



MRCGP [INT.] SOUTH ASIA

EXAMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP MRCGP [International] SOUTH ASIA

RULES & REGULATIONS DOCUMENT

Updated – February 2026

INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains information on the examination for International Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners MRCGP [INT.] South Asia. Please keep it for reference at all stages of the examination process.

Please address all enquiries or correspondence as per the details below:

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The examination is subject to continuous scrutiny, review, and development. Details of its format, content and marking, and of the examination and general Rules and Regulations, may change without prior notification. **You must ensure that you have an updated copy of the Rules and Regulations** at the time you apply for each part of the examination, particularly if you extend your taking of the examination over more than one year and for corresponding to the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia admin office. The most current version of the Rules and Regulations is published on the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia website at:

www.mrcgpintsouthasia.org

You should note that it is the condition of entry for the examination that you agree to be bound by the terms of the Rules and Regulations in force at the time you apply to take the respective modules.

This booklet also contains information designed to give you a general idea of the examination, and to help you prepare for it. However, you should not assume that the actual questions which you see if you take the examination will be as described here.

The MRCGP [INT] qualification does not guarantee a working opportunity in the UK. The answers to many frequently asked questions are contained in these Regulations. Please familiarise yourself with them.

The MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Board also reserves the right to shift its office to another country or to close its operation(s) for any reason(s). However, the Board will make arrangements to organize Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) examination within a period of 1 year from the date of the last Applied Knowledge Test (AKT – Part I exam) intake to accommodate all OSCE eligible candidates. The OSCE exam dates will be published on the website www.mrcgpintsouthasia.org and all eligible candidates will be informed through email on their registered email id. Following which the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Board in no respect shall incur any liability / claim / request for fee refund or organizing another OSCE exam or shall be held responsible in any manner by any of the candidate(s) for any shortcomings.

Please note that ONLY those doctors who have cleared both parts of the exam and are formally registered as International Members of the RCGP and have a Certificate of International Membership are allowed to use the post-nominal designation “MRCGP [INT.]”.

APPLYING TO SIT THE EXAMINATION

Are you eligible?

Eligibility criteria for MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Part 1 examination:

These should be:

All candidates should have completed a year's internship and:

Training Track

Either:

A. *Certification of completion of a structured two years training course or a two year diploma in Family Medicine.* and accredited by the South Asia Region MRCGP [INT.] Board.

Or:

B. *Certification of completion of an accredited one year training programme or one year diploma in Family Medicine with an additional two years clinical experience (during the last Ten years).* This should consist of either two years in FM or a minimum of one year in FM with a further year in a speciality/-ies allied to Family Medicine/General Practice.

Or:

Completion of 1-year online certificate course – Foundation of Family Medicine of the MRCGP [INT] South Asia Board along with an additional two years post-internship clinical experience in Family Medicine experience (during the last Ten years).

Non-Training Track

C. *Minimum of five years clinical experience of which a minimum of three years should be in Family Medicine/General Practice (during the last Ten years)* and the other years in speciality/-ies allied to Family Medicine/General Practice

Note that:

- Internship / house job experience is not counted.
- Specialties acceptable to the Board include Internal Medicine, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Accident & Emergency / Emergency Medicine. Up to 6 months of surgical training / clinical experience will be accredited.
- The candidates are required to submit experience certificates (translated in English language by registered translating agency) as a proof of eligibility to sit the exam.
- Part time equivalents of the required clinical experience will be accepted by the MRCGP [INT.] Board.
- In case you are working for a private institute/hospital a letter from the HR department will be required.
- In case of private personal practice, candidates are required to submit a reference letter issued by any Assistant Professor or above rank person of any academic institution /registered regional Family Medicine organisation/ Senior GP on their letterhead mentioning the complete address of the clinic and the duration of the family medicine / general practice clinical experience.
- **The documents submit may be sent for verification and incase of forged documents the application will straight away be rejected and the candidate may be permanently barred from taking the exam.**

It is strongly recommended, **but not mandatory**, that all OSCE eligible candidates attend the South Asia Board OSCE orientation courses currently available thrice a year at a neutral venue, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Eligibility Criteria for MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Part 2 examination:

Candidates who have cleared Part I exam are eligible to apply for Part II OSCE exam.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

There are two parts to the examination. You must pass both parts to pass the examination overall.

