

Spring 2021 Online Examinations

In Spring 2021, the following examinations will be offered using online delivery to candidates*:

- All available Part 1 specialties (please see Appendix 3 in the [Regulations and Guidelines](#) for whether your specialty is offered in the Spring)
- Certificate in Medical Genetics
- Certificate of Higher Autopsy Training
- Combined Infection Certificate Examination
- Diploma in Dermatopathology written examination
- Part 2 examinations in: Clinical Biochemistry (Module 2 only), Genetics, H&I, Immunology, Medical Microbiology, Toxicology, Virology.

The College will deliver the written components of these examinations through a company called TestReach. Oral components (including oral OSPE stations) will be delivered using a videoconferencing platform such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the option of sitting in a test centre will not be available.

For written examinations, candidates will be given the opportunity to trial the TestReach system to familiarise themselves with it ahead of the examination. It is a fully live-proctored system and candidates will be required to complete both an IT system check and environment check before sitting the examination. The system check establishes that the candidate's device is suitable for use for the examination. The environment check establishes that candidates are sitting in a suitable area where they do not have access to textbooks, notes and other revision material.

The TestReach system is able to function with fluctuating internet connectivity, and the system is secure with safeguards in place to prevent cheating (please see the [Online Exams FAQ](#) for more information). **We have found that some NHS firewalls can block the TestReach live proctoring software and cause issues that don't show up during the system check**, so would recommend that candidates make arrangements to sit the exam from home (or similar).

Once confirmed, dates will be available on the [Spring 2021 News and Dates](#) page.

We have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document, containing information specific to the examination formats and delivery methods, which candidates are strongly recommended to read. We hope it will alleviate any concerns candidates may have. This document will be constantly under review and will be added to with any further questions candidates may have.

*The following examinations will be run in person with social distancing and not online:

- Part 2 examinations in: Clinical Biochemistry (Module 1 only), Forensic Pathology, Haematology, Haematology Clinical Science, Histopathology, Neuropathology, Oral Pathology, Paediatric Pathology, Veterinary Clinical Pathology.