

Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (Part A) Examination

Guidance Notes for Candidates

1 Examination Structure

The Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (DDMFR) Part A examination comprises a written question paper and a film viewing session. The examination is held twice a year: normally in March and September, in London only. The two components are held on one day, with the written paper in the morning and the film viewing session in the afternoon.

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 have passed the Physics module of the First FRCR examination in Clinical Radiology are permitted to enter the DDMFR Part A examination once 18 months of accredited dental and maxillofacial radiology training has been completed.

Candidates require approval from the head of their training scheme before applying, to confirm that the appropriate duration and content of training has been completed and that instruction covering the relevant parts of the examination syllabus has been received.

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

3 Written Question Paper

The written question paper comprises fifteen short notes/structured essay questions, equally divided between three sections: Physics, Anatomy and Techniques. Candidates must answer four questions from each section and are given three hours in which to complete the paper.

For each question, candidates are provided with a separate answer book in which to record answers - answers recorded on the question paper will not be marked. Candidates must write legibly and, when providing a diagram as part of an answer, ensure that this is large and carefully labelled.

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

4 Film Viewing Session

The film viewing session is 60 minutes in duration and an oral briefing will be provided prior to the session starting. The session comprises 100 images and candidates will answer one question on each image in the answer booklet provided. The images will be displayed on a monitor in Powerpoint. Further information on basic Powerpoint functionality and how candidates can move through the images will be provided in advance of the examination.

Candidates are provided with an answer book in which to write answers to all 100 questions. Candidates should ensure that the answer is recorded against the correct number in the booklet. Where appropriate, candidates should include sides, levels and specific anatomical notations in answers.

5 Marking

5.1 Written Question Paper

The examination papers are marked by each of the participating examiners for QA purposes. The scoring system below details numerical scores awarded for differing levels of performance:

8	Excellent
7	Good Pass
6	Pass
5	Fail
4	Poor
< 4	Very poor, no answer offered

Half marks may be awarded.

Candidates must pass each of the three sections. A fail in one section of the written paper may **not** be offset by good performances in the other two sections.

5.2 Film Viewing Session

Candidates view 100 images and are asked one question on each, giving a total of 100 answers/marks. Correct answers score 1 mark, incorrect answers or non-answers score 0 marks.

The total mark out of 100 is divided by 10 and rounded to the nearest whole or half number to give a numerical score between 0-10.

5.3 Overall Result

The pass mark in the written question paper is 6 and the film viewing session is 7. In order to achieve success overall, a candidate must reach the required standard in both components.

6 Equipment Required for the Examination

Candidates are required to bring a HB pencil, pen, pencil sharpener, eraser and ruler to both components of the examination.

7 Personal Belongings

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 the 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 articles 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.

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 on the examination application.

9 Examination Results

The list of successful candidates will be published on the Royal College of Radiologists' examinations results website. Results will not be available by telephone or fax. All candidates will be sent a letter confirming examination results (by first class) as soon as possible after the results have been published.

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

10 Information Provided to Unsuccessful Candidates

Unsuccessful candidates will receive details of scores achieved in each component and the level of performance that was required to achieve success.

11 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

12 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 Natasha_ribeiro@rcr.ac.uk or by telephone on 020 7406 5947.