- a) The two parts of the examination are:
 1. Written – A multiple choice paper – Part 1. Single Best Answer (SBA)
 2. Oral – objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) – Part 2.
- b) Candidates need to pass Part 1 before they can proceed to Part 2. There are no limits to the number of times a candidate can sit Part 1 of the examination.
- c) Having passed Part 1, a candidate will have up to three attempts at Part 2. Failure after three attempts will require the candidate to re-sit Part 1 examination. Furthermore, the two parts must be passed within 6 years from the date of passing part 1 exam. Part I is currently available twice a year and part II thrice a year.

Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) – Part 1 [Computer Based/ Paper Based]

This examination is currently available twice a year, in May and November, and can be taken in the individual countries of South Asia, KSA (Jeddah) and in Myanmar (Yangon). You will be asked to choose a centre where you wish to sit the paper. We expect to be able to accommodate your preference, although we do not guarantee to do so and it is sometimes necessary to move candidates from the centre of their choice mainly due to the unavailability of slots for the computer-based exam.

Part I exam is computer-based, however considering a large number of applications, there are limited slots available which are allotted on the first come first serve basis. Once all slots are filled, remaining candidates will be accommodated for the paper-based format of the exam.

The computer-based examination is administered by Pearson VUE and registered candidates will receive an email from Pearson VUE a month before the exam date for venue selection.

Paper based exam is administered by the British Council Offices situated in available centers

The multiple-choice paper will consist of 200 questions in the **single best answer format**. Time allowed for completion of the paper is 3½ hours. Note **that no extra time in any circumstances will be allowed and there are no breaks.**

IMPORTANT

Normal values, if required, are listed below the question. Normal values WILL NOT be provided for common investigation findings when the question requires the candidate to interpret the findings.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) – Part 2

The second part of the examination will be a clinical assessment in the OSCE format. There will be 14 active stations, each allocated 10 minutes, and a few rest stations. Each station will test clinical, communication and practical skills. Starting from 2010, this examination is held twice a year, usually in March at Karachi (Pakistan) and September in Colombo (Sri Lanka). Since July 2023 Chennai, India has been added as an OSCE centre. The choice of venue will be subject to the security situation, and the South Asia Board reserves the right to change the venue at short notice to ensure safety and security of candidates and examiners.

Local Accrediting Organizations:

These are organizations within each country of the region which have responsibility for determining the eligibility of candidates in that country. By country, the organizations are:

India: Indian Medical Association College of General Practitioners, Chennai

Pakistan: A Joint Committee with representatives from Pakistan College of Family Medicine Pakistan (Karachi) and Society of Family Physicians (Lahore).

Sri Lanka: The College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

How to apply - general

The application process is online using the MRCGP [INT] South Asia online portal which is active as per the registration dates mentioned in exam calendar available on the website. You need to apply online separately for each exam. The documents listed below will be required to upload along with your online application:

- Medical graduation degree
- Internship completion certificate
- A photocopy of any of your valid medical license.
- Evidence of your eligibility to practice (if appropriate; see eligibility criteria above).
- One digital photograph.
- Bio page of your valid passport or a color scanned copy of your national identity card
- The online portal only accepts JPG, JPEG, PNG (Max 3MB), PDF (Max. 5 MB) format of files for uploading.
- E-signature [*You may sign on a blank white paper and scan it for uploading*]

Technical requirements for online application portal

- Latest version of google chrome browser.
- Laptop and desktop computer.

Mobile phones are not recommended to access the online portal

It is essential that candidates provide a valid personal email address as most communication and announcements are made by email. Please take extra care to type in your email correctly, as errors will result in our messages being sent to the wrong email address and you will not receive updates from us.

