

## Policy

**Subject:** Limitation on the Number of Examination Attempts and Length of Time Examination Passes Remain Valid

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### 1. General

The College does not restrict the number of attempts a candidate may make to pass any of its examinations.

### 2. Pathological Sciences

A pass in or exemption from the Pathological Sciences examination is valid without time limitation.

### 3. Part I and Part II Examinations

Because the form and content of examinations varies from time to time, there is some limitation in relation to the length of time between passing the various stages.

- A pass in Part I is valid for 5 years
- An exemption from Part I is valid for 5 years
- If Part II is not completed within 5 years of passing Part I or being granted exemption from Part I, it will be necessary to either again pass the Part I or obtain exemption from it.

### 4. Exemption from Component(s) - Part I Examinations

A pass in an examination component will ordinarily exempt the candidate from that examination. However, exemptions for any one component of the Part I examination are only valid for one year. In subsequent cycles, an extension to the exemption must be requested at the time of application for examination for the Chief Examiners' consideration and approval.

Special conditions apply to the following disciplines:

#### ***Chemical Pathology***

Trainees must pass both papers (or obtain a pass in one paper and a borderline in the other) to be invited to the oral examination. Candidates who fail one of these examinations but pass the other will not be required to re-sit the passed examination If it

was passed at a sufficiently high standard and if the failed examination is undertaken in the following year.

Candidates who fail the oral examination but have passed the Phase 1 examinations will not be required to re-sit the passed Phase 1 examinations if they passed at a sufficiently high standard (i.e. no borderlines awarded) and if the failed oral examination is undertaken in the following year.

#### ***Forensic Pathology:***

A pass in an examination component will ordinarily exempt the candidate from that examination. However, exemptions for any one component of the Part II / Diploma examination are only valid for one year. In subsequent examination cycles, an extension to the exemption must be requested at the time of application for examination for the Chief Examiners' consideration and approval.

#### ***Haematology***

Candidates who fail one Phase 1 examination but pass the other will not be required to re-sit the passed examination if it was passed at a sufficiently high standard (i.e., no borderlines awarded) and if the failed examination is undertaken in the following year.

Candidates who fail one of the Phase 2 examinations but pass the other will be required to re-sit both. They will not be required to re-sit Phase 1 examinations that they have passed if these exams were passed at a sufficiently high standard (i.e., no borderlines awarded) and if the Phase 2 examinations are undertaken in the following year.

#### ***Immunopathology***

Success at the Phase 1 written examination (i.e. pass or borderline) is a pre-requisite for sitting the Phase 2 practical and test interpretation examinations. Candidates who fail one of the Phase 2 examinations but pass the other will not be required to re-sit the passed Phase 1 examination and/or the passed Phase 2 examination if these exams were passed at a sufficiently high standard (i.e. no borderlines awarded) and if the failed examination is undertaken in the following year.

#### ***Medical Genomics and Biochemical Genetics***

Candidates who fail the dry practical and/or oral examination will be required to re-sit the following year. Candidates who fail one Phase 2 examination but pass the other do not have to re-sit the passed Phase 1 examination and/or the passed Phase 2 examination if these exams were passed at a sufficiently high standard (i.e., no borderlines awarded) and if the failed examination is undertaken in the following year.

#### ***Microbiology***

Candidates must pass the Part 1 Phase 2 Oral examination for an overall pass result. Candidates who pass Phase 1 (Written A, B, and Wet Practical) at a sufficiently high level (i.e., no borderline awarded) but are unsuccessful in Phase 2 will be given an exemption (valid for one year/attempt only) from the Phase 1 examination/s.

### **5. Exemption from Component(s) – Part II Examinations**

#### ***Anatomical Pathology:***

- Small Biopsy & Special Techniques (SBST) and Cytology: A pass in (or exemption from) these examinations is valid for 3 years. Thereafter, an extension to an exemption must be requested at the time of application for examination for the Chief Examiners' consideration and approval.
- Slides (Histology): A pass in (or exemption from) the Slides component is only valid / granted for the following examination cycle. In subsequent cycles, an extension to

- the exemption must be requested at the time of application for examination for the Chief Examiners' consideration and approval.
- Oral Examination: Should a candidate fail the oral component again in the following examination cycle, they will need to apply to the Chief Examiner for an extension of the current exemption for all other Part II components.

## **6. General Pathology Examinations**

- There is no limitation in relation to the length of time between passing the Morphology and Clinical examinations.
- A pass in or exemption from a Practical Assessment is valid for 5 years.
- If the relevant oral examination (Clinical or Morphology) is not completed within 5 years of passing a Practical Assessment, it will be necessary to either again pass that Assessment or obtain exemption from it.