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MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Regulations and Information for Candidates

2009 Edition



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ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

MRCP(UK) Central Office
Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom
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Certificate Examination in Neurology

Regulations and Information for Candidates

MRCP(UK) Central Office
for the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom
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Published 2009

Notice of future amendments to the Regulations

These Regulations apply from 1 January 2009 and provide a regulatory framework for the Specialty Certificate Examination (formerly known as the Specialty Knowledge Based Assessment or KBA) in Neurology.

The Specialty Certificate Examinations will continue to change to reflect developments in medicine. While every attempt has been made to ensure that these Regulations are accurate, further changes to the Specialty Certificate Examinations and the Regulations may be implemented during this time. Candidates should refer to the Specialty Certificate Examinations section on the MRCP(UK) Examination website (<http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE>) for the most up-to-date information, and where any such changes will be detailed.

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<http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE>
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1. The Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

The three Royal Colleges of Physicians that constitute the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians in the United Kingdom are:

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

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Edinburgh EH2 1JQ
Tel: +44 (0)131 225 7324
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232-242 St Vincent Street
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<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk>

Responsibility for the organisation of the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology has been devolved by the Federation to the MRCP(UK) Central Office:

MRCP(UK) Central Office

Specialty Certificate Examination Office

11 St Andrews Place
Regent's Park
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<http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE>

The Regulations in this document apply to all candidates entering the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology and custodianship is delegated to the MRCP(UK) Central Office.

2. The Training of a Physician in the UK

The prerequisite to a career as a Medical Consultant Physician, working in a hospital, community or research setting, is the obtaining of the appropriate level of knowledge, clinical skills and competence to be awarded a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT). The CCT award allows entry in the *Specialist Register* held by the General Medical Council, entitling the holder to be a Consultant in the National Health Service (NHS).

Having already gained their MRCP(UK) qualification, trainees are further assessed as part of their career progression in their chosen specialty (e.g. gastroenterology, dermatology, etc.) in two ways:

- workplace-based assessments
- Specialty Certificate Examination

A Specialty Certificate Examination is now a compulsory component of assessment for CCT for all UK trainees whose specialty training began in or after August 2007. UK trainees who have completed MRCP(UK) would normally take the Specialty Certificate Examination during higher specialty training and have passed by the penultimate year assessment.

Trainees will, as a minimum, be required to pass the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology before the award of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) can be made.

Other current trainees, for whom the Specialty Certificate Examination is not yet compulsory, are welcome to apply. Overseas candidates are eligible to take the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology if they have obtained the MRCP(UK).

Core Training: ST1, ST2 <i>Core Medical Training or Acute Care Common Stem (Medicine)</i>		Specialty Specific Training: ST3 onwards			
GIM (level 1) curriculum		Neurology curriculum			
Generic curriculum					
KBA		MRCP pt 1	MRCP pt 2	Specialty Exam	
WPBA	Throughout training according to Assessment Blueprint & ARCP Decision Aid				
ARCP	8	16	23	at end ST3	st4 etc

ST1, ST2, ST3, ST4 = Specialty Training year 1, 2 etc.
GIM = General Internal Medicine
CCT = Certificate of Completion of Training
KBA = Knowledge Based Assessment
MRCP pt 1, MRCP pt 2 = Member of the Royal College of Physicians
examination part 1, part 2
WPBA = Workplace Based Assessment
ARCP = Annual Review of Competence Progression

2.1 The Specialty Certificate Examination

The Specialty Certificate Examination is a summative test designed to assess the specialty registrar's scientific and clinical knowledge of the subject in which they have decided to specialise. The Specialty Certificate Examination is a computer-based test (CBT) in a multiple choice ('best of five') format.

The Specialty Certificate Examination questions (or 'specialty' examination questions, as they are also known) adopt the same format as MRCP(UK) examination questions, requiring choice-based ('best of five') answers to clinically orientated questions on the relevant specialty.

