



Exam Expertise

MRCS Part A

Opinion, advice and insight from the 2019/3 exam period

The MRCS Part A exam (2019/3) took place on 3 September 2019, with results released on 24 September 2019.

41% of Pastest customers have reported passing the exam, which is **4% higher than the overall pass rate** reported by the surgical Royal Colleges.

On average, **successful candidates answered 4,022 questions** in the Pastest resource with unsuccessful candidates averaging 2,942 questions answered.

Top Tips

Brush up on Basic Science: For this exam, 44% of Pastest users felt that “Basic science knowledge relevant to surgical practice” was the most difficult topic, so refresh your knowledge in this area.

Prepare for a long day: The MRCS Part A exam is five hours long, comprising a three-hour Applied Basic Sciences paper and a two-hour Principles of Surgery in General paper. That’s 300 questions to answer...all on the same day! Unsurprisingly, many Pastest users complained of fatigue and that the exam was much more energy-sapping than expected.

Watch out for the odd image: Just like the April 2019 sitting, an image appeared in this exam, specifically a sagittal section of a lumbar spine. The Royal College

exam content guides do suggest that images may appear in either paper, however they can still take candidates by surprise.

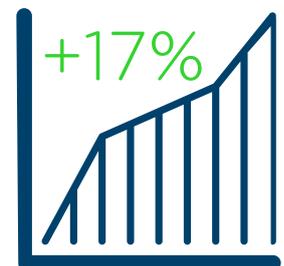


The pass rate of desktop and app users was **13% higher** than desktop-only users

Get to grips with the guidelines: It was noted by candidates that the exam followed new guidelines - such as for burns, for example - so prep with these in mind and not what you would necessarily do in practice.

Start early: The stand out piece of advice from past candidates is clear: start revising early and hammer through as many practice questions as you can!

For this sitting, close to 3.3 million MRCS Part A questions were answered in the Pastest resource, 1.3 million of which were attempted on our mobile app!



The pass rate of users of our **Past Papers** was **17% higher** than non-users

Most frequently searched for MRCS Part A terms in MyPastest

Anatomy



Breast



Brachial Plexus



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