

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination

Candidates' Information Pack

(Updated May 2020)

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)
- Good Medical Practice, GMC (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)

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.

Blueprint Topic	Total Number of MCQ	Sub-category	Approximation of MCQ
Clinical Ophthalmology	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
Pharmacology/Therapeutics	12		12
Investigations	16	Ophthalmic	9
		Orthoptic	3
		Neuro-imaging	3
		Other	1
Miscellaneous	16	Statistics/Epidemiology	3
		Research/ EBM	3
		Nutrition	1
		Ethics / Driving	4
		Economics	1
		Guidelines / Standards	4
Basic science	8	Anatomy/Physiology	2
		Pathology	2
		Genetics	3
		Optics	1
TOTAL	180		180

Example MCQ:

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

- Angle recession glaucoma
- Posner Schlossman glaucoma (inflammatory glaucoma)
- Pseudo-exfoliative glaucoma
- Reigers syndrome.

Correct Response – C

Online Proctored Delivery for the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination

From December 2020, the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination will be taken as an Online Proctored Examination, where the candidate will sit the exam at their home or their workplace, without the need to travel to a testing centre or examination venue. The examination will be taken online by being delivered over the internet to the candidate's computer at a pre-agreed examination date and time.

Both Paper 1 (MCQ) and Paper 2 (MCQ) 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 email from the College which will contain the following information:
 - Confirmation of their exam place
 - Their candidate ID number
 - Their exam date and time slot based on their location in the world
 - ID requirements and computer requirements in order to take the exam
 - A link to practice questions on the RCOphth exams website
 - Notes on what candidates can expect on the examination day
 - The examination rules and regulations
- 3) One week prior to the examination, another email will be sent to candidates with a link to complete a computer system check, as well as re-iterate the information from the previous confirmation email. The system check link will ensure a candidate's audio and video work sufficiently, as well as making sure that their computer is suitable to run the software.
- 4) Up to 24 hours before the examination, candidates will be sent exam login details, this will include a keycode, which will be ready to use when the candidate logs in for the exam.
- 5) The exam will be available to the candidate, for as long as the available time specified.

Also make sure that you have read thoroughly through:

Proctor Exam Test Taker Support

<https://proctorexam.com/test-taker-support/>

Online Invigilation Candidate Quick Guide

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Online-Invigilation-Candidate-Quick-Guide.pdf>

How to prepare for your Exam - Video link

<https://youtu.be/xsi0an49ISM>

How to take your online exam – Video link

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/How-to-Take-Your-Online-Proctored-Exam.mov>

Online Proctored Exam – Rules and Regulations

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RCOphth-Online-Proctored-Written-Exams-Rules-and-Regulations-4.pdf>

Online Proctored Exam RCOphth Privacy Policy

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RCOphth-OPE-Privacy-Policy-FINAL.pdf>

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

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.