The purpose of these assessments is thus:

- to ensure that certified specialists have sufficient knowledge to practise medicine competently and safely as Consultants,
- to complement workplace-based assessments,
- to provide a rigorous national assessment to establish public confidence, and
- to offer a challenge similar to subspecialty certification examination in North America.

2.2 Curriculum

The Colleges' training curricula for Physicians have been granted approval by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB). The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology has been developed to provide valid, reliable evidence of attainment in knowledge and is a mandatory component of assessment.

Further information is published on the following website:
<http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/Specialty/Pages/Neurology.aspx>

3. Academic Framework: The Aims and Objectives of the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology plays an essential role in the overall educational experience and continuing professional development of Neurology in the United Kingdom. It is a prerequisite for attainment of the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT).

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology also plays an important role in the international arena of postgraduate medical education. It provides a professional standard against which Physicians working outside the United Kingdom can measure their level of knowledge attainment.

3.1 Aim

The aim of the Specialty Certificate Examination is to identify those practising Neurology who, having undertaken a period of specialty training, have acquired the necessary professional knowledge and problem-solving skills essential for independent specialty practice.

3.2 Objectives

The Specialty Certificate Examinations evaluate the professional competence of medical graduates during specialty training with regard to:

- core clinical knowledge, including clinical science, epidemiology and statistics
- problem-solving ability

The standard of the Specialty Certificate Examinations takes account of the development in the knowledge, skills and attitudes that can be expected during medical training, which is in keeping with the principle of lifelong learning.

3.3 Assessment methodology

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology includes questions that require an understanding not only of the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic conditions managed by a specialist in the discipline, but also of the social, psychological and cultural backgrounds of diseases and evidence-based practice.

4. Constitutional Framework: Powers and Responsibilities of the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK and the Association of British Neurologists

The Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK (Federation) and the Association of British Neurologists have the power to:

- determine the terms and conditions of entry to the Specialty Certificate Examination. The Federation and the Association of British Neurologists reserve the right to refuse admission to the Specialty Certificate Examination;
- recognise appropriate periods of training, in fulfilment of the entry requirements of the Specialty Certificate Examination and determine when this training has been completed successfully by candidates;
- confer the Specialty Certificate in Neurology on persons who have passed the assessment.

To maintain the academic quality of the Specialty Certificate Examination, the Federation and the Association of British Neurologists have the responsibility of:

- appointing examiners with appropriate qualifications and experience;
- producing a syllabus for the Specialty Certificate Examination;
- monitoring candidate performance;
- arranging suitable assessment facilities.

In the exercise of these powers and responsibilities, the Federation and the Association of British Neurologists will comply, and ensure compliance, with the requirements of relevant UK legislation, such as the:

- Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act 2001;
- Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006;
- Data Protection Acts 1984 and 1998.

The Federation Management Board believes that equality of opportunity is fundamental to the many and varied ways in which individuals become involved with the Colleges, either as members of staff and Officers, as advisers from the medical profession, as members of the Colleges' professional bodies, or as doctors in training and examination candidates.

Accordingly, it warmly welcomes contributors and applicants from as diverse a population as possible, and actively seeks to recruit people to all its activities regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

5. The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology

5.1 Test Format

The Specialty Certificate Examination is designed to assess a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the clinical sciences relevant to specialty medical practice and of common or important disorders, to a level appropriate for a newly appointed Consultant.

The Specialty Certificate Examination is a two-Paper test, each paper lasting 3 hours, and is delivered in computer-based format (referred to as CBT). Each paper is based on the MRCP(UK) written paper format and contains 100 multiple choice questions in 'one from five' (best of five) format, where candidates choose the best answer from five options. Candidates are tested on a wide range of common and important disorders in Neurology as set out in the published Curriculum: see <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/Specialty/Pages/Neurology.aspx>

Questions for the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology will be set from the areas outlined in the Neurology Assessment Blueprint (see [http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/Specialty/Documents/Neurology Assessment Blueprint.pdf](http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/Specialty/Documents/Neurology%20Assessment%20Blueprint.pdf)).

