

Final Examination for the Fellowship in Clinical Radiology (Part A)

Guidance Notes for Candidates

1 Examination Structure

The Final FRCR (Part A) examination comprises six papers of single best answer (SBA) questions. The examination is held twice a year: normally in March and September. The six papers are held over three consecutive days as follows:

Module 1:	Cardiothoracic and Vascular
Module 2:	Musculoskeletal and Trauma
Module 3:	Gastro-intestinal
Module 4:	Genito-urinary, Adrenal, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Breast
Module 5:	Paediatric
Module 6:	Central Nervous and Head & Neck

Timings	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Module 1	Module 3	Module 5
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Module 2	Module 4	Module 6

A candidate may attempt the modules at the same sitting or at separate sittings and may pass them either together or separately in any order. A candidate will be deemed to have achieved success at the Final FRCR (Part A) once all six modules have been passed.

From Spring 2015 no candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FRCR examination or examination module. In order to attempt an examination or examination module for a seventh, or further, time candidates will have to demonstrate additional educational experience. Any examination or examination module a candidate has previously taken counts towards his or her six attempts i.e. the rule is backdated to include previous attempts.

2 Entry Requirements

Candidates who hold a formal clinical radiology training post in which they are actively receiving clinical radiology training (or who have held such a post in the past) and have passed the First FRCR Examination are permitted to enter the Final FRCR (Part A) Examination. There is no requirement to have completed a specific duration of training.

Candidates undergoing specialty training in the UK require approval from their Training Programme Director (TPD) prior to submitting their application.

No exemption is granted from the Final FRCR (Part A) examination on the basis of success in any other examination.

3 Venues

The examination is held at five UK venues (Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, London and Manchester) and two non-UK venues (Hong Kong and Singapore).

4 Content

Each paper comprises 75 SBA questions. Candidates are given two hours to answer each paper. Candidates must write their candidate number in the space provided at the top of the front page of each question paper. Candidates must record their answers on the separate answer sheet provided using a HB pencil - answers recorded on the question paper will not be marked. Further instructions about completing the answersheet are provided at examination venues.

Candidates must not attempt to copy any examination materials or remove either the question paper or the answer sheet from the examination room; both must be returned to the invigilator at the end of the examination.

Candidates are provided with a reference sheet for use during the examination. This gives information about normal ranges for investigations and frequently used abbreviations.

Each SBA question comprises a stem (a question or statement) and five items (answers) [labelled (a) to (e)]. Candidates are asked to decide which one of the five items represents the best answer to the question given in the stem. The examination is not negatively marked and therefore candidates are encouraged to offer an answer to all of the questions.

Example questions and a copy of the Final FRCR (Part A) answer sheet are available to give candidates the opportunity to familiarise themselves with question styles and examination materials in advance of the examination.

5 Marking

The examination is marked by computer. The marking system shown below is used:

For each item correctly answered	+1 mark
For each item incorrectly answered	0 marks

The standard for success is determined at each sitting based on the difficulty of the questions (using a criterion-referenced standard setting technique) and so may vary between sittings.

6 Equipment Required for the Examination

Candidates are required to bring a HB pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser, ruler and a non-programmable pocket calculator.

7 Personal Belongings and Items on Desks

Candidates must follow invigilators' instructions at examination venues regarding where to leave personal belongings. No personal belongings are permitted in the examination room. Neither the Royal College of Radiologists nor any other examination venue is able to accept responsibility for the safety of any items of personal belongings. Apart from the equipment described above and official examination documentation, no other belongings or documents may be brought to candidate desks.

Candidates must not bring any electronic equipment, eg laptop or palmtop computers, to the examination apart from the permitted calculator. All mobile telephones must be turned off for the duration of the examination and left in bags or coats. Candidates must turn off any alarm set on mobile telephones as these can operate even when the device is turned off; any timing device that emits an audible "beep" must have this facility disabled for the duration of the examination.

Candidates are permitted a still (non-carbonated) drink on their desks. Food items are not permitted in the examination room. Candidates with special medical needs requiring them to eat throughout the examination should advise the College of this when submitting their application via a covering note.

8 Candidate Identification

Candidates are required to bring their candidate timetable (which shows their candidate number and details of when/where they are sitting the examination) to the examination, together with a form of identification that bears the candidate's photograph, full name and signature. Candidates that are not registered with the General Medical Council must bring their passport. Details on identification documents must match those supplied at application.

9 Examination Results

The list of successful candidates by candidate number only, both overall and by module, will be published on the College website. Results will not be available by telephone or fax. All candidates will be sent a letter confirming examination results (by first class or air mail) as soon as possible after the results have been published.

Pass list publication dates can be found on the website - this information will also be included on individual candidate timetables that are sent out as soon as possible after the application closing date.

All candidates will receive details of scores achieved and the level of performance that was required to achieve success. Candidates undertaking specialty training in the UK will have their results copied to the relevant TPD and Regional Specialty Adviser (RA) for information.

10 Candidate Conduct

Candidates are expected to behave in a reasonable and respectful manner throughout all College examinations. Candidates must comply with the instructions and requirements of the examination invigilators, College staff and examiners at all times. Please note the following:

- Candidates attempting to make a copy of, or transmit, any examination materials will be disqualified.
- Candidates found with any electronic device during the examination will be disqualified.
- Candidates refusing to stop writing on or amending their answer sheets after the examination has ended will be disqualified.

11 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 laura_mcgarry@rcr.ac.uk or by telephone on 020 7406 5947.