

Creating registration assessment papers

Step 1: Writing the questions	Step 2: Creating the papers	Step 3: Setting the standards	Step 4: Agreeing the papers	Step 5: Final check
<p>Questions are written by question writers, all of whom are pharmacists. There are around 40 question writers.</p> <p>Some question writers work in community pharmacy, some work in hospital pharmacy and some work in academia.</p> <p>Questions are based on the registration assessment framework to make sure they are all relevant to pharmacy practice.</p> <p>All questions are based on the framework. There are no exceptions.</p> <p>After they have written the questions, question writers meet at workshops where they review the questions as a group.</p>	<p>The questions are combined into draft papers by the assessment writing manager, who is a pharmacist.</p> <p>A template is used to make sure the questions cover topics in the framework and that the right proportion of questions of each type is used.</p> <p>The board of assessors reviews the draft papers, checking that the framework is covered adequately and that the right proportion of questions of each type has been used. No question is used unless it is based on the framework. There are no exceptions.</p> <p>At this stage the board of assessors may ask for questions to be rewritten or replaced if they don't agree they are suitable.</p>	<p>A separate standard-setting panel of pharmacists assesses the standard of each question. Panel members all have first-hand experience of working with recently qualified and pre-registration trainee pharmacists. Members work in hospital or community pharmacy and are based in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The panel has to decide whether or not a candidate capable of barely passing the assessment would answer the questions correctly. The panel is not judging whether an experienced pharmacist would answer the questions correctly.</p> <p>By doing this they can set a provisional pass mark. The pass mark may vary from sitting to sitting depending on how difficult the questions are.</p> <p>The panel can agree that some questions are not appropriate for the papers and can ask the board of assessors to have them rewritten or removed.</p>	<p>After the panel has set the provisional pass mark, the board of assessors considers the panel's comments about the questions in each paper. It then decides which ones should be used. If a question is not used it can be removed and replaced with another one, which will have been reviewed by the standards-setting panel.</p> <p>Once the questions have been agreed, the board of assessors approves the papers.</p>	<p>Just before the papers are printed, the board of assessors checks that there have been no changes in practice or the law that would have made any of the questions out of date.</p>