

Frequently asked questions about the examination for the Registration Examination of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

How do I give myself the best possible chance of passing the registration examination at my first attempt?

You should do all of the following during your training:

- become thoroughly familiar with the examination syllabus and think about how your workplace activities provide knowledge related to the syllabus
- decide how else you will learn about each aspect of the syllabus - what learning resources do you have or need to obtain
- read thoroughly the examination guidance notes to help you understand the syllabus and the examination process
- regularly use and study the reference sources required for the open book paper, to become familiar with their layout and contents
- undertake the diagnostic calculation questions and develop your skill in calculating
- complete the sample papers under examination conditions to familiarise yourself with the types and styles of questions and to practise your examination technique
- if you suffer from stress in examinations to such an extent that it might impair your performance, seek expert help to develop stress management strategies
- read thoroughly the examination regulations and accompanying schedules and follow them carefully
- in the event of any personal difficulty or illness, ensure that you know what to do, by checking the examination regulations
- discuss with your tutor anything you are not sure about; aspects of the syllabus or the examination process

Above all, you can prepare by seeking to learn at every opportunity during the preregistration training period, taking responsibility for your learning and thereby making it happen!

How many weeks of training must I have completed before I can enter the registration examination?

You will need to complete 45 weeks of recognised preregistration training before the date of the registration examination sitting, calculated from your start date. This also means having actually undertaken 39 weeks, allowing for a maximum 6 weeks absence (sickness and annual leave combined).

My tutor has not given me a satisfactory 39-week progress report. What happens now?

You will not be allowed to sit the next examination. We will ask your tutor to undertake another (39-week) progress review/appraisal later. You will not be entered for the registration examination until we have received such a progress report/appraisal.

What proportion of candidates pass the examination?

So far, around 90% of candidates taking the examination for the first time each year have passed. Many of the unsuccessful candidates pass at their second attempt and most of the remainder at their third.

Is there any negative marking in the registration examination?

No. Each question carries one mark for a correct answer. There is no mark or penalty for a wrong answer.

I am disabled/have medical problems - can I have special arrangements at the examination centre?

A request for special arrangements must be put in writing well in advance of the examination and will be considered by the Chairmen of the Boards of Examiners and the Registrar (See examination regulations paragraph 3.3).

How soon will I be registered after passing the examination?

It depends on the date you started. You will need to have satisfactorily completed at least 52 weeks of recognised preregistration training and submitted all the necessary documentation. If this is already the case by the time results are out, you will qualify on the Monday after the results are published (also see schedule 3 of the examination regulations).

How soon after the examination do the results come out?

You will receive more information about this in the second Preregistration Bulletin you receive from the Society towards the end of the normal preregistration year.