Registration assessment specification

For sittings in 2019

General

1. This document describes the General Pharmaceutical Council's registration assessment.
2. The registration assessment is governed by the Registration assessment regulations and candidates must abide by them (and other requirements specified in writing by the GPhC).
3. The registration assessment is usually scheduled on two set days per year.
4. Sittings are scheduled in set venues, 'centres', which vary from year to year and sitting to sitting.
5. Candidates must make their own travel arrangements to and from centres.

Centres

6. Each centre will typically have a main assessment hall – where most candidates sit – and additional smaller halls, where candidates sit if they have been granted a reasonable adjustment to accommodate additional time.
7. Whilst sitting the assessment, candidates are only permitted access to specified items as listed in the regulations, unless specific permission has been granted as a reasonable adjustment.
8. Assessment centres are controlled environments, which are invigilated at all times by GPhC invigilators.
9. Candidates must arrive in good time to register for both morning and afternoon papers.
10. Candidates must enter and exit assessment rooms as specified by invigilators.
11. Candidates are not allowed to leave assessment rooms unless at times specified by invigilators.
12. Candidates will be escorted when taking toilet breaks during the assessment.

Format of the day

13. The registration assessment is in two parts.
14. In every sitting, there are two papers:
    a. a Part 1, morning, paper of 2 hours; and
    b. a Part 2, afternoon, paper of 2.5 hours.
15. There is a 2-hour lunch break between each paper.

Papers

16. Calculators may be used in the Part 1 assessment paper only.
17. Candidates must bring their own calculator to the Part 1 paper and it must be one of the models specified.

18. Each paper may be accompanied by a resource pack containing reference material provided by the GPhC.

19. For both the Part 1 and Part 2 papers there is a stapled question booklet, and a pre-printed answer sheet. Neither of which must be removed from the assessment centre.

20. Question paper specifications are:

    a. the colour of the Part 1 paper is Coloraction Mid-Grey, with Calibri 12 point text in the main body of the paper; and

    b. the colour of the Part 2 paper is Coloraction Pale Ivory, with Calibri 12 point text in the main body of the paper.

    c. The colour of the resource pack is white. Text size will vary, and will be unchanged from the original publication. Some reference items will be printed in colour where appropriate.

Answering questions

21. Part 1 answer sheets are pre-printed with spaces for adding numerical answers to calculations questions by hand. Candidates must enter one number per box and align their numerical answer with the pre-printed decimal point.

22. Part 2 answer sheets are pre-printed with space for every question to be answered by selecting one letter from a list (for example selecting 'A' from 'A B C D E').

23. One mark is awarded for each correct answer. No marks are deducted for incorrect answers or omissions.

24. Question papers, answer sheets and resource packs must be signed by candidates.

25. The assessment is not essay-based and the writing of long written answers is not required.

Reasonable adjustments for specific needs

26. Candidates can make requests for reasonable adjustments for specific needs. The request must describe what aspect of this specification needs adjusting.

27. Requests must be made in advance of the sitting, in the specified format, and by the specified date.

28. Candidates granted an adjustment of additional time sit in a designated assessment room separate from the main assessment hall, which is normally shared by other candidates granted additional time.

29. If a candidate has specific needs and wishes to use a calculator that is not one of the models specified, this must be clearly detailed within the adjustment request.

GPhC

November 2018