



FC Path(SA) Chem Guidelines

This is the current format of the examination, but will be updated from time to time

1.0 FC Path(SA) Chem Part I

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. This section includes physiology and calculations.

Purpose of the examination: Summative:

The Part I examination, with a pass mark of 50% comprises two 3-hour closed-book written examination papers with a subminimum of 50% (ie candidates need to attain 50% in each paper).

Paper 1 contain MCQs and short answer questions.

Paper 2 is a mixture of cases, calculations and OSPEs.

Current format for Part I

Paper 1: 75 MCQs and 75 Short answer questions (2 x 75 marks = 150 marks).

Paper 2: 8 cases (40 marks); 6 OSPE questions (30 marks); 6 calculations (30 marks); Total = 100 marks.

2.0 FC Path(SA) Chem Part II

Purpose of the examination: Summative

Testing objectives of the written examination:

- Content knowledge of the FC Path(SA) Chem Part II curriculum.
- Application of this knowledge for the diagnosis and management of disease as well as for the management of laboratory services. A comprehensive knowledge of pathophysiological processes and pathways is required.
- Written communication skills

The FC Path(SA) Chem Part II examination will comprise two written papers and a three-part practical examination. The detail and weighting is given below.

3.0 FC Path(SA) Chem Part II Paper 1:

All questions have to be answered. No choices will be offered:

Paper 1 (3 hours): 4x10 mark questions; 2x5 mark questions; 60 single best answer MCQs with no more the 5 MCQs based on esoteric/specialised expert knowledge.

3.1 Content:

- Laboratory management (to encompass laboratory governance and audits; IQC/EQA; Reference ranges; Method evaluations; Budgets; Accreditation; POCT; Health and Safety; Ethics; Occupational Health/Insurance/Wellness testing).
- Pre-analytical concepts (including Biological variation).
- Analytical techniques and instrumentation and Basic laboratory principles.
- Laboratory Statistics.
- Concepts in Molecular Biology.

Subminimum for **Paper 1 is 50%**

4.0 FC Path(SA) Chem Part II Paper 2:

All questions have to be answered. No choices will be offered:

Paper 2 (3 hours): 4x10 mark questions; 2x5 mark questions; 60 single best answer MCQs with no more than 5 MCQs based on esoteric/specialised expert knowledge.

4.1 Content:

- Pathophysiology of Disease.

Subminimum for **Paper 2 is 50%**

5.0 PRACTICAL EXAMINATION:

Only candidates that have met the Paper 1 and 2's subminimum requirements will be invited to the Practical examination

Day 1 (whole day)	100 marks	Wet practical
Day 2 (morning: 3 hours)	100 marks	OSPE Calculations (at least 50% of the marks are allocated for calculations)
Day 2 (afternoon: 3 hours)	100 marks	Clinical Cases 3 long cases: 20 marks each 4 short cases: 10 marks each

Subminimum for the practical examination is **45% (all three sections added together)**

6.0 ORAL EXAMINATION

- All candidates that have completed the practical examination will attend the oral examination.
- Candidates who scored a total of < 45% for the practical examination will fail regardless of the outcome of the oral examination.
- The oral examination will determine whether candidates with a borderline practical examination score between 45 and 50% will pass or fail the FC Path(SA) Chem.
- If both the written and practical examination subminimum requirements are met the candidate cannot be failed by the oral outcome.

7.0 SUMMARY OF SUBMINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FC PATH(SA) CHEM PART II:

7.1 Written Papers:

7.1.1 Paper 1

- Subminimum of 50% for the whole paper

7.1.2 Paper 2

- Subminimum of 50% for the whole paper

7.2 Practical Examination (3 sections)

Subminimum for 3 sections combined - 45%

7.3 Oral

8.0 EXAMINATION WEIGHTING FC Path(SA) Chem Part II:

Written Theory		Wet Practical	OSPE and Calculations	Clinical Cases	
Paper 1	Paper 2	Practical 1	Practical 2	Practical 3	Oral
20%	20%	20%	15%	15%	10%