

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your enquiry concerning the College's Part 2 Fellowship (FRCOphth) Written Examination.

I enclose copies of the current:

- Registration Information
- Admission Procedure
- Guidance for Candidates with Additional Needs
- Policy on Allegations of Cheating in Examinations
- Appeals Procedure
- Language Requirements
- Examination Timetable
- Examination Structure
- Standard Setting
- Examination Syllabus

Candidates must hold a medical qualification approved by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom (GMC) or of Ireland for the purpose of registration.

Please note that 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. Part 2 FRCOphth Examination attempts prior to August 2014 will be discounted. From August 2014 candidates who are eligible to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth examination are permitted four attempts each for the Part 2 FRCOphth Written and Oral components.

The examination structure is based on the learning outcomes from the Curriculum for Ophthalmic Specialist Training in its entirety. This curriculum is only available in web-based format at <http://curriculum.rcophth.ac.uk/>.

The Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component is held twice yearly in June/July and late November/December. Candidates must pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component before they are eligible to apply for the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Component which is held twice yearly in April and November. Candidates in OST will be required to pass both the written and oral components of the Part 2 FRCOphth examination by the end of year **seven** of ophthalmic specialist training.

The above information has been agreed by the Council of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

This information is subject to variation at the discretion of the Council.

Yours sincerely

Dylan Costello  
**Head of the Examinations Department**

## Regulations

The following notes on the regulations concerning applications for admission to the examinations are published for the guidance of candidates:

1. Completed applications for admission to an examination must reach the Examinations Department **no later than 5.00pm on the closing date**. It is not possible to accept applications received after the closing date.
2. The applications must be accompanied by the fee and such certification as is required by the regulations. If you cannot supply all the relevant certification you must contact the Examinations Department or supply a covering letter as to the reasons why. All outstanding certification must be received **BEFORE** the closing date, otherwise the candidate will be withdrawn from the examination and forfeit their examination fee. Applications submitted without the required fee, will not be accepted.
3. Upon receipt of application the Examinations Department will send all candidates a written receipt. Detailed instructions including written and clinical examination dates will be dispatched to all candidates within ten days after the closing date for receipt of applications.
4. Applicants wishing to withdraw their entry for an examination must notify the Examinations Department in writing by 5.00pm on the closing date for receipt of applications. Fees cannot be refunded after this time.
5. Applicants must apply for entry visas for the United Kingdom in good time prior to the date of the examination. In exceptional circumstances, if written evidence of the refusal of a visa is provided, the Examinations Committee will consider requests for candidates to withdraw their examination entry, subject to the receipt of a 20% administration charge.
6. Candidates unable to attend an examination will forfeit their examination fee. In exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Committee will consider requests to withdraw a candidate's entry from the examination sitting subject to receipt of written supplementary evidence (e.g. a detailed medical certificate, a death certificate for a close family member) and subject to a 20% administration charge. Please note that lack of preparation is not considered a suitable reason to withdraw from an examination.
7. If a candidate cancels their examination within 4 working days of the examination, with the evidence provided as in point 6 above, the 20% administration charge will apply + a 50.00 GBP late cancellation fee levied by the proctoring provider.
8. If a candidate fails to turn up for their examination, they will lose 100% of their exam fee.
9. All candidates will receive feedback regarding their individual performance in the examinations.
10. Results are sent by email with the Pass List being displayed on the College Website. Results are only released upon approval of the Senior Examiner. We regret that examination results are not available by telephone.

## Written Examination Procedures

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.

### **IMPORTANT – Please read fully and carefully all of the following including the web-links:**

Please see the following document and video links which detail the examination process along with the infrastructure and hardware requirements.

#### **Remote Invigilation Candidate Quick Guide**

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Remote-Invigilation-Candidate-User-Guide-v1.1.pdf>

#### **How to prepare for your Exam - Video link**

<https://youtu.be/xsi0an49ISM>

#### **Online Proctored Exam RCOphth Privacy Policy**

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

We recommend that you familiarise yourself with the process and system requirements as soon as possible to ensure that all processes work reliably.

