



Exam Expertise

MRCPCH FOP/TAS

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

The MRCPCH FOP/TAS examinations (2019/3) took place on 9 October 2019.

68% of Pastest customers reported passing the FOP exam (**19% higher than the overall pass rate published by the Royal College***) and 80% reported passing TAS (**17% higher than the Royal College pass rate**).

On average, **successful candidates answered 4,013 questions** in the Pastest resource across both papers, with unsuccessful candidates averaging 3,349 questions answered.

Hardest Topics: Both Papers

Pharmacology - Ethics & Law

Genetics & Dysmorphia

(According to Pastest users)

Top Tips

TAS is tricky: Despite the high pass rate of Pastest users, the TAS paper was perceived to be much trickier than FOP as it required lots of niche knowledge. Candidates also underestimated how science-heavy it would be,

Most frequently searched for
MRCPCH FOP/TAS terms in MyPastest

Statistics



Febrile Convulsion



Hepatitis B



with Pharmacology questions ('mechanism of action' in particular) accounting for 25-30% of the paper.

No 'one-liners': Whereas in the June 2019 exam around 10% of questions didn't contain a vignette at all, in this sitting ALL questions contained a scenario followed by a question. This may explain why some candidates struggled to answer all questions within the 150-minute timeframe: **"Both papers took much longer than I anticipated - particularly those pesky EMQs!"**

No love for the law: As is commonly the case, Ethics & Law was regarded as being one of the hardest topics across both 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 paper so plan your prep time on this topic accordingly!

Average exam score of users who answered:
1200+ FOP Qs
1400+ TAS Qs



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

*Relates to the Feb 2019 Exam