Please make sure you familiarize yourself with the Application Guide and the current Examination Rules and Regulations that can be found on the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia website.

Submission of an application for registration by you shall constitute confirmation of full acceptance of the Terms and Conditions set out in these Rules and Regulations. Prior to submitting the application for registration, you are required to accept the said Terms and Conditions. By applying, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to be bound by and to abide by the Terms and Conditions as laid down in these Rules and Regulations document.

Applying to take each part.

You need to make a separate online application for each part of the examination.

Make sure that you apply online as soon as the online portal opens as seats are limited and slots will be allotted on a first come first serve or fastest fingers first basis. The link for the application form will be available on the website as per the dates mentioned in the exam calendar. The online registration for both parts of the exam will open at a specific time which is 12 noon Pakistan Standard Time (PST) on the given dates. **The online registration will be closed immediately once all the available slots are filled.**

www.mrcgpintsouthasia.org

You will become eligible to apply for Part 2 of the examination after passing the Part 1 paper.

When to apply

Each of the two parts of the examination has an opening and a closing date for applications. Please see the examination calendar for the current year on the website for dates and fee structure. **Note that registration closes immediately once all the available slots are secured by candidates.**

What to pay

Please check the current year examination calendar on the website for the fee structure. Fees are subject to revision each year. Therefore, it is important that the correct fee is paid once you have been intimated through email by the MRCGP [INT] Admin office.

Please note that the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Board currently accepts payments through telegraphic transfers (TT) in pounds sterling & US dollars. Any other forms of payment or payments in another currency will not be accepted, and your application may not be considered.

If applicable, the exchange rate is decided before the opening of the registration of any part of the examination and remains the same till the last date of registration. It is regardless of the daily exchange rate during the registration period.

Note that we do not accept fee payment through gateways / credit / debit cards or payment links and candidates are warned not to respond to any such emails or click on any payment links. MRCGP [INT] South Asia will not be held responsible for any loss in this regard.

Making changes to your application

At the discretion of the Convenor of the Panel of Examiners you may be allowed an extension to the time within which you have to pass both parts if you are prevented by exceptional circumstances from attending the centre originally chosen; or if we cannot accommodate you at

your chosen centre and you are prevented by exceptional circumstances from attending the alternative which we offer you. Such cases will be dealt with on case-to-case basis, and it is a mandatory requirement for the candidate to provide valid evidence of not following the regulations.

Withdrawing your application

Notification of withdrawal from any part of the examination must be given in writing:

1. If you enter for a given part of the examination and then decide that you want to withdraw from the examination, you may do so without penalty provided that we receive your instructions, in writing as per the deadlines communicated through email by the office. The application fee you have paid will not normally be refunded, but the balance or full amount, as per the date of withdrawal, will be retained as credit towards a subsequent application. In case of fee credit, the candidate has to pay the difference of the fee in case it is revised.
2. If you fail to attend any part of the examination, the full fee paid in respect of that exam will be forfeited.

Refunds of examination fees will be at the discretion of the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Board.

Important:

Please note that reaching the venue and obtaining the visa is solely the responsibility of the candidate and in case the visa / flights are not issued / delayed, the candidate will be marked **Absent** and will **Forfeit** full paid fee.

Disability

Candidates who have a disability and who would like special arrangements to be made to assist them when taking the exam must inform the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia admin office of their disability when they apply to sit the assessments or as soon as possible thereafter. Evidence of the disability will be required, including details of any special arrangements that have been made to accommodate the doctor during everyday practice. For dyslexic candidates a report from an educational psychologist will be required.

Communicating with us

The details you submit on your application form are stored on record. As most correspondence and all announcements to candidates are done by email, *it is crucial that you provide a valid personal email address*. Please do not submit someone else's email address, because of confidentiality reasons we would be unable to discuss your personal information or exam results by telephone or email without verifying your identity. If you have any queries, please make sure you contact us using the same email address you submitted in your application form for the exam and quote your 7-digit candidate ID number.

