

**The Royal College of Ophthalmologists**

**Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination**

**Candidates' Information Pack**

**(Updated March 2019)**

## The Examination

The Part 2 FRCOphth is a synoptic exit examination that uses several different and complementary assessment methods. Success in this examination allows a doctor to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. It is a necessary but insufficient requirement for completion of specialty training in the UK.

The examination is blueprinted against the General Medical Council's (GMC) *Good Medical Practice* and the detailed learning outcomes of the curriculum for Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST), which has been approved by the GMC.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding expected of an independent specialist (consultant) not sub-specialising in the field being tested. Candidates are required to pass this examination by the end of year **seven** of ophthalmic specialist training.

From 1 August 2014, candidates will be permitted a maximum of four attempts in which to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component and four attempts in which to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Component. Examination attempts prior to August 2014 will be discounted.

The assessment methods selected for the Part 2 FRCOphth are:

### Written Component:

- Single best answer from four multiple choice questions (MCQ)

### Oral Component:

- Structured viva (SV)
- Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

From late 2014 the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component will be held twice yearly in June/July and December. The Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Component is held twice yearly in April and November.

The validity of a pass in the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component will be limited to 7 calendar years. Candidates who have not successfully completed the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Component within this time will be permitted to re-sit the written component on the proviso that they have not exhausted the permitted four attempts at the written component and retain at least one attempt at the oral component.

## Required Reading

Candidates should be familiar with the following documents

- The Ophthalmic Specialist Training Curriculum (<http://curriculum.rcophth.ac.uk>).
- The Part 2 FRCOphth Examination Syllabus, which is available in the Part 2 FRCOphth Application Pack ([www.rcophth.ac.uk/examinations](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/examinations) )
- Good Medical Practice, GMC ([http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/good\\_medical\\_practice.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/good_medical_practice.asp))
- Policy on allegations of cheating and misconduct, which is available under 'Admissions to Examinations' ([www.rcophth.ac.uk/examinations](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/examinations) )

## Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component

The Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component consists of 180, single best answer from four, multiple choice questions (MCQ). For logistical reasons, the written examination is sat in two halves of 90 MCQ, each lasting two hours. The total examination time is four hours. There is no negative marking.

The blueprint for the written examination is detailed below. The numbers provided for each sub category (e.g. Glaucoma – 10 MCQ; Cataract – 10 MCQ) are an approximation for illustrative purposes.

<b>Blueprint Topic</b>	<b>Total Number of MCQ</b>	<b>Sub-category</b>	<b>Approximation of MCQ</b>
<b>Clinical Ophthalmology</b>	128	Trauma	4
		Plastics / Orbit	10
		Glaucoma	10
		Strabismus / Paediatrics	16
		Retina (Medical & Surgical)	20
		Cataract	10
		Cornea / External	20
		Uveitis / Oncology	12
		Neurology	16
		Medicine	10
<b>Pharmacology/Therapeutics</b>	12		12
<b>Investigations</b>	16	Ophthalmic	9
		Orthoptic	3
		Neuro-imaging	3
		Other	1
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	16	Statistics/Epidemiology	3
		Research/ EBM	3
		Nutrition	1
		Ethics / Driving	4
		Economics	1
		Guidelines / Standards	4
<b>Basic science</b>	8	Anatomy/Physiology	2
		Pathology	2
		Genetics	3
		Optics	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>		<b>180</b>

### **Example MCQ:**

Laser trabeculoplasty is MOST likely to be effective in an eye with which of the following?

- a) Angle recession glaucoma
- b) Posner Schlossman glaucoma (inflammatory glaucoma)
- c) Pseudo-exfoliative glaucoma
- d) Reigers syndrome.

Correct Response – C

## **Testing Centres for the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination**

From July 2019, the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination will be taken at Prometric computer testing centres.

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 will take place on the same day with a one-hour lunch break in-between.

### **Candidate Application Process Steps**

- 1) Candidates will apply for the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination via the RCOphth website.
- 2) Once the closing date for entries has passed, the candidate will receive a confirmation letter from the College detailing their confirmation of their exam place and their candidate ID.
- 3) The candidate will then contact Prometric either by telephone or online to book their place at their chosen testing centre, using their candidate ID which will be matched to the list of candidates and their IDs that the College will have given to Prometric.
- 4) When contacting Prometric, the candidate will be given a list of availability of testing centres in various locations across the world. They will have to quote their full candidate name and candidate ID number.
- 5) Please note that the candidate's first choice of testing centre may not be available if the candidate delays in booking. We would therefore strongly encourage candidates to contact Prometric to make their booking as soon as possible upon receiving their exam confirmation letter. The list of global Prometric testing centres is also available on the College website.
- 6) Prometric operate a 5 working day policy deadline in booking an exam place so the candidate will have until 5 working days before the date of the exam in which to book their place. No booking can be made after this deadline has passed and if the candidate fails to book beforehand, then their exam sitting will be withdrawn and they will lose their examination fee.

### **Standard Setting for the MCQ**

The pass mark for the MCQ paper will be set by a panel of examiners using Ebel's method prior to the examination.

## **Part 2 FRCOphth Written Result**

To pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component, candidates are required to achieve the pass mark plus one standard error of measurement (SEM),

### **Notification of Results**

The results of the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component will be dispatched by post two weeks after the day of examination.

### **Counselling**

The College places great importance on providing guidance to those candidates whose performance failed to meet the standard to pass the examination. For the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component candidates will receive the percentage of questions correctly answers per blueprint category. All candidates will receive details of their performance for formative purposes. It is intended that this is for personal information and that the candidate should only share this with his/her educational supervisor.

### **Appeals**

A copy of the College's Appeals Procedure is available online at <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/examinations/appeals-procedure/>

The sole grounds for appeal are:

- There is evidence of a procedural irregularity in the conduct or content of the Examination or Assessment (including administrative error) which has adversely affected the candidate's performance

OR

- There were exceptional circumstances which adversely affected the candidate's performance in the Examination or Assessment

The College will endeavour to deal with exceptional circumstances fairly and consistently. Please note that candidates presenting for an examination are thereby deemed to be fit and healthy to do so. Please note, appeals will not be accepted on the grounds that a candidate considers his/her effort were under-marked, that the candidate did not understand or was unaware of the Examination or Assessment Regulations or because the candidate seeks to question professional or academic judgement.