Drugs are almost invariably referred to by their recommended International Non-Proprietary names (rINN) rather than by their trade names.

Biochemical and other measurements are expressed in SI units and normal or reference ranges are provided.

5.2 Marking System

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology is criterion referenced. Prior to the test, the difficulty of each question is considered by a Standard Setting Group, comprising practising Consultant Physicians who have participated in setting the Specialty Certificate Examination and those who have medical education experience relevant to this process. The standard setters assess the difficulty of the questions against the level of knowledge expected of candidates using a procedure known as the modified Angoff method.

All judgements by all standard setters on all questions are then collated and a criterion-referenced pass mark is derived. As a result of the standard setting process, the pass mark and pass rate may vary at each Specialty Certificate Examination. In order for wild fluctuations in the pass rate to be avoided, there are limits outside which it has been decided the pass rate may not fall.

The marking system for the Specialty Certificate Examinations is as follows:

- one mark (+1) is awarded for each correct answer
- no mark is deducted for an incorrect answer
- no mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered

Like the MRCP(UK) written paper examinations, the Specialty Certificate Examination may include a small number of pre-test questions (trial questions that are used for research purposes only). Responses to these questions do not count towards a candidate's final score but are used to track and compare standard questions between papers. The use of pre-test questions is in line with the assessment criteria promulgated by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB). More information on PMETB is available at <http://www.pmetb.org.uk/pmetb>

5.3 Entry requirements

5.3.1 Every candidate for the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology must hold the full MRCP(UK) Diploma and/or occupy a UK higher specialty training post.

5.3.2 Names

If the name candidates are applying under is different from the name that appears on the original diploma of their primary medical qualification or the GMC register, they will need to submit a certificate from the issuing university or an affidavit stating that the candidate (in his or her full name) is the same person named on the diploma. This requirement also applies to initials and abbreviations.

Entries will not be accepted if there is any discrepancy in the spelling, order or number of names given and candidates must retain the same surname/family name in any further applications.

It is the candidate's responsibility to resolve any discrepancies, including the expansion of initials, by obtaining a statement from the issuing authority certifying that the candidate, in his or her full and correct name, is the same person as that named on the diploma.

Candidates who change their names by marriage or deed poll must submit the original documentary proof of this if they wish to be admitted to the Specialty Certificate Examination in their new names.

Names are phonetically translated into English from some languages and this can lead to spelling variations. Thus 'Mohammed' may appear as 'Mohamed', 'Mahammed', 'Mahamed', 'Muhammed' and so

on. Some candidates are inconsistent in the spelling of such translations and must realise that this does not allow accurate identification and is not acceptable to the Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the UK.

The records of the Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the UK and the Specialty Certificate in Neurology will show forenames followed by the family name, for example, Alan John Smith. Correspondence will be addressed using the candidate's medical title followed by initials in place of each forename, then the family name as it appears on the candidate's diploma of medical qualification, for example, Dr A J Smith.

5.4 Centres

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology is held in various centres. For the full list of centres, go to <http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE/Pages/ExamCentres.aspx>

Candidates may apply to sit the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology at any one of the centres available. Candidates should apply online at <http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE/Pages/Application.aspx>

Applicants are advised to submit their application in good time.

5.5 Fees

Details of fees, which are subject to annual revision, method of payment and dates when a Specialty Certificate Examination can be applied for are published annually and can be checked on the MRCP(UK) Specialty Certificate Examination website (<http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE>).

The submission of the application is in effect an application to register for the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology, for which the full Specialty Certificate Examination fee will be incurred, irrespective of whether or not the application is complete.

Candidates transferring fees from outside the UK should remember that banks deduct their charges from the sum being transferred. The Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the UK must receive the full Specialty Certificate Examination fee in pounds Sterling, so candidates must themselves pay the bank charges.

