

Examination format

The registration examination contains an open book and closed book paper. Calculators with simple calculation facilities may be used. Use of calculators on mobile phones, smart phones or other similar devices is not permitted.

The Open Book Examination

The aim of the open book examination is to test the ability of a trainee to use his/her knowledge and skills in conjunction with the main references sources that are readily accessible to be able to interpret data and answer questions that are within the broad remit of the professional responsibilities of a pharmacist. These include:

- Drug and therapeutic issues – such as doses, pharmacokinetics, clinical data
- Disease pathology and management – such as duration of treatment, side-effects, drug interactions and contra-indications
- Legislation for pharmacists
- Numerical exercises – including calculations and interpretation of numerical data

The open book examination will last for 3 hours. It contains 2 sections:

Section A (Calculation Questions) consists of 20 questions and candidates should attempt all questions. The format of the questions is the same throughout this section, each question consisting of a statement which may be True (T) or False (F). Each question carries equal marks.

Section B consists of 30 mcq questions and candidates should attempt all questions. The format of the questions is the same throughout this section, each question consisting of a statement followed by four stems which may be True (T) or False (F). Each stem carries equal marks.

The following Reference Sources are permitted for the Open Book Examination June and October.

- British National Formulary 74th edition (September 2017 edition)
- BNF for children (2017-2018 edition)
- Drug Tariff Northern Ireland
- PSNI Professional standards and guidance documents
- PSNI 'The Code'

It is the candidate's responsibility to have the relevant edition of these reference sources. They will not be provided.

Closed Book Examination

The aim of the closed book examination is to test day-to-day knowledge that a day 1 pharmacist should have without consulting additional sources of information on:

- Practice issues, including responding to symptoms
- Knowledge of disease pathology and management
- Knowledge of drugs including therapeutic issues, side-effects, drug interactions and contra-indications
- Professional and Ethical issues
- Legislation for pharmacists

The closed book examination will last for 2 hours. No reference books are allowed

The examination consists of 60 questions, and candidates should attempt all questions. The format of the questions is the same throughout, each question consisting of a statement followed by four stems which may be True (T) or False (F).

Marking System

- There is no negative marking.
- Open book paper - Section A (20 calculation questions) has a pass mark of 80%
- Open book paper - Section B (30 multiple choice questions) has a pass mark of 70%
- Closed book paper – (60 multiple choice questions) has a pass mark of 70%
- There is no compensation between the sections
- There is no compensation between the Open book examination paper and the Closed book examination paper