Candidates are advised to communicate directly with the South Asia admin office through their registered email id. Emails from anonymous ids will not be responded and no correspondence will be done with any thirdparty.

Acknowledging your application

Receipt of your online application for any part of the exam will be acknowledged immediately via auto-generated emails.

Further correspondence will be made by the office administrative team through the official email IDs mentioned above. When your application has been approved you will then receive an email of acceptance of your application to sit the exam. AKT paper-based exam candidates will receive an email two to three weeks before the exam date, confirming your candidate ID, date and timing of the exam and the exam venue details. Computer-based exam candidates will have to select the centre by logging in onto the Pearson VUE website using the credentials provided by Pearson in advance.

Note that the venue for paper-based exams is usually the same for all registered candidates in that city. However, there could be multiple venues in the same city for computer-based examination as per the center capacity.

For part II online OSCE applications, candidates will be confirmed receipt immediately via auto-generated emails and acceptance of application through email at least four weeks before the exam starting date. The exact allotted date and session of the OSCE exam will be notified to all the candidates no later than four weeks before the exam.

Cancellation / postponement of Examination and Registration:

In case of cancellation / postponement of any examination by MRCGP [INT.] South Asia, for any reason beyond the its control for e.g. declaration of war or similar situation, closure of air space, change in government regulations, disasters, acts of terrorism, strikes or threat of strikes, civil disorders or any other emergency in any country making it inadvisable, unsafe for the candidates, examiners and other personnel involved, illegal or impossible or close to impossible to organize the examination, the following percentage of fee will be deducted from the candidate paid fee to cover the administrative cost already incurred by the MRCGP [INT.] SAB.

MRCGP [INT.] South Asia ensures all reasonable steps are taken to provide continuity of service. However, candidates are expected to understand that MRCGP [INT.] South Asia cannot be held responsible for any interruption, disruption, cancellation, or delay caused by circumstances beyond its control. In the event that registration for the examinations or the declaration of results are disrupted, cancelled, or delayed for any reason, every effort shall be made to resume normal services as soon as possible. The liability of MRCGP [INT.] South Asia shall, in all circumstances, be strictly limited to the refund of the registration fee, and no further claim shall be entertained. MRCGP [INT.] South Asia reserves the right to reject any application for admission or registration without assigning any reason and further reserves the right to cancel any admission or registration at any stage without assigning any reason, as determined by MRCGP [INT.] South Asia at its sole and complete discretion. As mentioned above, online registration for both parts of the examination shall open at a specific time, namely 12:00 noon Pakistan Standard Time (PST), on the announced dates and shall be closed immediately once all available slots are filled. However, MRCGP [INT.] South Asia shall not

be liable for any inability to register, incomplete registration, or loss of registration opportunity arising from technical failures, system errors, internet connectivity issues, or other online system-related problems, and no claim beyond refund of the registration fee, if paid, shall be maintainable. In the event that, due to any of the aforementioned circumstances, the online registration of candidates of an entire single examination session as per the calendar is affected or impacted, those candidates who have either successfully pre-registered or have separately contacted MRCGP [INT.] South Asia shall be informed of the incompleteness or non-finalisation of such registration, as applicable, and shall be required to re-register once the online system is restored and made operational, strictly in accordance with the terms mentioned above, on a first-come, first-served basis. The liability of MRCGP [INT.] South Asia shall in this regard also be strictly limited to the refund of the registration fee, if paid. A general notice to this effect shall also be published on the official website of MRCGP [INT.] South Asia prior to the recommencement of online registration, in order to notify all prospective candidates and to ensure that a fair and equal opportunity is provided to all applicants. It is expressly clarified that the role of MRCGP [INT.] South Asia is strictly limited to conducting examinations in accordance with client and examination requirements, therefore, MRCGP [INT.] South Asia shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, or consequential losses or damages.

In the event of a technical failure or any other incident during the examination, which is beyond the control of the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia or the administering body, and which affects the ability to attempt/complete the examination, such affected candidates will be accommodated in the next subsequent exam without the requirement of formally applying again and without any additional fee. If a candidate is not willing to appear in the next subsequent exam, formal application process to be followed and the candidate has to pay the difference of the fee in case it is revised.