5.6 Visas

If a candidate requires a visa to sit an examination, it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the visa application is made in sufficient time prior to the examination date for which it has been sought. A refund will not be given if a candidate is unable to attend the Specialty Certificate Examination as a result of visa-related problems. For more information on accessing the visa application statement, please visit the following section of the MRCP(UK) Examination website:

<http://www.mrcpuk.org/Candidate/Pages/VisaStatement.aspx>

5.7 Submission of documentary evidence

The MRCP(UK) Central Office reserves the right to request original documents as proof of eligibility for the Specialty Certificate Examination. All evidence must be provided in the form of original documentations only. Photocopies, faxes or scanned copies will not be accepted. All original documents will be returned to candidates.

5.8 Re-entry candidates

Candidates who wish to re-sit the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology should re-apply online at <http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE>.

5.9 Request for Special Arrangements

Candidates who need to request special assessment arrangements are advised to inform the MRCP(UK) Central Office at the time of application by completing the Special Arrangements section online when requested. Documentary evidence may be required to support such an application.

5.10 Withdrawal from the Specialty Certificate Examination and refund of fees

Notice of withdrawal from any part of the Specialty Certificate Examination must be given in writing to the MRCP(UK) Central Office. Candidates are asked to quote their RCP Code Number, full name and date of birth in their withdrawal notice to allow College staff to identify candidates easily. Only written requests to withdraw will be accepted as official withdrawal requests. For example, candidates who are informed that they have submitted incomplete applications and are asked to complete them will not be considered as withdrawn from the Specialty Certificate Examination if they do not respond to such requests for information, and will incur the full Specialty Certificate Examination fee.

Specialty Certificate Examination applications and/or fees cannot be transferred from one examination to another.

Candidates who submit their withdrawal request on or before the UK closing date of that respective Specialty Certificate Examination will be refunded 90% of the Specialty Certificate Examination fee paid. Where possible this refund will be paid in the same way as the original payment was made. Refunds will not be made where candidates submit their withdrawal request after the closing date.

5.11 Transferring between UK centres

Candidates attending a Specialty Certificate Examination in the UK may transfer between centres in the UK up to five UK working days before the Specialty Certificate Examination date (via <http://www.pearsonvue.com>).

5.12 Acceptance of late entries

Late entries cannot be accepted. Registration closing dates can be found at <http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE/Pages/ExamDates.aspx>.

5.13 After the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology

5.13.1 Review of the Specialty Certificate Examination

Results are released when the Chairman of the Specialty Certificate Examination Examining Board is satisfied that the Specialty Certificate Examination has been conducted appropriately and in accordance with the procedures of the Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the UK and the Association of British Neurologists.

The Specialty Certificate Examination Examining Board considers each question prior to its appearance in the Papers and reviews the question's performance after every Specialty Certificate Examination, as well as reviewing the Specialty Certificate Examination as a whole. In addition to the final scores obtained by the candidates, the Specialty Certificate Examination Examining Board will also note the mean score for the Specialty Certificate Examination and the mean scores for, and the discriminatory power of, the questions that comprise each Paper. A detailed analysis of the responses to each item (including a separate index of discrimination for every item), and a coefficient indicating the internal reliability of the Specialty Certificate Examination as a whole, are also considered by the Board. In the light of these analyses, the Specialty Certificate Examination Examining Board makes modifications to the questions and answers that it deems desirable to ensure that the quality of the Specialty Certificate Examination is maintained.

5.13.2 Results

Individual candidate's results will be posted by email to the candidate within four weeks of the date of the Specialty Certificate Examination. Results cannot be collected from the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK or given over the telephone or by fax. Announcement of the date on which results will be despatched will be posted two weeks after the date of the Specialty Certificate Examination via <http://www.mrcpuk.org/SCE>.

Candidates' My MRCP(UK) online account via <http://www.mrcpuk.org> gives access to a personal secure area where current and previous examination results can be viewed.

5.13.3 Pass Result

The qualification for candidates who pass the Certificate Examination in Neurology will be a 'Specialty Certificate in Neurology'. All those with a 'Specialty Certificate in Neurology' who are recommended to PMETB by the JRCPTB for a CCT will be entitled to apply for the postnominal 'MRCP(UK) Neurology'.

