

ANNOUNCEMENT TO CANDIDATES: May 2010

Intercollegiate Membership Examination of the Surgical Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland

- Replacement of MRCS Parts 1 and 2 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) with Part A (MCQ)
- Renaming of MRCS Part 3
- Time Limitations and Number of Attempts
- Introduction of New Regulations (January 2011)

- Replacement of MRCS Parts 1 and 2 (MCQ) with Part A (MCQ)

1. Commencing with the diet to be held in January 2011, the Part 1 and Part 2 (MCQ) written papers detailed in the MRCS Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009) will be replaced by the Part A (MCQ) written paper for all new candidates. Candidates taking Part A for the first time in or after January 2011 will do so under new Regulations (January 2011).
2. Candidates who have already passed *either* Part 1 or Part 2 by 31 December 2010 may continue under the current Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009) for the remaining Part 1 or Part 2 paper and will have until 30 April 2011 to pass the Part 1 or Part 2 (MCQ) paper they require to progress to the next part of the MRCS examination under the new MRCS Regulations (January 2011) (see 7 below).
3. Candidates continuing under the current Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009) to take either Part 1 or Part 2 who **have not** passed both Part 1 *and* Part 2 (MCQ) papers by 30 April 2011 will be required to enter and pass Part A (MCQ) under new MRCS Regulations (January 2011) in order to progress to the next part of the MRCS examination. A previous pass in either Part 1 or Part 2 will not be taken into account in the award of Part A (MCQ).

4.1 Part A (MCQ)

4.1.1 Part A is a four hour MCQ examination consisting of two papers, each of two hours' duration, taken on the same day.

4.1.2 The marks for both papers are combined to give a total mark for Part A.

4.1.3 The papers cover generic surgical sciences and applied knowledge, including the core knowledge required in all nine specialties as follows:

Paper 1 - Applied Basic Sciences MCQ paper, comprising Single Best Answer Questions

Paper 2 - Principles of Surgery-in-General MCQ paper,
comprising Extended Matching Questions

4.1.4 To achieve a pass in Part A the candidate will be required to demonstrate a minimum level of competence in each of the two papers, in addition to achieving or exceeding the pass mark set for the combined total mark for Part A.

5. Candidates who **have** passed both Part 1 and Part 2 by 31 December 2010, but **have not** achieved a pass in any component of the Part 3 examination will be required to progress to the next part of the MRCS examination under the new MRCS Regulations (January 2011)
6. Candidates who **have** achieved a pass in any component of the Part 3 examination of the MRCS taken under MRCS Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009) by 31 December 2010 must continue under the MRCS Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009).
7. Candidates who take either Part 1 or Part 2 during or after January 2011 and have passed both Part 1 and Part 2 by 30 April 2011 will be required to progress to the next part of the MRCS under the new MRCS Regulations (January 2011).

- **Renaming of MRCS Part 3**

8. In the new MRCS Regulations (January 2011) Part 3 will be renamed Part B (oral, clinical and communication skills). The Part B (oral, clinical and communication skills) and Part 3 examinations will be identical and have the same marking systems and pass criteria.

- **Time Limitations and Number of Attempts**

9. The new MRCS Regulations will permit an unlimited number of attempts at Part A and a maximum of six attempts across all components of Part B (oral, clinical and communication skills).
10. Candidates who complete their MRCS under MRCS Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009) will continue to be subject to the time limitations contained within those Regulations.

- **Introduction of New Regulations**

11. New MRCS Regulations for January 2011 governing the above changes will be issued on this website.
12. Candidates who have not passed all three parts of the Part 3 examination by 31 December 2013 under MRCS Regulations (dated June 2006 revised April 2009) will have no further opportunity to sit the examination and will be

time-expired. After 2013 this examination will be offered as Part B (oral, clinical and communication skills) under the January 2011 regulations (see 6. above).

Overarching principle of entry into the MRCS

Candidates who become time-expired under the June 2006 revised April 2009 regulations, or who become attempt-expired under the January 2011 regulations are not permitted to apply for any component/part of the MRCS examination under any set of regulations.