

Final Examination for the Fellowship in Clinical Oncology (Part B)

Guidance Notes for Candidates

1 Examination Structure

The Final FRCR (Part B) examination comprises a clinical and an oral examination. The examination is held twice a year: normally in April and October.

2 Venues

The examination is held at one UK venue (London). Once a year at the Autumn sitting, a Joint Examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists and the Hong Kong College of Radiologists is held. It is organised by the Hong Kong College and held in Hong Kong.

3 Clinical Examination

The clinical examination lasts for 40 minutes, during which time the candidate rotates through five stations of eight minutes each. At each station candidates are presented with information about the patient by a different pair of examiners. Information may be supported by investigation results and appropriate x-rays or scans. Candidates will be asked a series of questions and asked to identify and discuss clinical findings, discuss clinical patient management and comment on treatment plans for those patients who are receiving radiotherapy. Vaginal and rectal examinations will not be permitted. Candidates should be "bare below the elbow" (as for usual clinical practice) during the clinical examination. Candidates must bring a stethoscope, 15 cm ruler, small torch and pen.

4 Oral Examination

The oral examination lasts for 44 minutes in total, during which time the candidate spends 22 minutes with each of two pairs of examiners. Each station allows for four independent assessments of candidate performance, equating to eight assessments overall. Each examiner will lead the questioning for about eleven minutes. Discussion on each topic will usually last for about five and a half minutes, during which time candidates will be asked a number of focused questions. The oral examination provides an opportunity to examine areas that are difficult to explore in a written form, particularly radiotherapy planning, assessment of diagnostic imaging and clinical management. Communication skills and ethical problems may also be addressed.

5 Anonymity of Patients

During the examination, information about patients will become available (but patient's identities not revealed). Candidates are reminded that patients' confidentiality must be respected at all times. Examination cases must not be discussed with anyone other than the examiners.

6 Quarantine

In order to ensure examination security is maintained, candidates may be quarantined before or/and after the examination in both the clinical and oral components. Candidates should note the arrival time provided on their timetable and then follow the instructions of the invigilator at the venue.

7 Candidate Identification

Passport photographs supplied by candidates with their application forms are provided to the examiners at both the clinical and oral examinations as part of the quality assurance process. In addition, candidates are provided with a badge showing their candidate number. Badges should be clearly visible to the examiners to aid correct identification and to further support marks being correctly allocated.

8 Marking and Results Awarding

The Final FRCR (Part B) examination consists of five clinical stations and eight structured oral assessments, each conducted and independently marked by two examiners. The 13 sets of marks are considered as a whole to generate a pass or fail - there is no concept of passing one part (e.g. clinical) only. The [scoring system](#) provides more information on how results are determined.

9 Information Provided to Unsuccessful Candidates

Unsuccessful candidates will receive details of scores achieved in each component. Subsequent to results letters being issued, all unsuccessful candidates will receive further correspondence giving detailed feedback for the five clinical stations and eight structured oral assessments and offering more individualised advice regarding errors, to assist with resit preparation.

UK candidates unsuccessful in the examination at their second attempt are offered an interview with members of the Examination Board. Written reports are requested from TPDs prior to the interview and a report sent to them afterwards. Candidates training outside the UK who are unsuccessful in the examination at a second attempt are invited to participate in an interview either in person or via telephone or video conference.

10 Further Information

Queries arising from this document should be addressed to the College's Examinations Office, either by email to examinations@rcr.ac.uk or by telephone on 020 7406 5905.

Queries at the time of the examination should be raised with the invigilators or College staff present. Comments, feedback or complaints following the examination should be brought to the attention of the Examinations Manager, either by email to examinations@rcr.ac.uk or by telephone on 020 7406 5905.