

Introduction

CHAPTER 1

Revision Guide Part 1 MRCOG

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Excerpt
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CHAPTER 1

1 | Introduction

Revision Guide Part 1 MRCOG

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Attainment of the Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG) is an essential component of specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the UK.

From September 2016, the MRCOG examination will be split into three parts. The Part 1 MRCOG examination must be passed before entry into the third year of specialist training (ST3).

The current Part 1 MRCOG syllabus is mapped across 14 domains, of which 12 are science domains, and 2 are clinical domains (see Figure 1.1).

Each domain contains components of the syllabus from one or more of the 19 core modules of the curriculum. The mapping of the syllabus across the

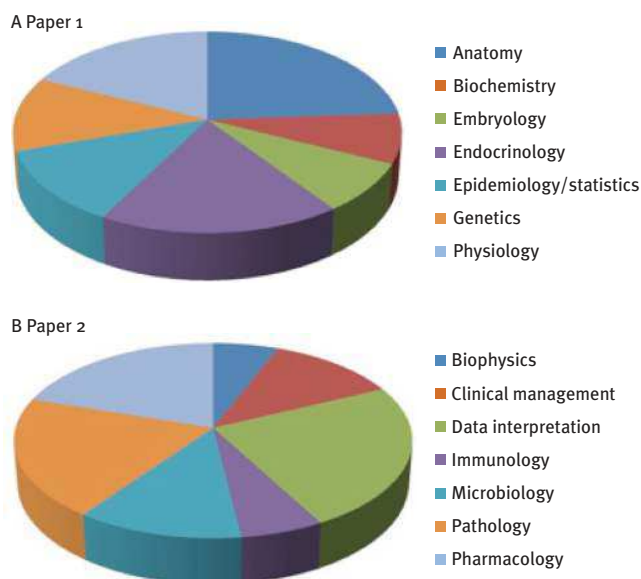
curriculum modules and domains can be seen in the Part 1 Blueprinting grid which can be viewed online at <https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/careers-and-training/mrcog-exam/part-1/ex-part-1-blueprinting-grid-new.pdf>.

Please note that core modules 2, 4 and 19 do not contribute to the Part 1 syllabus and are not examined in the Part 1 examination.

Essentially, the Part 1 MRCOG examination tests knowledge of all aspects of basic science related to clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The clinical domains also test clinical knowledge at the level that would be expected from a competent trainee at ST2 level.

TABLE 1.1 The modules of the RCOG curriculum for specialist training

FIGURE 1.1 The 14 domains of the Part 1 syllabus



1. Clinical skills
2. Teaching, appraisal and assessment
3. Information technology (IT), clinical governance and research
4. Ethics and legal issues
5. Core surgical skills
6. Postoperative care
7. Surgical procedures
8. Antenatal care
9. Maternal medicine
10. Management of labour
11. Management of delivery
12. Postpartum problems
13. Gynaecological problems
14. Subfertility
15. Sexual and reproductive health
16. Early pregnancy care
17. Gynaecological oncology
18. Urogynaecology and pelvic floor problems
19. Developing professionalism

The Part 1 MRCOG examination aims to ask both basic and applied science questions and to keep the questions relevant to the trainee obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Currently, the Part 1 MRCOG examination consists of two papers (see Figure 1.1), each containing 100 Single Best Answer (SBA) questions. 150 minutes are allowed for each paper and there is a break between the two papers on the examination day of approximately one hour.

SBA questions consist of the following components:

- 1 An introductory stem – clinical or scientific (this component is not necessarily present)
- 2 A question, sometimes called a ‘lead-in’ – this should ask a specific question
- 3 Five options, one of which is the best, or only answer.

The ‘single only answer’ type of question tends to predominate in science topics whereas the ‘single best answer’ is more frequent in clinical questions as management is rarely absolutely clear cut.

Correctly constructed SBA questions must pass the ‘cover test’. This means that it should be possible to cover up the answer options and still be able to answer the question from the material presented. Application of the cover test is an important part of examination technique since a well-constructed question will have ‘distractors’ in the answer options. Our advice would be to cover the options and try to answer the question; if your proposed answer is in the list of options, then go with that answer since it is more than likely correct.

Ensure that you plan your revision programme properly. It takes at least six months to prepare for the Part 1 examination. Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a vast subject – many would say it’s the biggest specialty of all since it requires knowledge of almost all of medicine and surgery in relation to women and pregnancy.

‘Practice makes perfect’ – it is important to practise the question style to be completely familiar with the format. There are a number of educational resources, both in hard copy and online, that allow extensive practice. However, do not try to memorise questions. A significant proportion of each exam will be new questions and it is also very easy to alter the answer to an SBA question with a very small change in the stem or lead-in. Instead, focus your efforts on understanding, since this is the purpose of the examination – testing your understanding and application of the syllabus.

This book contains the vast majority of the factual knowledge required for the examination, but it is not possible to cover everything and medical knowledge is expanding rapidly, especially in fields such as Genetics and Immunology.

Many of the authors of chapters in this revision guide have taught on the RCOG Part 1 revision course. They are experts in their field and have a clear understanding of the knowledge required for the Part 1 MRCOG examination. We hope you find this guide useful in your exam preparation.