

Current Regulations for the MRCPI Part 1 General Medicine Exam

Taken from the February 2005 exam regulations section found on the RCPI website, www.rcpi.ie

From 21st January 2004 the examination has taken the form of two papers which are both sat during the same session;

- i) True/False Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) style paper
- ii) Best of Many (BoM) style paper

The examination is of three hours duration with no break between the two papers.

There is no negative marking in either the MCQ or BoM paper

Candidates will be given both papers at the start of the examination, and will be free to choose which paper to answer first.

The Question Papers

The general medicine paper contains 50 multiple choice questions, and 50 best of many questions. The questions are designed to test the knowledge of the basis of medical practice over a wide area including elementary statistics and clinical sciences.

The examination paper will cover elementary and clinical sciences. Increased emphasis will in future be given to basic science topics. Questions in both options may be set on relevant principles of cell molecular and membrane biology, immunology, genetics and biochemistry, as well as anatomical, physiological, microbiological and pharmacological topics.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)

There is a total of 50 MCQ questions, each consisting of 5 items with each item attracting 1 mark for each correct response (i.e. a true statement indicated as true, a false statement indicated as false).

A zero mark will be awarded for each incorrect answer.

A zero mark will be awarded for each don't know answer.

There are 250 marks available for this paper.

Each question consists of an initial stem followed by five possible completions identified A,B,C,D,E.

There is no restriction on the number of true or false items in a question. It is possible for all the items to be true, or for all to be false.

Best of Many Questions (BoM)

There is a total of 50 BoM questions with each correct response being awarded 3 marks.

There are 150 marks available for this paper

Marking of the Exam

The total combined mark is out of 400.

The marks of the two papers will be combined.

Candidates will not be required to pass both papers individually.

The standard necessary to achieve a pass is established via methods including criterion referencing, thus the pass mark and the overall pass rate may vary from diet to diet.

Timing of the Exam

The exam takes place 3 times a year in January, May and September.