



## COMBINED BLUEPRINT FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY

This exam blueprint is for the Certificate in Clinical Haematology of the College of Physicians. The convener of the exam should be a registered Clinical Haematologist and attached to an accredited training centre.

### 1.0 WRITTEN EXAMINATION PAPERS

The candidate must pass the written exam paper in order to proceed to the clinical, practical and oral examinations. The written paper pass mark is the aggregate 50%.

- 1.1 The written paper will consist of a range of questions to a total of 100 marks. Each question will be short answer questions, and the maximum marks allocated will be 10 marks per question.
- 1.2 The paper will examine predominantly basic sciences and applied clinical and laboratory haematology
  - 1.2.1 Thrombosis and haemostasis should not comprise more than approximately 20 to 30% of the marks allocated
  - 1.2.2 Malignant haematology should not comprise more than approximately 20 to 30% of the marks allocated
  - 1.2.3 General haematology should not comprise more than approximately 20% to 30% of the marks allocated
  - 1.2.4 Blood transfusion, patient blood management and clinical pharmacology should not comprise more than approximately 20 to 30% of the marks allocated.

### 2.0 PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

- 2.1 Must pass both components of the practical examination which include the laboratory practical and the structured oral exam independently.
- 2.2 The laboratory exam should be focused on applied laboratory haematology at a level that is ratified by the convener.
- 2.3 The mark allocation of the laboratory practical is as follows:
  - 2.3.1 **Laboratory haematology** - **50 % of the practical examination**
    - 2.3.1.1 Basic Morphology - 20 to 30% of the lab haematology practical
    - 2.3.1.2 Coagulation - 10 to 15% of the lab haematology practical
    - 2.3.1.3 Special haematology\* - 10 to 15% of the lab haematology practical
    - 2.3.1.4 Flow cytometry - 10 to 15% of the lab haematology practical
    - 2.3.1.5 Molecular pathology and cytogenetics - 15 to 20% of the lab haematology practical
    - 2.3.1.6 Blood transfusion - 5 to 10% of the lab haematology practical

\*Include hemolysis, hemoglobinopathies, protein electrophoresis and relevant new modalities

  - No "wet practical" will be included in the laboratory examination.
    - Paper 1 – will include morphology, flow and molecular
    - Paper 2 – will include special haematology, coagulation and blood transfusion.

The overall pass mark for the laboratory practical is the 50% aggregate mark of all components.

2.4 Structured Oral Exam – 50 % of the practical examination

- 2.4.1 The structured oral examination will take the following format:  
three clinical case vignettes plus a short oral following each case vignette (each worth 33.3% of the structured oral exam mark). The clinical case vignette is weighted at 90%, and the short oral question 10% of each clinical case/oral exam. The short oral will be on a different topic from the clinical case.
- 2.4.2 The candidate must achieve an aggregate of 50% for the three clinical case/oral exams.
- 2.4.3 The oral exam component does not need to be passed independently from the cases.
- 2.4.4 The candidate must pass two of the three clinical case vignettes.

For each case vignette, the candidates will be provided with a brief history of the presenting problem, clinical signs. The discussion will involve interpretation of clinical and laboratory findings, development of a cost effective investigation plan, provision of a differential diagnosis and discussion of the clinical management of the problem. Candidates must answer examiner's questions in a mature way, noting the particular relevance when there are several target systems involved. Candidate may be asked to discuss haematological diagnostic techniques and methods that are relevant to the clinical presentation.

The total time for each case/oral exam is 50 minutes divided into the following component (example case/oral is available on the college website)

1. 5 minutes for candidate to examine case vignette alone
2. Plus minus 30 to 40 minutes for the examination on the case vignette
3. Plus minus 5 to 10 minutes for the examination on the oral exam

The overall pass mark in the practical examination is 50%.

**May 2023**