

# GPhC common registration assessment specification for sittings in November 2021

## General

1. From November 2021 the GPhC will run a common registration assessment across Great Britain and Northern Ireland and this document describes the assessment specifications.
2. The registration assessment is governed by the ***Registration assessment regulations for sittings in 2021*** and candidates must abide by them (and other requirements specified in writing by the GPhC).
3. The assessment is computer-based and delivered in Pearson VUE test centres within the UK. Owing to the possibility of international travel restrictions being in place during 2021, the GPhC has agreed that as an exception for 2021, candidates residing overseas may request to sit the assessment within an overseas (non-UK) Pearson VUE test centre, where that is possible. Granting of such a request by the GPhC does not guarantee that a place in a test centre can be arranged, as sitting is subject to test centre capacity, and beyond the GPhC's control.
4. In limited circumstances, and subject to capacity, candidates may be permitted to sit the assessment remotely (that is, not within a Pearson VUE test centre). Candidates permitted to sit the assessment remotely will sit the same computer-based assessment as within the Pearson VUE test centre, but in their home, or similar enclosed and quiet setting. Invigilation will be carried out remotely, using online proctoring (invigilation). Remote sitting is limited to:
  - a. candidates granted this as an adjustment due to a specific need, through the reasonable adjustment process, or
  - b. exceptionally for sittings in 2021, candidates who are prevented from accessing a Pearson VUE test centre due to:
    - i. government requirements regarding self-isolation in relation to COVID-19;
    - ii. being located overseas in a jurisdiction where there is no test centre provision.
5. A paper-based assessment is not available.
6. Dates for assessment sittings are provided on the GPhC website.

## Format

7. In every sitting, there are two parts:
  - a. Part 1 containing 40 pharmacy calculations with a 2-hour (120 minute) time allowance; and

- b. Part 2 containing 120 selected response questions with a 2.5-hour (150 minute) time allowance. Part 2 contains 90 single best answer questions, each with five options, and 30 extended matching questions, each with eight options.
8. There is a one-hour lunch break after part 1, following which candidates must register for part 2.
  9. For part 1, candidates will view each question onscreen and enter their numerical answer in the box provided onscreen. The required units will be stated both in the question and next to the answer box.
  10. Candidates may use a calculator during part 1, which they must provide, and which must be **a calculator model approved by the GPhC**. Candidates will also have access to an onscreen calculator. No calculators are permitted during part 2.
  11. For part 2, candidates will view each question onscreen and select the most appropriate answer from the options provided onscreen.
  12. For some questions in part 1 and part 2 additional information will be provided onscreen. This includes resources such as photographs, dosing information and Summaries of Product Characteristics.
  13. The question text and answer options are displayed in black on a white background in 12-point size text in Tahoma type face.
  14. All candidates sitting in test centres can enlarge the font size to 15-point or 18-point.
  15. All candidates sitting in test centres can change the text and background colours to the following combinations:
    - black on white
    - black on light yellow
    - black on yellow
    - black on salmon
    - blue on white
    - blue on yellow
    - white on black
    - light yellow on black
    - yellow on black
    - white on blue
    - yellow on blue
  16. Candidates sitting remotely with online proctoring must apply for an adjustment for specific software to allow the candidate to enlarge the text or change colour backgrounds.
  17. Any additional reference information will usually be displayed on a white background. Font size will vary but will be a minimum of 10-point. Some reference items, for example photographs, will be displayed in colour.
  18. Additional reference information containing text will usually be presented in PDF format and will be searchable.
  19. One mark is awarded for each correct answer. No marks are deducted for incorrect answers or omissions.

20. The assessment is not essay-based, and the writing of long answers is not required.
21. Standard pens/pencils and paper are not permitted during the assessment. Candidates wishing to take notes or write down workings out must use a wipeable note pad/white board and non-permanent pen (see items 34d/39d).

