

RCPSG Diploma In Dermatology: Guidenotes for candidates on Format Of The Examination

GENERAL: The acknowledgment/programme letter will give the date, time and location of the written examination AND the date and location of the Clinical examination. Detailed programmes for the clinical examinations will be given to candidates on the day of the written examination. Please note that the clinical examination may be held at a hospital or hospitals outside Glasgow.

The exact format and marking structure of the examination may vary from sitting to sitting, but the following is a guide to what you may expect.

1) The **Written Section** will last 2 hours and consist of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQs). Candidates will transfer their answers to an optically marked Answer Sheet which will be automatically scanned and computer marked.

MCQs: There will be 20 MCQs of the 'one best' answer type. Each question will have a stem and 5 options. Some questions may have associated photographic material with several questions being based on the material. Each question is worth one mark. There is no negative marking.

EMQs: There will be 10 Extended Matching sets in this section. Each set will be based on a theme and consist of a list of options and up to 5 associated questions based on a related clinical situation. For each of the clinical situations, you should choose the **single most likely option** according to the instruction. Note: Options may be used once, more than once or not at all. Each question will be worth one mark. There is no negative marking.

2) The **Clinical Section** normally takes place on the afternoon of the second day and will last between 1 and 1½ hours.

You will progress through a series of 8 stations set out in a series of 4 bays (2 stations per bay per 15minutes). At some of these stations you will be introduced to patients, and be asked to take a history, or examine, assess or advise them. Aspects of diagnosis and management may be discussed. Ten minutes is allowed for this. At other stations you may be asked to comment on other material which you might encounter in clinical practice, for example laboratory reports, correspondence, or aids to diagnosis or management. Five minutes is allowed for this.

NB: Candidates should maintain aseptic techniques after examining a patient. Aqueous gel or hand-washing facilities should be available in each bay and should be used by candidates before they move to the next station.

In both sections, you will be marked on the number of statements or answers you give, or actions you take, which are correct or appropriate to the situation. Incorrect or inappropriate assertions will lose marks.

The examination is intended to test practical skills of diagnosis and management, as well as a sound grasp of the principles of dermatology. Both written and clinical sections of the examination must be passed. A mark of 60% is required to pass the written examination. The clinical examination will be marked on a four point scale of Pass/Bare Pass/Fail/Bad fail, and an average mark corresponding to bare pass will be required to pass the clinical examination. Both written and clinical sections will be designed such that a candidate with broad competence should achieve these standards.

A list of successful candidates will be posted on the College web site Personal ID number order. All candidates will be notified of the outcome by post.