### **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 regulation

### **System Testing**

- One week prior to the examination, you will receive an e-mail from BTL with a link to complete a computer system check, as well as to re-iterate the information from this confirmation e-mail. The system check link will ensure a candidate's audio and video work properly, as well as making sure that their computer is suitable to run the software. If you do not appear to have received the e-mail please check your "junk folder".
- 72 – 24 hours before the examination, candidates will be sent another email with the links for launching the exam. These links will not activate until the start of the actual examination. The

keycodes to start the examination will be available to candidate just before they start the exam.

- The examination will be available to the candidate, for the whole examination duration specified.

## Rules and Regulations

1. Candidates will be required to log in at their computer at the agreed examination start time to run through ID checks and web camera/microphone set-up with the live proctor. The exam will then start once ID checks and set-up is complete. If you log on before the start time, you will be presented with a timer counting down to the start time.

**This means that for example although 10am is the exam start time, at 10am you will do the pre-exam set up and THEN start the exam paper. Please note that this means that, depending on how long you take to complete the set-up, the exam paper might run past the stated exam times. You WILL however get the full time allotted for the exam paper and also the FULL allotted break time between papers before logging on to repeat the process for the second paper.**

**Example:**

- You are told to log on at 10:00am**
- You log on at 10:00**
- You complete set-up that takes 20 mins**
- At 10:20 you start the exam paper**
- Exam finishes at 12:20 (you have the full two hours)**
- You break for 1 hour**
- You log on for the second paper at 13:20**
- You complete set-up at 13:15**
- Exam finishes at 15:15 (full two hours)**

2. Photographic identification (a passport or photographic driver's licence ONLY) will be checked by the live proctor through the candidate's web camera before candidates can start the examination.
3. Candidates will be monitored at all times by a live proctor during the examination. The live proctor will be able to see the candidate through their web camera and hear them through their microphone. The live proctor will also ask the candidate to show the whole room via their web camera or their smartphone which must also be connected as a second camera for the examination (the live proctor will demonstrate how to do this).
4. All examinations are timed by the computer and will end automatically once the examination time has expired. Once the timing for the examination has begun, it cannot be paused. Candidates will be able to skip questions and come back to them at the end.
5. A candidate cannot be late for their examination. If they are late, their examination will be cancelled and their examination fee forfeited.
6. If a candidate wishes to raise a query during the examination, they can communicate with the live proctor via a chat facility.
7. The candidate's computer screen will be locked into the examination during the duration of the examination and access to any other websites or applications will not be possible.
8. Candidates are **not permitted** to use calculators in any section of the examinations.

9. Candidates are **not permitted** to use notebooks, books or any other form of written material during the examination.
10. Candidates are **not permitted** to wear any form of earplugs or headphones.
11. Candidates are **permitted** one sheet of white paper and a pencil for rough use/calculations, which must be destroyed at the end of the examination in front of the webcam by tearing into small pieces and then screwed up.
12. Candidates **must not**, at any point during the examination, look at their hands, wrists or arms, or at any mobile phone or tablet.
13. Candidates are **not permitted** to leave the room during the examination except for the designated one-hour break between examination papers.
14. Candidates are **not permitted** to wear any form of sunglasses or smart glasses.
15. Candidates are **not permitted** to wear any kind of watch or smart watch.
16. Candidates are **not permitted** to smoke or vape during the examination.
17. Candidates are **not permitted** to consult any other materials during the examination. This includes notes and textbooks.
18. Candidate are **not permitted** to eat any food during the examination. For drinks, the candidate may have one transparent tumbler of clear liquid drink that must be present at the start of the examination and not replenished at any time except for during the designated one-hour break between examination papers.
19. No other person will be permitted to be present in the room in which the candidate sits the examination.
20. Candidates are **not permitted** to communicate in any way with or seek assistance from anyone else except from the live proctor during the examination.
21. Candidates are advised to read in advance the RCOphth Online Proctored Examinations Privacy Policy and the RCOphth Policy on Allegations of Cheating and Misconduct in Examinations.
22. Candidates will **not be permitted** to visit the toilet during the examination. Toilet visits will only be permitted in the one-hour break between the examination papers. The only exceptions are for candidates who have medical conditions or pregnancy. These candidates must request the need for toilet breaks upon applying for the exam and must provide a medical letter explaining the reasons why.
23. Other than as a second camera linked to the proctoring system (as in point 3 above) candidates are **not permitted** to use mobile phones.
24. Candidates are **not permitted** to have or use any other electronic equipment or device during the examination.
25. Candidates are **not permitted** to interfere with, e.g. turn on / off, their internet connection without the permission of the online proctor.