5.13.4 Fail result

A candidate not achieving the pass mark in the Specialty Certificate Examination will be deemed to have failed the Specialty Certificate Examination.

5.13.5 Queries on Results

Candidates may request that their papers be remarked. There is a charge of £100.00 for this service. This charge will be refunded if an error is identified.

Requests for the remarking of the Specialty Certificate Examination should be addressed in writing to the Head of Academic Division, Examinations (Specialty Certificate Examination)*, MRCP(UK) Central Office and must be received **within six weeks** of the despatch of results.

*Head of Academic Division, Examinations (Specialty Certificate Examination)

MRCP(UK) Central Office

11 St Andrews Place

London NW1 4LE

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specialtycert.queries@mrcpuk.org

6. Attendance at, and Conduct During, the Specialty Certificate Examinations

Candidates presenting themselves for the Specialty Certificate Examination must have complied fully with all admission requirements, including the payment of fees.

Candidates are warned that any breach of Specialty Certificate Examination Rules and Regulations will result in severe penalties, including the risk that the relevant Examining Board may permanently debar the candidate from taking any further Specialty Certificate Examinations.

Candidates should note that the Specialty Certificate Examination start times might vary. Consequently, candidates are advised not to make travel plans that could be jeopardised if the Specialty Certificate Examination starts late or is interrupted.

6.1 Monitoring candidate behaviour

Candidates are advised that the MRCP(UK) Management Board have employed various systems to identify those candidates who attempt to copy, collude or perform some other act that may be regarded as academic misconduct in the Specialty Certificate Examinations.

The Anomaly Monitoring System (AMS) system seeks to detect instances of copying or collusion by looking for anomalous patterns of responses by candidates, the answers of one candidate being more similar to those of another candidate than would be expected by chance alone. It does this by looking at the similarity in the pattern of answers given by any two candidates. There are many different combinations of answers by which candidates can achieve a particular score. If two candidates have an unusually high number of exactly the same answers then this may be regarded as an anomaly. AMS systematically considers all possible pairs of candidates and looks at the similarity of their answers.

In comparing candidate responses, the programme takes into account the expected number of answers in common, relative to the examinees' performance on the assessment.

Candidates should note that in doing this:

- (1) The programme does not know the centre at which candidates are sitting the exam.
- (2) The programme does not know the seating plan of the candidates at the various centres.

The programme is therefore inherently conservative in its detection of anomalous candidates. If a pair (or group) of candidates is identified as having an unusually high proportion of similar answers

then a further independent investigation is carried out looking at the centres where the candidates sat, the seating plan and any other information that may be provided by the invigilators and staff administering the exam. Should it be agreed that the matter requires investigation the candidates concerned will be contacted and asked to attend an interview. It is possible that the formal Academic and Professional Misconduct procedures may be invoked.

6.2 Specialty Certificate Examination Rules and Regulations

Any infringement of the Rules and Regulations may be reported to the Head of Academic Division, Examinations (Specialty Certificate Examination), MRCP Central Office*, for consideration in accordance with the Procedures on Academic or Professional Misconduct.

*Head of Academic Division, Examinations (Specialty Certificate Examination)

MRCP(UK) Central Office

11 St Andrews Place

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specialtycert.queries@mrcpuk.org

6.2.1 Candidates are advised to allow for any transport delays when planning their time of arrival at the examination venue as, for security reasons, candidates will not be permitted to enter the test room after the start of the Specialty Certificate Examination.

6.2.2 Candidates should arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the Specialty Certificate Examination and should not enter the test room until instructed by the invigilator(s).

6.2.3 Candidates will not be admitted unless they produce suitable identification in addition to the Admission Document. Candidates must present two forms of identification – one from the primary list and one from the secondary list:

Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A currently valid signed Passport of any country containing the candidate's photograph and signature* (see note). ◆ A currently valid signed UK Photocard Driving Licence (full or provisional).
Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Any ID containing the candidate's full name and signature e.g. credit or debit card.

