



Exam Expertise

MRCPCCH FOP/TAS

Opinion, advice and insight from the June 2019 Exam

The MRCPCCH FOP/TAS examination (2019/2) took place on 13 June 2019.

The results were released on 19 July 2019, with 65% of Pastest customers reporting that they had passed both papers. In general, those who passed the exam answered on average 3405 questions in the resource, while those who failed answered 2866 questions, on average.

“The more questions you work through in your revision, the better placed you’ll be to pass both FOP and TAS exams first time.”

Watch out for the law!

In both our post-exam survey and when speaking to customers in person, **Ethics and Law** was regarded as the hardest topic overall across both FOP and TAS papers.

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!

Average Qs answered by successful candidates

3,405

Hardest FOP topics in June 2019 Exam

Ethics & Law

Cardiology

Metabolism & Metabolic Medicine

(According to Pastest users)

“I think a lot of other takers would agree that TAS was just plain weird! I definitely felt more confident going in to the FOP exam.”

Go back to basics in TAS

A large part of the June 2019 TAS exam (around 70%) was made up of Basic Science questions, covering Pharmacology, Physiology and Metabolism and Metabolic Medicine. So dig out those notes from medical school for a refresh!

Mechanism of action, side-effects of drugs and drug interactions also appeared often.



The TAS exam is known to be trickier and harder to prepare for than FOP. One candidate said: **“You could, hypothetically, pass FOP with very little preparation; however, with TAS, the amount of revision you need to put in makes it feel like you’re back at med school!”**

Most frequently searched for MRCPC H FOP/TAS terms in MyPastest

Diabetes



Epilepsy



Asthma



Mixed views on time-keeping

Each exam is 150 minutes long with 70 Best of Five (BoFs) questions and 10 Extended Matching Questions (EMQs). Although this may seem like plenty of time, some candidates said the exam flew by and that they struggled to answer all the questions. The EMQs took a particularly long time to work through as they include multiple questions around the same vignette.

Take timed tests during your revision to try and get into the mindset of reading questions quickly and efficiently. Flag trickier questions to come back to later rather than letting them eat into your time.

That said, some customers claimed to have 40 minutes at the end of each paper to review their answers!

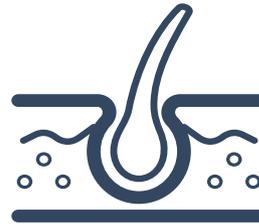
Hardest TAS topics in June 2019 Exam

Pharmacology

Ethics & Law

Infection, Immunology & Allergy

(According to Pastest users)



Only one image appeared across both papers: a skin condition on an infant

The clue is in the question

It goes without saying that you’ll need to read the question carefully, but in the MRCPC H FOP/TAS exam in particular, there are often clues within the vignette that can steer you towards the correct answer. Such clues might include the child’s gender, age or ethnicity.

While gender and age are referenced in most questions, if ethnicity is included there’s a good chance it will have a bearing on the correct answer.

In this exam sitting, it was also noted by candidates that for some questions (Physiology in particular) there was no need to read the vignette in full in order to select the answer. Reading the the last line of the vignette was enough.

Also, candidates estimated that around 10% of questions in both papers **didn’t include a vignette** at all. One candidate commented: **“It was actually quite refreshing to see questions of varied length as reading long vignettes can be heavy going. Also helped with the time-keeping too!”**

Average % exam score of users who answered:

1200+ FOP Qs

1400+ TAS Qs



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