The RCOphth will treat any breach of the above rules as cheating and does not expect to have to deal with any impropriety or issues of probity. However, we are obliged to ensure that such safeguards are in place in order that such issues cannot occur unnoticed. As such BTL provide three live and recorded streams of feedback whilst the examination is in progress online.

These three sources are:

1. the candidate's computer screen
2. the candidate's computer web camera view
3. a separate side view video-stream via a phone camera

### **The role of the live proctor invigilator**

There will be one online proctor per 6-8 candidates.

It is the proctor's role to check candidates into the examination and monitor the candidates throughout for "unusual behaviours" (see rules and regulations and below). Such behaviours will be recorded on a time-line, which will then be brought to the attention of a senior RCOphth examiner after the examination to decide whether any action is required. Please note, unless there is incontrovertible serious evidence of impropriety, your examination will proceed uninterrupted to be reviewed after the event.

### **Internet connectivity issues**

The testing processes that the candidate will have undertaken will ensure that the likelihood of a problem with the internet connection is minimised. If a candidate's internet connection does drop during the examination, no examination time will be lost as the timer will automatically pause. As the system updates every 3 seconds data loss is also likely to be minimal.

In the event of an interruption to the internet connection we recommend that the candidate tries to reconnect to the internet as soon as possible, if possible without leaving their chair or the room.

Once the internet connection is re-established the examination can proceed from where the candidate left off. The candidate will not lose any time to the interruption however, as answers are uploaded to the server every 3 seconds, it would be advisable to quickly check the answer to the question last answered.

If the internet connection is lost entirely for the duration of the whole exam, the candidate will have to reschedule for the next examination.

If there happens to be an unforeseen event that prevents the candidate completing the examination, only with written evidence from an appropriate authority (e.g. ISP, electricity power provider) we will consider an examination fee refund and a removal of the examination attempt from the candidate's record.

The online proctor has been instructed to report unusual behaviour in relation to the candidate's internet connection. Repeatedly dropping off-line unexpectedly in the presence of a previously tested and good connection will be regarded as a suspicious behaviour, as will excessive reconnection times. Each case of lost connection will be dealt with using the data that the proctor provides to us.

## Eligibility – Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component

A candidate will be eligible to enter the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component provided he/she:

a) has passed the Part 1 Fellowship Examination at a date later than 1 October 2006.

Please note that as of July 2021, it is no longer a requirement to have also passed the Refraction Certificate before taking the Part 2 Written. The Refraction Certificate and Part 2 Written exams can be taken in any order but BOTH must be passed in order to sit the final Part 2 Oral examination. Only a pass in the Part 1 FRCOphth examination is required to sit the Part 2 Written examination.

## Changes to eligibility and transitional period

In order to bring the FRCOphth Part 2 eligibility in line with GMC expectations, the Examinations Committee agreed the following:

1. From 31 August 2017, eligibility to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth will be restricted to a pass in both the Part 1 FRCOphth and the Refraction Certificate. **All other eligibility routes will cease.**
2. Candidates who hold MRCOphth Part 2 or 3 or MRCSEd Part 2 or 3 must make at least one attempt at the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination **BEFORE** 31 August 2017. Candidates who have made an attempt at the Part 2 Written will maintain eligibility to sit both parts of the Part 2 FRCOphth.
3. Candidates who hold MRCOphth Part 2 or 3 or MRCSEd Part 2 or 3 who do not attempt Part 2 before 31 August 2017 will no longer be eligible to do so, unless they pass the Part 1 FRCOphth and the Refraction Certificate.

