



The Royal College of Radiologists

### CO2A Examiner Report Autumn 2025

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Number Sitting</u>	<u>% Pass</u>
All	128	50.8
UK	57	68.4
UK First Sitting	45	73.3
Global	71	36.6
<b>Exam KR20 = 0.91</b>		

#### General

The examination was delivered online via the Speedwell platform at our exam sites. During this exam, 128 candidates were examined with 44.5% being within the UK.

There was a more even UK:Global candidate number split compared to other sittings. The overall pass rate is at the low end of CO2A exam sittings at 50.8%. Pass mark was average at 60%. When broken down UK performance was in line with last 6 years of sittings. The reduction was primarily due to reduction in performance of global candidates. The exam individual question performance statistics were satisfactory and the KR20 extremely high in line with a reliable and appropriate standard of exam.

From an IT perspective, things ran very smoothly with no major incidents reported from the day.

We would like to thank all the exam and college staff, invigilators and centres as well as all the members on the CO2A board for their hard work and efforts. It is recognised and much appreciated and without you this exam would not have been possible.

#### Feedback

As a Board we are keen to provide feedback that will prove helpful to future candidates and their trainers.

The exam format for Autumn 2025 remains:

<b>EXAM BREAKDOWN (Section)</b>	<b>NUMBER (Total 240)</b>
<b>Breast</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>CNS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Head &amp; Neck</b>	<b>24</b>

<b>Upper GI</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lower GI</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Urology</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Gynaecology</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Haematology</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Skin</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Radiology &amp; Imaging</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>36</b>
<i>Sarcoma = 8</i> <i>Paediatrics = 2</i> <i>Thyroid = 8</i> <i>Acute Oncology/CUP = 12</i> <i>Misc (e.g. Pharmacology, Regulations, palliative care) = 6</i>	

There is a plan to change this from Spring 2026 onwards to increase Upper GI to 16 and reduce Haematology to 8 questions. The reduction in the number of clinical oncologists involved in systemic therapy for haematological malignancies and previous feedback from candidates and trainers has led to board instigating the change. The RCR website has been updated in the candidate guidance section.

#### **Staging:**

Regarding staging – we are aware some centres have or are about to implement TNM 9. We are aware this will take a while to be adopted throughout all centres and MDTs and that candidates often start studying for the exam many months to often >1 year in advance. We will continue to examine using TNM 8 for 2026. Changeover will be in unison with other FRCR clinical oncology exams and the candidate guidance page updated with plenty of notice for candidates.

#### **Candidate Queries:**

One question that a few candidates raised a query regarding with around breast tangent angles. This was re-reviewed by the board post exam in response to this feedback. The question, stems and answer were all satisfactory. Although conformal radiotherapy is increasingly used in most tumour sites, we would encourage candidates to still revise beam arrangements and indications for planning adaptations, especially in the context of breast radiotherapy planning.

#### **Summary:**

The Autumn 2025 FRCR CO2A exam sitting was delivered successfully. The exam performance statistics were of a reliable and excellent standard. The members of the Board would like to offer their thanks to everyone involved in making it happen and congratulate those candidates who have successfully passed and wish them all the best for FRCR 2B exam.