*A Passport can be accepted as a primary form of ID for a candidate even if it does not have a signature, as long as it is determined to be valid and there is no designated place for a signature (e.g. biometric passport).

Admission to the Specialty Certificate Examination will be at the discretion of the invigilator(s). The Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK and Pearson VUE observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates, but advance notice should be given by candidates of any anticipated difficulties.

6.2.5 Candidates must not bring into the test room any papers, bags, calculators, mobile phones, pagers, PDAs (or any electronic audio or communication device), textbooks or documents, or items of any kind other than those specifically allowed for that particular Specialty Certificate Examination and previously notified to them. The possession of calculators, mobile phones, pagers, personal stereos or electronic wrist watches or any other such devices that are audible, make calculations, store information or can be used for communication in the Specialty Certificate Examination venue is strictly forbidden. Any unauthorised material will be confiscated and a report detailing the incident and identifying the candidate will be submitted to the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK.

6.2.6 Test centres will make a wipe-clean board and pen available for each candidate.

6.2.7 With prior approval, candidates may bring into the test room aids that will enable them to remedy a disability, e.g. of sight and/or hearing.

6.2.8 If a candidate has unwittingly brought any unauthorised paper or item into the test room, this should be handed to the invigilator(s) before the Specialty Certificate Examination starts or at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.

6.2.9 Candidates must comply with all instructions given to them by invigilator(s). Such instructions may include the instruction to leave the test room. It is the duty of a candidate to comply with an invigilator's instruction even if they judge the instruction to be unreasonable (there is the right of appeal if a candidate considers that the invigilator has not acted in accordance with these Regulations).

6.2.10 Whilst in the test room, a candidate must not attempt to read the work of any other candidate or communicate in any way with any other candidate or any other person without the express permission of the invigilator.

6.2.11 Where an invigilator suspects a candidate or candidates of infringing Specialty Certificate Examination Regulations/test room rules he/she shall:

1. Confiscate any unauthorised material in the possession of the candidate;

2. Record details of the alleged infringement;
3. Allow the candidates in question to continue the Specialty Certificate Examination;
4. Inform the candidate(s) in question at the end of the Specialty Certificate Examination that a written report of the incident will be submitted to the Head of Academic Division, Examinations (Specialty Certificate Examination);
5. Prepare within three working days a written report on the alleged incident and send it with any confiscated materials to the Head of Academic Division, Examinations (Specialty Certificate Examination).

6.2.12 Any invigilator present is empowered to refuse to allow a candidate to continue with the Specialty Certificate Examination on grounds of misconduct. Ejection from the test centre should normally take place only in the event of a candidate's conduct causing disruption to other candidates.

6.2.13 Candidates who wish to attract the attention of the invigilator(s) during the Specialty Certificate Examination should do so by raising a hand.

6.2.14 Candidates should bring to the attention of the invigilator any factor (e.g. distracting noise) that is adversely affecting them during the Specialty Certificate Examination. Where necessary they should communicate the same in writing to the Head of the Specialty Certificate Examination Office, MRCP(UK) Central Office immediately following the Specialty Certificate Examination concerned.

6.2.15 Once admitted to each part of the Specialty Certificate Examination, candidates must stay for the full duration of each paper. Candidates may not leave the test room as a result of finishing the Specialty Certificate Examination paper early. Those who attempt to do so will be deemed to have breached the Specialty Certificate Examination Regulations.

6.2.16 Candidates must not leave the test room temporarily, during the period of the Specialty Certificate Examination, unless given express permission by the invigilator(s) to do so. If such permission is given, they must not attempt to contact any other person or consult any material relating to the Specialty Certificate Examination whilst outside the test room. They should report to the invigilator(s) on returning to the test room.

6.2.17 Candidates may not temporarily leave the test room during the first half hour of any Paper or in the 10 minutes before the scheduled end of each Paper.