## Test Centres

22. Test centre locations and availability may vary from sitting to sitting.
23. Candidates must make their own travel arrangements to and from Pearson VUE test centres.
24. Candidates need to select the test centre at which they would like to sit the assessment through their Pearson VUE account, although allocation cannot be guaranteed. Sitting places will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.
25. Each test centre will typically have a main assessment room where most candidates sit. Some test centres have sole occupancy rooms that may be available for candidates who have been granted use of a sole occupant room as a reasonable adjustment by the adjustments panel.
26. Candidates sit the assessment at a desk in a booth style layout. Each desk has an ergonomic chair which is adjustable; most chairs have arm rests. **Further detail is provided by Pearson VUE.**
27. Pearson VUE professional testing centres are invigilated at all times by Pearson VUE staff.
28. Candidates must arrive to register for each part of the assessment 30 minutes before the start time.
29. At the Pearson VUE test centre each candidate will be provided with a wipeable notepad and non-permanent pen for their own notes and workings out; a separate wipeable notepad will be provided for part 1 and part 2. These items must be left in the test centre at the end of each part of the assessment.
30. Candidates are responsible for providing their own calculator for use in the part 1 paper.
31. Candidates may enter the sitting late but are restricted by the late entry timings specified in the registration assessment regulations. This is to avoid unnecessary disruption to other candidates.
32. Candidates are permitted to visit the toilet facilities as required during the sitting. Candidates should raise their hand to draw the attention of an invigilator, who will escort them. A candidate's assessment time will not be paused whilst visiting the toilet facilities.
33. Pearson VUE test centres are COVID safe. All candidates must follow the **important test delivery information** in place by Pearson VUE at the time of their sitting.
34. During the assessment candidates may only have access to:
  - a. IT equipment provided by Pearson VUE
  - b. items included on the **Pearson VUE comfort aid list**
  - c. a calculator which is a **model approved by the GPhC** (part 1 only),
  - d. a wipeable note pad and non-permanent pen provided by Pearson VUE
  - e. items granted in advance by the adjustments panel through the reasonable adjustments process

35. Candidates are not permitted to consume food or drink (including water) within the assessment rooms unless permission has been granted in advance as a reasonable adjustment by the adjustment panel.
36. Candidates may place a clearly named, transparent water bottle on a designated table just outside the assessment room. A candidate who wishes to drink water during the assessment should raise their hand to draw the attention of an invigilator who will escort them to the designated water table.

## Sitting the assessment remotely with online proctoring

37. Candidates sitting the assessment remotely are responsible for arranging their own computer and internet access to the required specification (see 39a).
38. Candidates are responsible for providing their own calculator, white board and non-permanent whiteboard pen to meet requirements (see items 39c-d).
39. Candidates must have a clear desk and workspace and may only have access to:
  - a. IT equipment being used to take the assessment that meets the **required specification**
  - b. items included on the **Pearson VUE comfort aid list**
  - c. a calculator which is a **model approved by the GPhC** (part 1 only)
  - d. a wipeable whiteboard (maximum size A3 and placed on the desk) and non-permanent whiteboard pens
  - e. a mobile phone, to be used for the sole purpose of providing an online sweep of the assessment room as instructed by the online greeter or proctor and in the event that it is necessary to speak with the online proctor by phone during the assessment.
  - f. water in a colourless glass
  - g. items granted in advance by the adjustments panel through the reasonable adjustments process
40. Candidates should log on to register 30 minutes before the start time of the assessment for both part 1 and part 2.
41. Online proctoring (invigilation), will be used and candidates cannot leave the room for any reason during the part 1 or part 2 paper.
42. Candidates are permitted to consume water from a colourless glass during the assessment. Candidates may not consume any other food or drink unless permission has been granted in advance as a reasonable adjustment by the GPhC's adjustments panel.

## Reasonable adjustments for specific needs

43. Candidates can apply for reasonable adjustments for specific needs.
44. Requests must be made in advance of the sitting, in the specified format, and by the specified date.
45. Candidates who wish to sit the assessment remotely due to a specific need, must apply for this through the **reasonable adjustments process**.