

# MRCPI in Paediatrics Examination Content Outline

## **The MRCPI in Paediatrics Examination Content Blueprint**

This document outlines the content of the RCPI membership examination in Paediatrics. The topics, mode of examination and distributions of content contained in this blueprint have been defined through collaborative review and approved by the MRCPI Paediatric examinations boards. The blueprint is based on the RCPI Basic Specialist Training in Paediatrics Curriculum. The subject matter experts involved in the examination blueprint process are a diverse working group of Paediatric consultants from across the country. All contributors are members or fellows of the Faculty of Paediatrics and are listed on the Specialist Register for Paediatrics. The Content blueprint will be reviewed and validated every 3 years unless there is a significant change in practice during this time.

### **Examination Aim**

The MRCPI examination aims to ascertain that a candidate has met the prescribed standard of Paediatric knowledge gained through basic specialist training and defined by the curriculum set by BST. This level of knowledge should provide the candidate with the clinical expertise required of a Paediatric registrar in the Irish hospital workplace. The examination format and development process meet best practice standards for fairness, reliability and validity.

### **Purpose and use of Content Blueprint**

A content outline for the examination is provided for standardisation, fairness and transparency. This provides consistency for targeted question writing, as a template to select examination papers, to guide standard setting and to inform documentation that will be published for trainees and other exam stakeholders.

### **Examination Format**

- Part I Written: 100 Single Best Answer Questions (1 paper, 3 hours)
- Part II Written: 80 Single Best Answer Questions/20 Short Answer Questions (2 papers, 2.5 hrs each)
- Part II Clinical: The clinical examination will consist of 6 stations.  
The part I and part II Written Examinations will be conducted via computer based testing at sites determined by the examinations department.

### **Expected clinical knowledge**

*Note: This section describes expected knowledge, not examination regulations or eligibility*

- *Part I Written Examination* [SBA paper]. The questions in this paper test basic knowledge expected with clinical exposure in General Paediatrics at SHO level in Ireland. Successful candidates will demonstrate a broad knowledge of the basic physiology and physical findings of the neonate, child and adolescent, as well as clinical literature published in paediatrics, public health related to paediatrics and the fundamentals of managing common paediatric conditions.
- The Part I is a check point to identify those who need to gain more basic clinical knowledge of paediatric medicine before advancing to study for the Part II Examination.
- *Part II Written examination* [SBA paper and SAQ paper]. The questions in this paper test advanced knowledge, problem solving and management of emergency situations in General Paediatrics with an increased focus on specialist areas.
- It is expected that potential Part II Written candidates will gain a further 6 – 12 months clinical experience after successful completion of the Part I written examination.
- The aim of the written examinations is to sample the broad breadth of knowledge that would be expected of a doctor starting in a general paediatrics registrar post

- *Part II Clinical Examination.* It is expected that candidates taking the clinical examination will have a minimum of 12 months but ideally 15 months of experience in paediatric practice and will proficiently perform physical examinations to the level required of a registrar. Clinical judgement, management skills and communication are also assessed.
- The clinical examination will focus on the ability of the candidate to demonstrate proficiency in the areas of history taking, communication, physical examination, problem solving and basic steps in the assessment and management of the neonate, child or adolescent with acute or chronic disease.

### Topics Covered in the MRCPI in Paediatrics

The MRCPI examination covers questions and cases across the age range from neonates to adolescence, examining acute and chronic care under the following topics.

Clinical Topic	Part I Written	Part II Written		Part II Clinical
		SBA	SQA	
Allergy and immunology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basic science of genetics	✓			✓
Cardiology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Child Protection	✓		✓	✓
Communication				✓
Complex needs and Rehabilitation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dermatology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Development and Behaviour	✓		✓	✓
Endocrinology and Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓
ENT	✓	✓	✓	✓
Epidemiology and Statistic			✓	
Ethics and professionalism			✓	✓
Fluids and Nutrition	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gastroenterology and Hepatology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Haematology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infectious Diseases	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medical Oncology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mental Health			✓	✓
Metabolic	✓	✓	✓	✓
Muscular Disorders	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nephrology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neurology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ophthalmology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orthopaedics	✓	✓	✓	
Pharmacology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Respiratory Medicine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rheumatology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Surgery	✓	✓	✓	

## MRCPI Part I Written

	<b>Clinical Topic</b>	<b>% Weighting</b>
1	Allergy and immunology	2 - 5
2	Basic science of genetics	2 - 5
3	Cardiology	4 - 8
4	Child Protection	1 - 3
5	Pharmacology	2 - 5
6	Dermatology	2 - 5
7	Development and Behaviour	4 - 8
8	Complex needs and Rehabilitation	1 - 3
9	Endocrinology and Growth	2 - 5
10	ENT	2 - 5
11	Gastroenterology/ Hepatology	4 - 8
12	Haematology	2 - 5
13	Infectious Diseases	4 - 8
14	Medical Oncology	2 - 5
15	Metabolic	2 - 5
16	Muscular Disorders	2 - 5
17	Nephrology	4 - 8
18	Neurology	2 - 5
19	Fluids and Nutrition	4 - 8
20	Ophthalmology	1 - 3
21	Orthopaedics	1 - 3
22	Surgery	2 - 5
23	Respiratory Medicine	4 - 8
24	Rheumatology	2 - 5

Above are the topics covered in the Part I written examination. The spread of questions covered is weighted to an approximate percentage +/- 1

	<b>Areas of Knowledge</b>	<b>% Weighting</b>
1	Clinically orientated application of basic science	20
2	Recognising the normal vs. sick child	20
3	Recognition and initial management of emergencies	20
4	Solving Common Problems	20
5	Diagnosis and the use of diagnostic tests	20

## MRCPI Part II Written

	<b>Clinical Topic</b>	<b>% Weight</b>
1	Allergy and immunology	2 – 5
2	Cardiology	4 – 8
3	Child Protection	2 – 5
4	Clinical Pharmacology	2 – 5
5	Complex needs and Rehabilitation	4 – 8
6	Dermatology	2 – 5
7	Development and Behaviour	2 – 5
8	Endocrinology and Growth	4 – 8
9	ENT	1 – 3
10	Epidemiology and Statistic	1 – 3
11	Ethics and professionalism	1 – 3
12	Fluids and Nutrition	2 – 5
13	Gastroenterology and Hepatology	4 – 8
14	Haematology	4 - 8
15	Infectious Diseases	4 – 8
16	Medical Oncology	2 – 5
17	Mental Health	2 – 5
18	Metabolic	2 – 5
19	Nephrology	4 – 8
20	Neurology And Muscular Disorders	4 – 8
21	Ophthalmology	1 – 3
22	Orthopaedics	1 – 3
23	Respiratory Medicine	4 – 8
24	Rheumatology	2 – 5
25	Surgery	1 – 3

Above are the topics covered in the Part II written examination. The spread of questions covered is weighted to an approximate percentage +/- 1. The first part of the paper is 80 single best answer questions. The second part is 20 short answer questions. Both papers will be held over six hours [SBA 2.5 hours followed by one hour break followed by SAQ 2.5 hours] on the same day.

### Areas of Clinical Knowledge Part II Written

	<b>Areas of Knowledge</b>	<b>% Weighting</b>
1	Recognition and management of emergencies	20
2	Long term management	15
3	Complications of illness and treatment	15
4	Diagnosis and the use of diagnostic tests	15
5	Neonatal Medicine	15
6	Care of the complex patient	10
7	Adolescent Medicine	10

### **Skills: The focus of examination questions**

Skills describe the nature of the questions that may appear on the examination, so the type of information the question authors will focus on.

This may be a useful way to organise your study notes.

#### Application of Scientific Knowledge

##### Initial assessment

- The diagnostic significance of patterns of symptoms
- The pathophysiology of commonly presenting physical signs in infants, children and adolescents

##### Investigations

- Selection and order of investigations based on a child's needs and overall well being
- The risks associated with choice of investigation

##### Treatment and management of disease

- Compliance strategies and objective setting for patients and parents
- The pharmacology and pharmacodynamics of common treatment options
- The risk factors, and potential complications, associated with common treatments

Disease prevention and health education: Risk factors, preventive measures, and health strategies

### **Resources for examination preparation:**

The RCPI does not endorse any particular preparation documents or resources. Review of the subject matter of the curriculum and a general paediatric textbook should be adequate for the knowledge tested.