

Clinical Examining Board Chair's letter – February 2021

MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES)

Firstly we would like to say how extremely grateful the Federation is to all those examiners who were able to participate in the 2020/3 diet of PACES.

In particular special thanks to Host examiners and their teams, for accommodating all the changes to the examination and also to those examiners who participated remotely in the communication stations.

2020/3

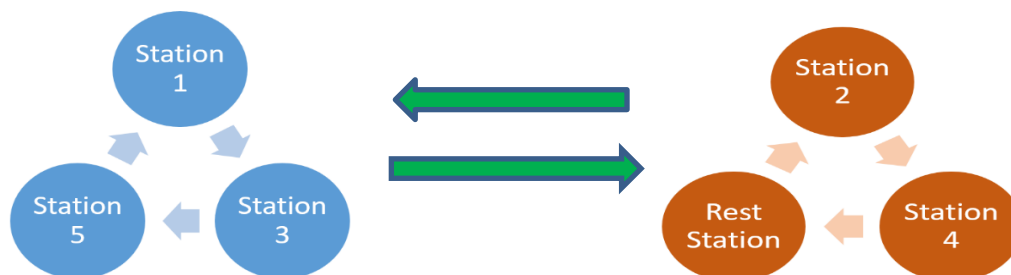
The 2020/3 diet ran in the modified format with much reduced numbers. In view of the high demand for exam places, a priority system was adopted in which the UK, trainees who already started their ST3 jobs or those who were approaching, Higher Specialty training were prioritised. So there was a higher proportion of more senior UK trainees assessed in this diet. This will have to continue to be the case into 2021 as well, and unfortunately we expect to be able to accommodate only half of the applicants from the top two [priority groups](#) in 2021/1.

Overall the examination went well in the 2020/3 diet, both in the UK and Internationally, and we were able to assess a total of 683 candidates, with an overall pass rate of 57.5%. 457 candidates sat in UK centres, with a pass rate of 63.9%. International centres accommodated 225 candidates, with a pass rate of 44.4%. The overall pass rate of 57.5% was a little higher. This was thoroughly reviewed and we are confident that it reflects rather atypical cohort of candidates in the UK.

Whilst a few technical issues were encountered with the remote communication stations in the UK, these were minor and all candidates were able to complete the examination.

2021/1

The 2021/1 diet will continue to run the [amended format](#) in the UK, with the communication mini cycle utilising remote examiners and surrogates. If you have concerns that your centre will find it difficult to accommodate this please speak to your College.



PACES 2020

Finally a quick word about PACES 2020. We should by now have now been in our second diet of the PACES 2020 format, but unfortunately the planned changes remain on hold for the time being. We will be reviewing the situation again later in 2021, and will need to ensure that PACES 2020 remains an appropriate model for the next few years.

Hot Topics – February 2021

If you are examining in the UK in 2021/1 please ensure you have viewed the COVID 19 PACES section of the [MRCPUK website](#). This webpage contains further information including video presentations, and detail on how the stations will be organised.

Candidates must examine patients in stations 1, 3 and 5, even if surrogates without physical signs are being used. Please ensure that all candidates are allowed sufficient time for donning and doffing of PPE.

Please keep in mind the possibility of COVID related symptoms and diagnosis when calibrating cases in all stations ahead of the examination.

Please ensure that you report any incident or issue to the Chair of Examiners on the day. Chairs of Examiners should include these in their reports on the examination which allow College teams and MRCPUK to monitor the examination effectively.

If you are examining in the communication stations in the UK, please ensure that marksheets are returned the college promptly. This will ensure that candidate s results are not unduly delayed.
Return of marksheets.

The take up of the MRCPUK Fair Assessment Equality and Diversity training remains disappointing. If you have not completed this within the last three years, please ensure you do so ahead of the next examination. The training is accessible via <https://mrcpuk.helmlms.com>. You will need your examiner number and your unique access code. If you have mislaid these details, your college will be able to send you them again.



Dr Stuart Hood
Chair
MRCPUK) Clinical Examining Board
stuart.hood@mrcpuk.org



Dr Tanzeem Raza
Medical Secretary
MRCPUK) Clinical Examining Board
Tanzeem.Raza@mrcpuk.org