## Condition of the Examination

There is no specific training requirement to enter this examination but it is aimed at trainees in years 4-7 of ophthalmic specialist training, who are at the end of their general ophthalmic training (i.e. not sub-specialty) and who are being considered as suitable to practise independently. Candidates are unlikely to successfully complete this examination without a **significant** period of training in ophthalmology.

Please note that from 1 August 2014, candidates will be permitted a maximum of four attempts in which to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component. Examination attempts prior to August 2014 will be discounted. From August 2014 candidates who are eligible to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth examination are permitted four attempts each for the Part 2 FRCOphth Written and Oral components..

Candidates in OST will be required to pass both the written and oral components of the Part 2 FRCOphth examination by the end of year **seven** of ophthalmic specialist training.

An examination can be taken before the candidate enters the relevant GMC-approved training programme or when they are on a break in the programme.

The pass will be considered current as long as the candidate enters or re-enters the programme within seven years of passing the examination and satisfies any other currency requirements.

A pass in an examination taken after completing a run-through or higher training programme will not be acceptable for a certificate of completion of training. In that situation, doctors may be able to demonstrate equivalence via the CESR or CEGPR process.



## Guidance for diagnostic assessment candidates with additional requirements and specific learning difficulties

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) recognise that there may be some candidates who require additional arrangements when undertaking a RCOphth examination.

The following guidance for diagnostic assessments has been developed from the recommendations of a Working Group on Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) within the University of Oxford, which reported in Trinity Term 2011. The recommendations are rooted in the extensive data collection, interviews, research and analysis undertaken by the group whose membership included internal and external experts.

The primary purpose of a diagnostic assessment report is to provide the candidate with a greater understanding of his / her profile of cognitive and educational strengths and weaknesses and an opportunity to consider how this profile might impact upon study. The assessment report should be used to support the candidate to develop greater self-awareness and inform strategy development in managing key academic tasks whilst studying in a demanding and challenging environment. It is imperative that a diagnostic assessment is not viewed simply as a route to obtaining accommodations, such as extra time, in examinations or extensions for written assignments.

In order to provide support and make reasonable adjustments, including examination adjustments, on the grounds of a specific learning difficulty, the RCOphth requires that:

- a full diagnostic assessment has been carried out by a psychologist or a specialist teacher which confirms the presence of a specific learning difficulty. Psychologists must be HCPC registered as a practitioner psychologist. Specialist teachers must hold a qualification recognised under the SpLD Working Group 2005/DfES Guidelines and hold a valid Assessment Practising Certificate (updated SASC guidance, March 2019);
- the assessment has been conducted when the candidate was aged 16 years or over, using individually administered, up to date, psychometrically valid and reliable tests such as those recommended by the SpLD Working Group;
- ***candidates' reports are normally no more than 5 years old at the date of entry to the examination.***
- that a signed copy of the diagnostic assessment report has been supplied to the RCOphth and that the report follows closely the guidance of the SpLD Working Group 2005/ DfES report and its subsequent updates. This applies to the tests used, the format of the report and the detail of the content. Please note that "top up" assessments are not acceptable nor are copies of the JCQ Form 8.

With reference to test selection, we ask that professionals administer the psychometric tests to assess the areas listed below to provide comprehensive evidence of the impact of difficulties on study. For assessments conducted in the UK, the test materials should be those approved by UK national professional standards bodies in line with the SpLD Working Group 2005/ DfES guidelines, and utilise the most recently available standardisation information. International reports must include the same range of assessment areas and use internationally recognised materials with similarly robust standardisation. We ask that the following core aspects are included to allow the RCOphth to make decisions about support and reasonable adjustments for a candidate with a specific learning difficulty, in line with SASC guidance, March 2019.

# Examination Information Pack

## Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination

- Background Information and history of need to provide the context of the assessment
- Underlying cognitive ability (verbal abilities, nonverbal abilities, working memory, phonological processing, visual processing)
- Attainment (reading, spelling, writing, maths as appropriate)
- Other relevant areas (motor coordination, attention as relevant if they are suspected as causing further difficulties)

Qualitative commentary regarding the approach to each assessment task and the anticipated impact of any observations on academic study activities such as reading, research, note taking, planning, writing, proofreading and editing etc.

