

THE FACULTY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

FINAL FRCR EXAMINATION
Introduction of Formal Two Part Examination

With effect from the Spring 2011 sitting, the Final FRCR Examination in Clinical Oncology will formally become a two part examination: Part A and Part B. The content of the examination, the standard expected for success and the format of the individual components will not be altered.

- The Final FRCR Part A Examination will comprise the two single best answer (SBA) question papers. Each paper contains 120 questions and has a duration of three hours.
- The Final FRCR Part B Examination will comprise the clinical examination and the oral examination. The clinical examination lasts for 40 minutes, during which time the candidates rotates through five "stations" of eight minutes each. The oral examination lasts for 40 minutes in total, during which time the candidate spends 20 minutes with each of two pairs of examiners.
- The content of the examination is defined by the core and intermediate level components of the 2010 specialty training curriculum in clinical oncology, which can be accessed from the College's website at www.rcr.ac.uk/content.aspx?PageID=1787.

Examination Regulations

- (1) In order to enter the Final FRCR Part A Examination, a candidate must have passed the First FRCR Examination and have completed three years (whole time equivalent) in supervised clinical oncology training posts covering the examination syllabus. For a Spring sitting, eligibility is based on training undertaken up to and including 30 April and for an Autumn sitting, up to and including 31 October.
- (2) A candidate must have achieved success in the Final FRCR Part A Examination in order to be permitted to attempt the Final FRCR Part B Examination.
- (3) A pass in the Final FRCR Part A Examination will remain valid, ie permit entry to the Final FRCR Part B Examination, for five consecutive sittings, starting from the sitting at which the Part A Examination is passed.

For example, a candidate passing the Final FRCR Part A Examination at the Spring 2011 sitting would be permitted to enter the Final FRCR Part B Examination at the Spring 2011, Autumn 2011, Spring 2012, Autumn 2012 and Spring 2013 sittings, but not beyond that time period without passing the Final FRCR Part A Examination again.

If a candidate does not pass the Final FRCR Part B Examination within this time, he or she will be required to re-sit and re-pass the Final FRCR Part A Examination before being permitted to enter the Final FRCR Part B Examination again. This is because the specialty inevitably evolves over time and after such a period re-examination will be required to ensure the appropriate currency of a candidate's knowledge. On this basis, no extensions will be made to the validity period of a pass in the Final FRCR Part A Examination.

NB: A candidate may not attempt the Final FRCR Part B Examination in both London and Hong Kong at the same sitting.

- (4) The two parts of the examination will be marked independently. Candidates will not be able to carry forward any credit for scoring above the required standard in the Final FRCR Part A Examination to provide potential compensation for slightly below performance in the Final FRCR Part B Examination.
- (5) The Autumn 2010 sitting will be the last at which the current format (combined) examination will be held. A candidate who, at (or prior to) the Autumn 2010 sitting, passes the SBA question papers or the clinical and oral examination components of the examination, but not the Final FRCR Examination overall, will not be able to carry this success forward to the two part format examination. Any such candidate will need to sit and pass both the Final FRCR Part A Examination and the Final FRCR Part B Examination following their introduction at the Spring 2011 sitting.

Examination Application Arrangements

- (6) The application closing date for both parts of the Final FRCR Examination will be the same and a single application form will be used.
- (7) A candidate may apply to sit both parts of the Final FRCR Examination at the same sitting but will only be permitted to sit the Final FRCR Part B Examination at that sitting if he or she achieves success in the Final FRCR Part A Examination. Candidates undertaking specialty training in the UK will be required to obtain the signature of their training programme director (TPD) on their application form endorsing their decision about whether to attempt just the Final FRCR Part A Examination or both parts (conditional upon the achievement of success in the Part A Examination). Candidates must make their decision at the time of entering the examination and cannot wait until the Final FRCR Part A Examination results are published.
- (8) There will be no obligation on candidates to attempt both parts of the Final FRCR Examination at the same sitting but the duration of the validity of the Final FRCR Part A Examination pass will not be extended if the Final FRCR Part B Examination is not attempted at that sitting.
- (9) Candidates wishing to have the option to attempt both parts must submit two separate payments with their application form: one for the Part A Examination and a second for the Part B Examination. Once the results from the Final FRCR Part A Examination are published, the second payment will not be processed, and that paperwork destroyed, if the candidate has not been successful. If the candidate is successful, the second payment will be taken at that stage.

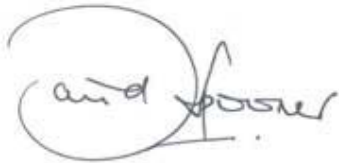
Examination Dates and Venues

- (10) The Final FRCR Part A Examination will be held twice a year, usually in the first week of each of March and September. This will be somewhat earlier than the written papers for the current format combined examination. The Final FRCR Part B Examination will also be held twice a year, usually in each of April and October. This will be at the same time as the clinical and oral examination components of the current format combined examination. There will usually be a gap of 5-6 weeks between the two parts of the examination.
- (11) The schedule for the Final FRCR Part B Examination will be drawn up after the results for the Final FRCR Part A Examination are published and candidates will be notified of when they should attend for their oral and clinical examinations at that stage.
- (12) The 2011 examination dates are given below. The application closing dates and fees, and the new style examination form, will be published on the College's website as soon as is practicable, and before the end of October 2010.

	Spring 2011	Autumn 2011
Final FRCR Part A Examination	23 February 2011	7 September 2011
Final FRCR Part B Examination	2 & 4-7 April 2011	15 & 17-20 October 2011

- (13) The Final FRCR Part A Examination will be held Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Hong Kong and Singapore. The Final FRCR Part B Examination will only be held in London. The Joint Final FRCR/FHKCR Part B Examination will be held in Hong Kong once a year, usually in October.

Further information about the Final FRCR Examination can be found on the College's website at www.rcr.ac.uk/content.aspx?PageID=79. Any queries may be directed to the Examinations Office: examinations@rcr.ac.uk and 020 7299 1161.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Spooner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn circle.

Dr David Spooner
Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology