



Exam Expertise

MRCPCH FOP/TAS

Opinion, advice and insight from the February 2019 Exam

The MRCPCH FOP/TAS examination (2019/1) took place on 14 February 2019.

The results were released on 28 March 2019, with **69% of Pastest customers reporting that they had passed** compared to the most recent MRCPCH FOP/TAS pass rates of **56%** reported by RCPCH (not yet disclosed for this sitting).

Hardest FOP topics in Feb 2019 Exam

Ethics & Law
Pharmacology
Metabolism &
Metabolic Medicine

(According to Pastest users)

Swot up on the law

According to our users, one of the the hardest topics in the FOP exam was considered to be Ethics & Law.

In part, this is due to the high number of overseas exam takers who aren't overly familiar with UK law and simply because it's not an area that doctors are exposed to on a daily basis.

However, there are only a handful of Ethics & Law questions in each exam so plan your prep time on this topic accordingly!

Read the question in full

Candidates didn't feel time pressure was an issue in this exam, so there was plenty of opportunity to read the questions thoroughly.

One candidate recalled that he **"read the question, then the vignette, then read the question for a second time."** This helped to avoid being caught out by the handful of **"red herring questions"** that appeared, where a candidate second-guesses the answer before the question sends them off in another direction.

"I didn't struggle to complete either exam on time; however I did spend longer on the EMQs as there was a risk of losing many marks in one go."

Get the basics right in TAS

The TAS exam was regarded as being harder than FOP, with Pharmacology questions proving tricky for a number of candidates.

Not only were they challenging, but they also accounted for a huge portion of the TAS February 2019 exam (up to 50% by some accounts!).

With lots of Basic Science being tested too, digging out your notes from medical school could well be worthwhile

Average Qs answered by successful candidates

3,105



as you'll be less likely to get caught out on something you once knew (but have perhaps since forgotten!).

Also, candidates advised that future takers should **"revise early"** in order to get through the large syllabus.

Most frequently searched for MRCPCH FOP/TAS terms in MyPastest

Asthma



Rickets



Jaundice



More investigations than images

As per previous MRCPCH FOP/TAS exams, images were rare in the February 2019 sitting, with just a spirometry image appearing across both papers.

The more common investigation-based questions featured tables, normally centred around blood tests. These tables were hard to decipher, according to some candidates, due to a lack of gridlines and poor formatting. Also, normal values were not always presented; when they were they were in brackets next to the results.

Hardest TAS topics in Feb 2019 Exam

Pharmacology
Metabolism &
Metabolic Medicine
Genetics &
Dysmorphia

(According to Pastest users)

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



Look for the clues

It goes without saying that you'll need to read the question carefully, but in the MRCPCH FOP/TAS exam in particular, there are often clues within the vignette that can steer you towards the correct answer.

A patient's age and gender is almost always included in the question. Their ethnicity is usually only mentioned if it has a bearing on the diagnosis.

"The common intro to a question is age, gender and often ethnicity; make sure you bear all of these in mind when selecting your answer."

Summary

- If you're an overseas candidate (or live in the UK for that matter) spend some time swotting up on UK Ethics & Law
- Start revising early, and refresh your memory on the Basic Sciences as they consistently catch candidates out
- As the exam approaches, practise questions against the clock and pay close attention to tables of results

Sign up to Pastest to maximise your chances of passing your next medical exam. [MRCPCH FOP/TAS](#), [MRCPCH AKP](#) and [MRCPCH Clinical](#) resources available now.

Formed in 1972, Pastest is a global provider of revision materials for undergraduate and postgraduate medical exams.