6.2.18 There is a one hour scheduled break between Papers 1 and 2. Candidates will be permitted to leave the test centre during this period. Candidates returning to the test centre late after this scheduled break will not be readmitted to the test room and an incident report will be submitted to the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK.

6.2.19 Candidates should not remove from the test room any materials. Questions, or any part of them, must not be copied or removed from the test room. All Specialty Certificate Examination questions are confidential and are copyrighted by the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK. A candidate may not communicate any question or part of a question to any other person or organisation. To do so would be a serious breach of copyright and of these Regulations.

6.2.20 When authorised to do so by the invigilator(s), candidates should leave the test room in an orderly manner.

6.2.21 Smoking is not permitted in any part of the test centre.

6.2.22 Candidates are asked to note that any allegation of academic or professional misconduct that is sustained against a candidate is likely to be reported to employers, sponsors and relevant professional bodies, such as the UK General Medical Council.

6.2.23 Candidates should note that if any information comes to light at a later stage that indicates that Specialty Certificate Examination Regulations have been breached, the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK reserves the right to invoke the Misconduct Procedures retrospectively.

7. Procedures

Procedures developed for the MRCP(UK) Examinations will apply to the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology (see <http://www.mrcpuk.org/Regulations>).

7.1 Appeals

Information in respect of Appeals procedures may be obtained here: <http://www.mrcpuk.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Appeals%20Regulations.pdf>

7.2 Special Arrangements

Any candidate who has a physical disability, learning disability or any other special need that they believe may affect their performance in an examination may be entitled to special arrangements. All such candidates should inform, at the time of application, the Administration Office to which they apply of their circumstances, by completing the Special Arrangements area on the application form. In all cases, a medical report or other appropriate documentary evidence will be required to support an application for special arrangements and this should be submitted either with the application or as soon as possible thereafter. Failure to include this information at the time of application may affect the arrangements that can be put in place in time for the examination.

Further information in respect of Special Arrangement procedures may be obtained here:

[http://www.mrcpuk.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/MRCP\(UK\)Disability policy.pdf](http://www.mrcpuk.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/MRCP(UK)Disability%20policy.pdf)

7.3 Complaints

Information in respect of Complaints procedures may be obtained here:

<http://www.mrcpuk.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Complaint%20Procedures.pdf>.

7.4 Academic Misconduct

Information in respect of Academic Misconduct procedures may be obtained here:

<http://www.mrcpuk.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/MisconductRegs2009.pdf>.

Candidates should also contact the Head of Academic Division to report any suspected instances of misconduct of which they are aware.

8. Language Requirements

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology is conducted in English.

Candidates are advised that in order to be sufficiently prepared to sit the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology, their English language ability should be equivalent to IELTS Level 7 in each module. However, candidates do not need to have taken IELTS, the assessment of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB), or any other language examination, to sit the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology.

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology cannot be used as demonstrating competency in the English language for which PLAB is necessary before doctors can obtain Limited Registration with the GMC. Full details are available from:

PLAB Test Section
General Medical Council
Regent's Place
350 Euston Road
London NW1 3JN

9. Preparation for the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology

The Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the UK recommend that candidates prepare for the Specialty Certificate Examination by gaining clinical experience in hospital posts involving the care of patients with clinical conditions relevant to the specialty, whether adults or children, and by studying up-to-date postgraduate clinical textbooks and current medical journals.

An awareness of the content of national guidelines used in clinical practice (e.g. NICE, see <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG>) should form part of the preparation for this examination.

There are published curricula for Neurology:
<http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/Specialty/Pages/Neurology.aspx>

The Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the UK and Specialist Societies do not provide lists of recommended training courses. Details of courses are contained in the Guide to Postgraduate Degrees, Diplomas and Courses in Medicine. This is published annually and is available from the National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education (see <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/nacpme/>).



**Compiled and published for the Federation of Royal Colleges
of Physicians of the UK by the MRCP(UK) Central Office**

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