Further Information can be found on the SpLD Assessment Standards Committee website on their SpLD Assessment page. This includes the diagnostic assessment report proforma, the SpLD Working Party 2005 / DfES report and its 2019 update

<http://www.sasc.org.uk/SASCDocuments/Post%20-%2016%20Diagnostic%20Assessment%20Report%20120219.pdf> update

Recommendations for examination arrangements should be clearly and explicitly stated, with any time allowances quantified. This would normally be where at least 2 areas of cognitive functioning resulted in scores less than 85 (i.e. below the average range) The standard extra time allowance for candidates with SpLDs is 25% (15 minutes per hour) both for hand written and electronic exams. Any recommendation for additional extra time over the standard

25% would need to be fully justified with evidence of a very substantial impact on measures of attainment. The RCOphth will consider all reasonable adjustments to examinations including the use of assistive technology. Diagnostic assessors and candidates should be aware that the final decision on adjustments rests with the Chair of the Examinations Committee.

All candidates who require additional arrangements must adhere to the guidelines set out above. Candidates must note that upon receipt of sufficient evidence additional arrangements may not necessarily be granted.

In awarding additional arrangements, the RCOphth seeks to:

1. Approve valid arrangements and access to written and clinical examinations.
2. Give special consideration to candidates where specific circumstances have arisen at or near to the examination time which have not previously been highlighted.
3. Ensure that no additional arrangement gives an unfair advantage over another candidate

When submitting their application form applicants must indicate if additional arrangements are needed and supporting evidence must be provided at the time of application.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXAMINATION APPLICANTS AND CANDIDATES**

The College's code of conduct can be found on our website, at the following link:

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Code-of-Conduct-Examination-candidates-and-applicants-20170404.pdf>

## **ALLEGATIONS OF CHEATING AND MISCONDUCT IN EXAMINATIONS**

Further information regarding the College's Policy on Allegations of Cheating and Misconduct in Examinations can be found on our website, at the following link:

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Policy-on-Allegations-of-Cheating-and-Misconduct-20181008.pdf>

## **Appeals Procedure**

The College's appeal procedure is available online at <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/examinations/appeals-procedure/>

## **Language Requirements**

All examinations run by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists are conducted in English.

Although candidates are not expected to undertake examinations such as IELTS or PLAB it is expected that candidates should be equivalent to IELTS Level 7.

## **Preparing for the examinations**

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists recommends that candidates preparing for examinations should:

- Read the appropriate text, syllabi and curriculum for the relevant examination.
- Gain clinical experience in ophthalmology in hospitals. This may also include working within other specialties such as Medicine and Pathology.
- Attend courses – A list of courses for examinations can be found on the College website (the College does not run or endorse any of the listed courses: <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/events-and-courses/non-rcophth-events/>).
- Ensure they are familiar with principles and values of the General Medical Council's Good Medical Practice (<http://www.gmc-uk.org>).

Candidates may also find useful information from the National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Education. (<http://www.nhs.uk/nacpme/>)

**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

**PART 2 FRCOPHTH WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

**TIMETABLE 2023**

**June 2023**

<b>Examination Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 28 June 2023</b>
<b>Opening Date for Receipt of Applications:</b>	<b>Monday 6 March 2023</b>
<b>Closing Date for Receipt of Applications:</b>	<b>Monday 8 May 2023</b>

**December 2023**

<b>Examination Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 6 December 2023</b>
<b>Opening Date for Receipt of Applications:</b>	<b>Monday 14 August 2023</b>
<b>Closing Date for Receipt of Applications:</b>	<b>Monday 9 October 2023</b>

## **The Part 2 FRCOphth Written and Oral Examinations**

The Part 2 FRCOphth Written and Oral examinations combined form a synoptic exit examination that use several different and complementary assessment methods. Success in the Part 2 FRCOphth Written and Oral examinations allows a doctor to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. FRCOphth is a necessary but insufficient requirement for completion of specialty training in the UK. The examinations are blueprinted against the General Medical Council's *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 both the Part 2 FRCOphth written and oral examinations by the end of year **seven** of ophthalmic specialist training. Candidates in OST should note that a pass achieved after completion of the training programme will not be considered towards the award of a CCT. From 1 August 2014, candidates are permitted a maximum of four attempts in which to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component and four attempts to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Component. Examination attempts prior to August 2014 are not included.

