

Registration assessment specification for sittings in 2024

General

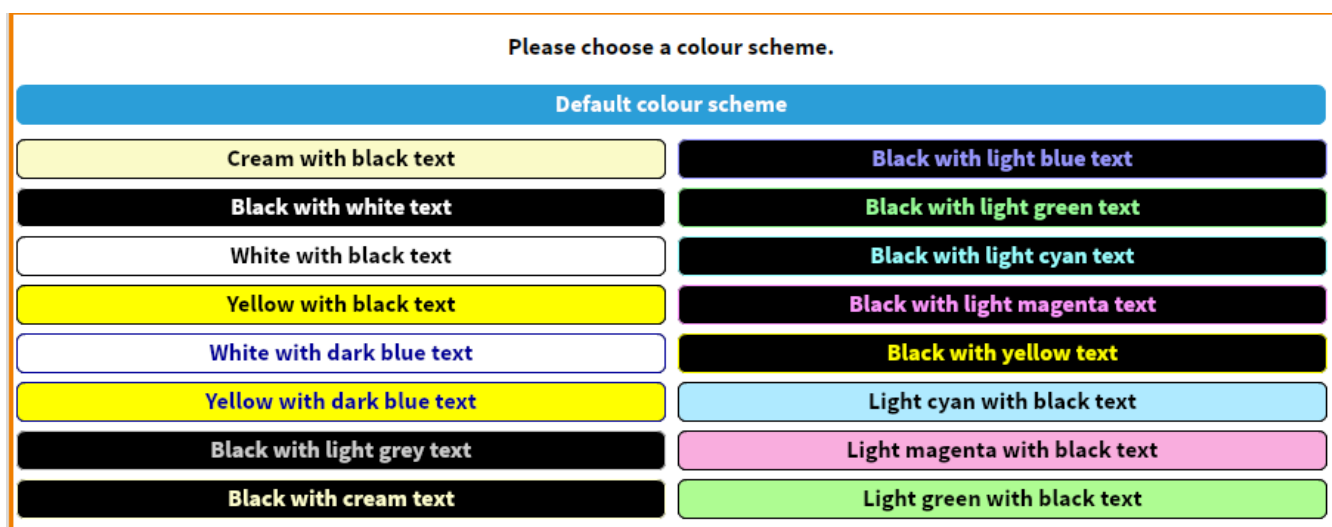
1. This is the specification for the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC's) common registration assessment ('the assessment') run in collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).
2. In 2024, the GPhC will, in partnership with Surpass deliver a common registration assessment across Great Britain and Northern Ireland and this document describes the assessment specifications.
3. The registration assessment is governed by the registration assessment regulations for sittings in 2024 and candidates must abide by them (and other requirements specified in writing by the GPhC).
4. The assessment is computer-based and delivered in Surpass Partnered Test Centres within the UK.
5. A paper-based assessment is not available.
6. Dates for assessment sittings are provided on the GPhC and PSNI websites.

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 break after part 1 before candidates sit part 2.
9. For part 1, candidates will view each question on screen and enter their numerical answer in the box provided on screen. The required units will be stated both in the question and next to the answer box.
10. Candidates may use a physical calculator during part 1, which they must provide, and which must be a calculator model approved by the GPhC, as set out on the dedicated web page for the sitting, on the GPhC website. 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 on screen and select the most appropriate answer from the options provided on screen.
12. For some questions in part 1 and part 2 additional information will be provided on screen. 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 combination of light grey and white background in 14-point size text in Tahoma typeface.
14. All candidates can change the text and background colours to the following combinations:

Figure 1: Text and background colour options



15. 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.
16. Additional reference information containing text will usually be presented in PDF format. Candidates may use a Zoom function to enlarge text up to 400% and the text is searchable.
17. One mark is awarded for each correct answer. No marks are deducted for incorrect answers or omissions.
18. The assessment is not essay-based, and the writing of long answers is not required.
19. Candidates may use pen and paper during the assessment for rough working. These will be provided by the test centres and must be left in the test centres at the end of each part of the assessment.
20. Test centre locations and availability may vary from sitting to sitting.
21. Candidates must make their own travel arrangements to and from test centres.
22. 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 occupancy room as a reasonable adjustment by the adjustments panel.
23. Candidates must arrive in sufficient time to register for each part of the assessment, as instructed, before the start time.

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. During the assessment candidates may only have access to:
 - a. IT equipment provided by the test centre
 - b. items included on the registration assessment permitted item list
 - c. a calculator (or calculators) which is (are) a model approved by the GPhC, which are listed on the dedicated web page for the sitting on the GPhC website, (part 1 only),
 - d. pen and paper provided by the test centre
 - e. items granted in advance by the adjustments panel through the reasonable adjustments process

Reasonable adjustments for specific needs

27. Candidates can apply for reasonable adjustments for specific needs.
28. Requests must be made in advance of the sitting, in the specified format, and by the specified date.