AKT exam:

- within 45 days before the exam date: no fee deduction
- within 30 days before the exam date: 05% fee deduction
- within 15 days before the exam date: 10% fee deduction

OSCE:

- within 45 days before the OSCE starting date: no fee deduction
- within 30 days before the OSCE starting date: 10% fee deduction
- within 10 days before the OSCE starting date: 15% fee deduction

Instructions to the Candidates

Please read these instructions carefully.

Any candidate who breaches any of the exam regulations will be liable to disciplinary action including (but not limited to) suspension or expulsion from the exam. A candidate may also be barred from taking the future exam in case he/she has been given a warning in the past or depending on the nature of the complaint.

Punctuality

Subject to the discretion of the invigilator, no candidate will be admitted to the multiple-choice paper more than 30 minutes after the start of the examination. Extra time cannot be allocated for late arrival.

You must present yourself for the OSCE at least 45 minutes before the scheduled time of your examination. This is in order for you to receive a detailed pre-exam briefing. Subject to the discretion of the marshalling examiner or invigilator, candidates arriving after the start of the pre-exam briefing may be excluded from the examination and be deemed to have failed to attend and will forfeit full paid fee.

Security

No books, any other written material, mobile phones or electronic equipment / gadgets may be brought into the examination hall with the possible intention of referring to them during the examination, and no material may be removed from, or copied with the intention of removing from, the examination hall. Anyone detected in attempting to do so will be deemed to have failed the examination concerned.

Mobile phones / electronic gadgets are strictly not allowed inside the exam hall for both AKT and OSCE. Any candidate found carrying a mobile phone (even switched off) or any electronic gadget may be disqualified and will forfeit full paid fee.

Candidate identity

You must bring to the examination centre some means of identification which includes a photo identification document, such as passport, driving licence, national identity card, hospital ID card, etc.

Candidates wearing Veil will be asked for face identification. This will be done by a female staff member for the OSCE. For the AKT exam, the Board shall advise British Council to make arrangements accordingly but does not guarantee for this arrangement at all centres.

Unprofessional conduct

The MRCGP [INT.] South Asia has a zero-tolerance policy against the following unprofessional acts:

- Breach of the rules and regulations
- Failing to comply with the instructions.
- Misbehaving / harassing any member of the invigilation team.
- Carrying a mobile phone (even switched off) or any electronic gadget during the examination (mobiles must be switched off and handed over to admin staff at the time of registration on the exam day.
- Shifting of papers from the exam hall / from one station to the other during the OSCE
- Taking notes during the exam and at rest stations during the OSCE
- Communicating / signaling to any candidate during the exam.

Any candidate found doing any of the above will straight away be disqualified and will forfeit full paid fee.

DRESS CODE:

The required dress standard for candidates is professional attire maintaining a suitable standard of appearance. Wearing a white lab coat is not mandatory. Jeans, sandals, tracksuit, and scrubs are not allowed.

As mentioned above, candidates wearing veil will be asked for face identification. This will be done by a female staff member during the OSCE. For the AKT exam, the Board shall advise British Council to make arrangements accordingly but cannot guarantee for this arrangement at all centres.

RESULTS

Results in each module

Your result in each of the two parts will be reported to you as Fail or Pass. A list of candidates who successfully complete each part of the examination is published on the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia website indicated above and communicated to the representatives of the Local Accrediting Organisations as soon as they are released. The South Asia office will also send a courtesy email to each candidate informing them of their result.

To ensure accuracy and confidentiality and to prevent excessive demand on the MRCGP [INT] South Asia staff, results will not be communicated or discussed by telephone. Any enquiries relating to your results or performance in the examination must be made in writing through your registered email address to the South Asia office or to a representative of the Local Accrediting Organisation. (Please refer to the section below on Quality Control.)

