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

Guidance Notes for Candidates

1 Examination Structure

The Final FRCR (Part A) examination comprises a single best answer (SBA) question paper, split into two separate papers for the purposes of delivery. The examination is held twice a year: normally in December and June. The paper comprises a mix of questions from across a wide range of the curriculum:

- Cardiothoracic and Vascular
- Musculoskeletal and Trauma
- Gastro-intestinal
- Genito-urinary, Adrenal, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Breast
- Paediatric
- Central Nervous and Head & Neck

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timings for UK venues</th>
<th>Timings for Overseas venues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.30am – 12.30pm</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.45pm – 4.45pm</td>
<td>Paper 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00pm – 5.00pm</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30pm – 9.30pm</td>
<td>Paper 2</td>
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2 Attempts

No candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FCRFR examination. In order to attempt an examination for a seventh, or further time, candidates will have to demonstrate additional educational experience. Attempts at the modular Final FCRFR (Part A) examination offered to candidates in, and before, September 2017 will not count towards his or her six attempts i.e. the ‘clock’ restarts once a candidate commences the Final FCRFR (Part A) from December 2017 onwards.

3 Venues

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

4 Content

Each paper comprises 120 SBA questions. Candidates are given three hours to answer each paper. 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.
5 Standard Setting

A ‘modified’ Angoff method is used to set the pass mark or standard for this exam. This involves a panel of subject matter experts (examiners) evaluating each question and providing an estimate as to how likely the just-passing candidate would know the answer. Each item is scored on the basis of the percentage of ‘just passing’ candidates who should know the correct answer. These scores are collated and presented at the standard setting meeting. After discussion, the standard setters again score the questions, the highest and lowest scorers are removed, and the mean of the remaining post-discussion scores is used to set the standard. The final pass mark is determined after the examination using the Hofstee compromise method. This takes account of candidate performance in the examination alongside judgements made by standard setters. The candidate cohort and pass rate will vary from sitting to sitting.

6 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 examination is not negatively marked and therefore candidates are encouraged to offer an answer to all of the questions. No mark is awarded if more than one answer is recorded to a question or the answer is not sufficiently clear. In these circumstances the College does not consider it appropriate to interpret a candidate’s intentions.

There is no concept of a mark or result (pass or fail) in each of the two papers as the examination of 240 questions is viewed as a whole assessment.

7 Quality Assurance

After each sitting, and prior to results publication, a group of expert examiners conduct a statistical review of the question paper performance and quality control checks to make sure all the questions and answers are fair. This analysis allows the College to ensure that the examination is reaching optimal levels of reliability and fairness. Poorly performing questions are scrutinised and are removed if error or ambiguity is found. If any questions are removed from the examination then the pass mark is adjusted accordingly. Candidates will not be disadvantaged where this occurs. All examination results are checked by College staff before being published to candidates.

8 Equipment Required for the Examination

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

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

9 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.