The Written Component is held twice a year; in June/July and December. Candidates are required to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component, i.e. the MCQ paper, before they are eligible to apply to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Component.

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.

Candidates are advised to read the 'Instructions for Candidates for the Part 2 FRCOphth Examination' for further information on the Part 2 FRCOphth Examination.

### **Structure of the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination**

A 180, single best answer from four options, MCQ paper. For logistical reasons, the MCQ paper is sat in two halves of 90 MCQ over two hours each. The total examination time is four hours. A copy of the written examination blueprint is available in the 'Instructions for Candidates for the Part 2 FRCOphth Examination'. The examination is delivered electronically as an online proctored exam which a candidate can take at home or in the workplace.

### **Standard Setting**

All examinations are standard set. The written paper is standard set in advance using the Ebel method. All questions are reviewed in the light of performance and modified accordingly.

### **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 sent via email two/three weeks after the day of examination. Examiners and candidates are not permitted to telephone the College for examination results.

## Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination Syllabus

The Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists examinations are designed to assess the knowledge, skills and professional attitudes required of a doctor who wishes to practise as an ophthalmologist in the United Kingdom. A pass in the Part 1 FRCOphth, Refraction Certificate and Part 2 FRCOphth examinations represents a high level of achievement. The FRCOphth is a necessary but insufficient requirement for the Certificate of Completion for Training in Ophthalmology.

The three examinations that comprise the FRCOphth are based upon the curriculum for ophthalmic specialist training and candidates are **strongly advised to become familiar with the curriculum** (available at: <http://curriculum.rcophth.ac.uk/>).

**The Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component** consists of **one assessment format**:

- **written paper** (single best answer from four multiple choice questions),

**The Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component** is a synoptic examination that cover **all areas of RCOphth OST curriculum**. Those areas of the curriculum where workplace based assessment has been used as continuous assessment throughout training are less likely to feature in the written component **but may be assessed** in the structured viva and objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE) sections of the oral component.

The syllabus the Part 2 FRCOphth written examination is intended as a **guide only** and candidates are advised that **all parts of the ophthalmic specialist training curriculum** can be assessed in **all parts** of the Part 2 FRCOphth examination.

### Syllabus for the Written Component

(patient investigations; patient management; practical skills; surgical skills; health promotion and disease prevention; basic and clinical sciences; and continuing professional and personal development)

The specific learning outcomes from the RCOphth OST curriculum that the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Component assesses are:

### Patient Investigation (PI)

- PI1 [Orthoptic assessment](#)
- PI2 [Assessment of corneal shape, structure and thickness](#)
- PI3 [Retinal and optic nerve imaging](#)
- PI4 [Ocular angiography](#)
- PI5 [Ultrasonography](#)
- PI6 [Radiology and other neuro-imaging](#)
- PI7 [Ocular and neuro-physiology](#)
- PI8 [Biochemistry](#)
- PI9 [Haematology](#)
- PI10 [Pathology](#)
- PI11 [Microbiology](#)
- PI12 [Biometry](#)
- PI13 [Fields \(automated, manual\)](#)
- PI14 [Immunology and allergy testing](#)
- PI15 [Urinalysis](#)
- PI16 [Bone scans](#)



