal limits.

The most likely diagnosis is:

ANSWER OPTIONS

- A acute leukemia
- B folate deficiency
- C Lyme disease
- D miliary tuberculosis
- E Epstein-Barr virus infection

Answer: E