



Exam Expertise

MRCP Part 2

Opinion, advice and insight from the October 2018 Exam

The MRCP Part 2 examination (2018/3) took place on 24 October 2018, a whole month earlier than the previous year.

The results were released on 23 November 2018, with 70% of Pastest customers reporting that they had passed the exam. That's **14% greater than the most recent MRCP Part 2 pass rate** reported by MRCP(UK).

**Hardest topics in
Oct 2018 Exam**

Neurology

Nephrology

**Endocrinology &
Metabolic Medicine**

(According to Pastest users)

Interrogate the images

Unlike MRCP Part 1, the MRCP Part 2 exam is loaded with images, with a high prevalence of chest x-rays, radiology images and skin conditions, for example.

The October 2018 exam featured roughly 20 image-based questions per paper. Be sure to consider these in as much detail as the question vignette; the images are there for a reason and are NOT designed to throw you off.

In order to prepare effectively for the exam, use a question bank with a high proportion of image-based questions or a separate library of spot diagnosis images to familiarise yourself with what you will encounter in the real exam.

Keep an eye on the clock!

Not only are there numerous images to scrutinise but the vignettes can often be lengthy and complex, sometimes accompanied by a large table of results. This makes time management a real challenge, and many of our customers advised that it was the most stressful element of the exam.

This is where the ability to **quickly** pick out the 'Contextual Clues' of a vignette (as demonstrated within Pastest's MRCP Part 2 Qbank) can be the difference between a pass and a fail.

"I had to read some questions at least twice which really ate into my time and I ended up rushing the last 10 questions or so."

Added to this, complicated patient histories contained within MRCP Part 2 questions can be superfluous, which only adds to the anxiety!

Average Qs
answered by
**successful
candidates**

3,277



Get to grips with the guidelines

Remember that the MRCP Part 2 exam is testing your knowledge of and adherence to current guidelines (which may not necessarily be what you do in clinical practice!)

One candidate said: **“I found myself leaning towards an answer before reading the options and then had to recalibrate based on guidelines. It’s not that what I’m doing on the wards is wrong, it’s just different...”**

Most frequently searched for MRCP 2 terms in MyPastest

Diabetes



HIV



COPD



Prepare yourself for a long day...

Candidates reflecting on the exam were universal in their view that mental fatigue affected performance in the afternoon paper, due to the overall length of the exam (two, three-hour papers of 100 questions over the course of the day).

This led candidates to believe that Paper 2 was the harder of the two papers; although this may have genuinely been the case for some, it is more likely that tiredness played a part and brought about a skewed comparison.

Attempt lots of practice questions

Similar to MRCP Part 1, both successful and unsuccessful candidates agree that perfecting exam technique is equally as important as having strong knowledge of all specialties.

One candidate said: **“I would definitely recommend that future candidates answer a high volume and wide variety of questions when revising. Focus on increasing your speed reading blood results and enter the exam with normal values ingrained in your mind.”**

Our usage figures support this viewpoint, with nearly

2.7m MRCP Part 2 questions answered on our website for this sitting, and over 622k on our free mobile app.

That equates to an average of 2,279 questions answered per user.

Average mark
of Pastest
users who
answered
3,000+ Qs



And finally, some practical tips

The MRCP Part 2 exams are held in different locations to Part 1, so double-check the venue details before setting off! Be prepared for some waiting around before the exam begins and don't forget you're allowed to take snacks into the exam - just make sure they're not noisy!

Summary

- Make sure lots of your prep time involves investigating images (e.g. x-rays, MRIs and skin conditions)
- In the run up to the exam answer long MRCP Part 2 questions under timed conditions to get a feel for the time pressures you'll face
- Detach yourself from your daily routine and answer questions based on current guidelines
- Power through 1000s of practice questions so that analysing tables of blood results - and how they compare to normal values - becomes second nature
- And perhaps most importantly... MRCP(UK) don't provide food in between exams, so don't forget your lunch!

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