## Patient Management (PM)

- PM1 [Formulate and agree a management plan](#)
- PM2 [Appropriate use of triage](#)
- PM3 [Prescribe and administer appropriate local and systemic therapy](#)
- PM4 [To select appropriate cases for surgery](#)
- PM6 [Assess progress of disease](#)
- PM7 [Recognise and manage local and systemic complications of treatment](#)
- PM8 [Apply emergency management of medical problems and first aid](#)
- PM9 [Manage anaphylaxis and cardiopulmonary resuscitation](#)
- PM10 [Visual standards](#)
- PM11 [Low vision aids and visual impairment registration](#)
- PM13 [Systemic implications](#)
- PM14 [Spectacle lenses](#)
- PM15 [Contact lenses](#)
- PM16 [Refractive Surgery](#)
- PM17 [Laser treatment selection](#)
- PM18 [Diet and nutrition](#)

## Practical Skills (PS)

- PS2 [Perform a refractive assessment and provide an optical prescription](#)
- PS3 [Administer periocular and intraocular drugs](#)
- PS5 [Achieve appropriate local anaesthesia, and recognise the possible complications](#)
- PS6 [Use diathermy appropriately and safely](#)
- PS8 [Assess lacrimal function](#)
- PS9 [Perform anterior chamber paracentesis](#)
- PS10 [Perform a corneal scrape](#)
- PS11 [Remove ocular surface foreign bodies](#)
- PS12 [Occlude the nasolacrimal puncta](#)
- PS13 [Remove sutures from eye and adnexae](#)
- PS14 [Fit a bandage contact lens](#)
- PS15 [Administer periocular botulinum injections](#)
- PS16 [Apply corneal glue](#)
- PS17 [Perform ocular ultrasound](#)
- PS18 [Demonstrate lid hygiene to a patient](#)
- PS19 [Perform anterior chamber and vitreous sampling](#)
- PS20 [Take samples for blood culture](#)
- PS21 [Perform the correct hand hygiene technique](#)
- PS22 [Carry out irrigation and debridement of ocular contaminants](#)
- PS24 [Perform forced duction tests](#)

## Surgical Skills (SS)

- SS4 [Perform cataract surgery](#)
- SS5 [Undertake surgical measures to lower intraocular pressure](#)
- SS6 [Perform surgical repair of ocular and adnexal tissues after trauma](#)
- SS8 [Perform surgical measures for the protection of the ocular surface](#)
- SS16 [Apply appropriate laser for the management of retinal problems](#)

## Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP)

- HPDP1 [Promote the value, and assist in the organisation, of screening for eye disease](#)
- HPDP2 [Prevent contagion and cross infection](#)
- HPDP3 [Notify and facilitate contact tracing of communicable diseases](#)
- HPDP4 [Promote issues of injury prevention, especially in regard to protective eyewear](#)
- HPDP5 [Implement risk reduction strategies relating to ophthalmic and relevant systemic diseases](#)
- HPDP6 [Provide advice on contact lens care](#)
- HPDP7 [Take appropriate care of laser and diagnostic contact lenses](#)
- HPDP8 [Give advice on the avoidance of allergens and other triggers](#)
- HPDP9 [Promote appropriate immunization](#)
- HPDP10 [Understand the implications of investigations and therapeutics during pregnancy](#)
- HPDP11 [Make recommendations for bone protection](#)
- HPDP12 [Follow local and national guidance with regards to prophylaxis](#)

## Basic and Clinical Sciences (BCS)

*Although anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, cell biology, growth, senescence and optics have been assessed in the Part 1 FRCOphth examination, clinically important aspects of these learning outcomes may be assessed in the Part 2 examination and candidates should prepare accordingly.*

- BCS1 [Anatomy](#)
- BCS2 [Physiology](#)
- BCS3 [Biochemistry and cell biology](#)
- BCS4 [Pathology](#)
- BCS5 [Growth, development and senescence](#)
- BCS6 [Optics and medical physics](#)
- BCS7 [Clinical Ophthalmology](#)
- BCS8 [Therapeutics](#)
- BCS9 [General Medicine and Neurology](#)
- BCS12 [Laser](#)
- BCS13 [Epidemiology/Evidence Based Medicine](#)
- BCS14 [Instruments](#)
- BCS15 [Statistics](#)
- BCS16 [Genetics](#)
- BCS17 [Economics](#)

## Continuing Professions and Personal Development (CPD)

- CPD4 [Able to practice the 'art' of medicine in those situations when medical science does not offer clear guidance](#)