The overall result

To pass the International Membership examination overall you must achieve a Pass in both parts within 6 years from the date of passing part I exam. If you do not do so you will have failed the examination as a whole and will be asked to re-sit Part 1.

You are allowed **three attempts** at Part 2 of the examination. If you do not pass Part 2 of the examination after three attempts, you will have failed the examination as a whole and will need to re-take Part 1 of the examination again.

If, having failed, you wished to make further full application for the examination, **you would not be able to carry forward any credits obtained; both parts would have to be taken again.**

Publication of results

Lists of names of successful OSCE candidates who become eligible to proceed to International Membership of the College will be published on the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia website within two weeks after the announcement of the result.

Collect and Use of Data

The MRCGP [INT.] South Asia Board reserves the right to anonymously use candidates gathered information/data / feedback data for the purpose of research and education.

If you wish to make a complaint

This section of the Rules and Regulations sets out what you must do if you wish to complain about any aspect of the conduct of the examination, or if you consider that there are exceptional circumstances not covered by the foregoing which you wish to bring to the attention of the MRCGP [INT] South Asia Board.

Please note that exam results are final and requests to review results or change the score will not be accepted by the South Asia Board.

1. If you wish to lodge any kind of complaint, or ask for any issue to be investigated, or request consideration of any exceptional circumstances, you must notify the Convenor of the Panel of Examiners (“the Convenor”) **in writing within 14 days** of receiving written notification of the examination results. Submissions received more than 14 days after the notification of results will be considered only if, in the opinion of the Convenor, there are warrantable reasons why they were not made within this time.
2. The written submission must state the particular matter about which the complaint or appeal is made and must set out, in full, the grounds relied upon.
3. Any submission must be made by the candidate himself or herself. Correspondence with any third party, such as a candidate’s Trainer or Course Organiser, will only be entered into upon receipt of the candidate’s signed authorisation.
4. Your submission will be dealt with in the first instance by the Convenor, who will take all appropriate steps to ascertain the relevant facts, including consulting where necessary with examiners or the admin office staff. The Convenor will respond in writing as soon as practicable.
5. By way of example only, and not intended as an exhaustive list, the following remedies are at the Convenor’s disposal and discretion following the upholding of a complaint or the acceptance of a submission:
 - an explanation or apology.
 - an undertaking to review relevant administrative procedures.
 - checking of data entry into the examination’s computing systems.
 - a refund of the examination fee paid for the part in question.
 - waiving of the examination fee in respect of re-sitting the part in question.
 - extension either of the time allowed for completion of the examination or of the number of attempts allowed at the module in question.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that in signing your application to sit the International Membership examination you agree to be bound by the terms of the Examination Regulations, including those set out in this section.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The bibliography of general practice/family practice is so extensive that it is not possible to give a complete recommended reading list. You should ensure that your knowledge of contemporary general practice/family practice is kept up to date by reading relevant books and textbooks, together with current mainstream medical journals. However, as an indication, candidates should certainly refer to:

- Oxford Handbook of General Practice
- British National Formulary
- NICE Guidelines, especially for the more common conditions eg hypertension
- WHO guidelines and protocols for local conditions eg TB; malaria; vaccination schedules

Please note that past exam papers are not shared / published on the website. Sample MCQs and few OSCE consultation videos have been published on the website to provide an idea to the candidates. Besides these a list of useful web links has been published on the website.

In order to safeguard the probity of both parties, examiners are advised not to offer personal advice or coaching to individual candidates unless there is an ongoing educational relationship between them. Examiners may, and frequently do, contribute to preparation courses where their involvement with individual candidates is brief, and are expressly forbidden from any involvement in preparation courses for the two months preceding the exam.

Many candidates in the past who have taken MRCGP [INT.] South Asia examination have reported that the most effective form of preparation was through local self-help groups, journal clubs, practicing mock exam and getting themselves assessed by their group mates and colleagues. Feedback of the passing candidates has also been reported to be helpful by the candidates (however contact details of the graduates are not shared by the MRCGP [INT.] South Asia office).

Marking schemes remain confidential within the Board's Panel of Examiners and are *not* made available.

Multiple choice paper

The multiple choice paper is the paper which is designed to test both your core and emerging knowledge about general practice/family practice, more importantly, the deeper understanding and application of that knowledge. Each question in the paper is intended to explore a topic of which an ordinary general practitioner/family physician or trainee could be expected to have a working knowledge.

The paper will last 3½ hours and is offered twice a year. It will consist of 200 question items in the single best answer (SBA) format.

This part of the examination takes place in the individual countries of South Asia, KSA, Myanmar and is currently the computer-based examination is administered by Pearson VUE and the paper-based examination by British Council. The results are compiled by the south Asia admin office in Karachi.

Questions are derived from accredited and referenced sources, including review articles and original papers in journals readily available to all general practitioners/family physicians: primarily from the Oxford Textbook of General Practice, *Clinical Evidence*, *British Medical Journal*, *British Journal of General Practice* or *WHO and NICE Guidelines*, the *British National Formulary (BNF)* and *South Asian journals of relevance*.

Some of these questions relate to current best practice. They should be answered in relation to published evidence and not according to an individual's local arrangements. Questions relating to infectious disease are based on WHO Guidelines. For questions relating to chronic disease, NICE guidelines are now used as the source of reference because of difficulties reported by candidates in accessing WHO sources.

Calculators are NOT necessary for statistical questions and so are NOT allowed in the examination.

Pictorial data, such as charts, photographs, X-rays and ECGs, may be included in the questions.

Format

The paper uses the single best answer format.

- **Single Best Answer (SBA)** questions in which a statement or stem is followed by a variable number of items, only **one** of which is correct.

For example:

A two-year-old child attends with a runny nose fever and barking cough for three days.

Which SINGLE BEST treatment option known to shorten the course of the condition?

Select ONE option only. Only 5 options

- A Place the child in a steam-filled bathroom.
- B Administer inhaled budesonide.
- C Prescribe amoxicillin 125 mg t.d.s. for five days.
- D Administer inhaled salbutamol.
- E Administer inhaled ribavirin.

Extended Matching Questions are no longer used in the South Asia examination.

Scoring

Irrespective of the question format, candidates are awarded one mark for each item answered correctly. Marks are *not* deducted for incorrect answers nor for failure to answer; the total score on the paper is the number of correct answers given. You are therefore advised to attempt all items.

Computer based sample exam is available on the website with tutorial to help candidates to get familiarize with the format.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The OSCE examination consists of 14 interactive (not data based) stations to be sat only on successful completion of Part 1 (MCQ paper). There will also be a small number of rest stations during the circuit.

Aspects of all skills including clinical communication, practical skills, clinical reasoning, critical thinking and best evidence-based practice are included in all the OSCE stations. The candidate will be allocated ten minutes for each station. There is a break of 1 ½ minutes between stations and there are also a small number of rest stations, to ensure that candidates, examiners and simulated patients all have opportunity for regular breaks. There are now three OSCE exams per year, normally in March, July and September / October. Please see the exam calendar available on the website mentioned above.

Four main areas or domains of competence will be tested during these fourteen 10-minute OSCE stations. Those domains are:

- A. **Communication Skills:** – consultation skills, doctor – patient interaction, patient centered approach, maintenance of confidentiality.
- B. **Data gathering Skills:** – interviewing, taking history awareness of the patient's agenda,
- C. **Examination / Counselling Skills:** physical examination, proper counselling, breaking bad news.
- D. **Management and Investigation Skills** – explanation of symptoms and diagnosis, negotiation of treatment plan, safety netting, appropriate investigation, use of appropriate resources, treatment, urgent referral, follow-up requirements, health promotion and preventive care.

In each of the four domains broad criteria apply, and the candidate will be marked according to how well or badly they meet the criteria established.

Specific individual generic feedback (not station-wise) based on areas that need strengthening will be made available to all candidates who fail the OSCE exam within 4 to 6 weeks after the announcement of result.