

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Preparing for the examination**

### ***How do I book my test centre?***

All candidates must book their test centre seat within the dedicated schedule window for each diet. This will be a specific dated window and candidates will be notified of the duration of the window for each diet by email. If you do not book your centre seat within the dedicated schedule window, you will not be permitted to sit the examination.

You will receive an email from Pearson Vue on the day when the test centre schedule window will open. This email will instruct you on how to book a test centre using the Pearson Vue system.

Test centres are available globally and you do not need to book a centre in relation to the preferred location you selected when booking your MRCS Part A.

Space at test centres is subject to availability and offered on a first come first serve basis. As such, some candidates may not be able to book their preferred location.

Please contact [Pearson VUE directly](#) if you have any test centre booking or availability queries. You College will not be able to book you a test centre seat.

### ***Is there a mock or practice exam available?***

A practice exam is not available in advance of the examination day, but all instructions will be provided when you arrive at the Pearson Vue test centre.

There is a tutorial at the beginning of your examination that provides detailed instructions on how to use the software.

ICBSE has set up a [dedicated webpage](#) containing further information and guidance for all candidates.

### ***I require a reasonable adjustment, how will this be accommodated?***

Reasonable adjustments must be confirmed with your College at the time of application. If you have already correctly registered your reasonable adjustment (for example; for visual impairment, dyslexia or other specific learning difficulties) these will be accounted for and should show on your Pearson Vue test centre booking portal. You may need to call Pearson Vue directly to book or confirm your test centre seat with some reasonable adjustment requests. Please contact your College if you require any clarification.

For candidates with additional time granted, you will be still be allowed a 60-minute break between papers, and will start your PoSG paper later than candidates sitting without additional time.

## **Examination Day**

### ***What time should I arrive at the test centre?***

Candidates should arrive at least 30 minutes before the examination start time to allow for security and admission checks to be completed.

If you arrive more than 15 minutes after your examination start time, you will not be permitted entry to the examination.

### ***What do I need to bring with me to the examination centre?***

Please refer to your test centre booking confirmation email for confirmation of what you must bring with you to access your exam. It is essential that you familiarise with the [personal ID requirements](#) to be admitted to the test centre on the day of the examination.

Lockers will be provided to allow you to store your personal belongings, lunch etc. before entering the examination.

### ***What am I allowed to bring into the examination room?***

No personal or electronic items, pens, paper, food or water are permitted in the examination room. Candidates are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the following [Pearson Vue test centre standard rules](#) for any specific restrictions and requirements on the day of the examination.

Candidates requiring medicine, medical devices or mobility aids will be able to bring these into the examination without pre-approval. Please see the [Pearson VUE Comfort Aid List](#) for full details.

Diabetic candidates requiring access to their smartphone for medical reasons during the examination time will need to request a reasonable adjustment directly with their College prior to the examination day.

### ***Can I access my personal belongings during the scheduled break between the two papers?***

All candidates will be required to take a 60-minute break after completing the first examination paper. During this scheduled break, you will be allowed to access all your personal belongings stored in your personal locker, including your phone. You will also be permitted to leave the test centre during this break.

Before starting the second examination paper, you will be required to complete the security sign in procedure again to be permitted entry into the secure examination room. If you fail to return to the test centre more than 15 minutes after the end of the 60-minute scheduled break, you will not be allowed to sit the second examination paper.

### ***How will the exam be invigilated?***

Invigilation will be conducted by Pearson Vue staff on site. Standard exam hall rules apply (no talking, distracting other candidates etc.), however candidates are permitted to look away from the screen and take comfort breaks.

Full explanation of examination rules will be confirmed with you on the day of the examination.

### ***Do I need to wear a face mask or take other COVID precautions?***

Each Test Centre will be operating under local COVID guidelines. Please refer to the local authority of the centre you are due to sit your examination with.

***What happens if I experience a technical problem during the exam?***

If you experience an issue during the exam you will need to raise your hand to alert an invigilator. They will resolve your issue accordingly - if any time is lost, this will be added to your remaining examination time as appropriate.

***What happens if I need to take a comfort break?***

If you need to take a comfort break, you will need to raise your hand to alert an invigilator and you will be escorted out of the examination room.

Whilst water is not allowed into the examination room, you may use a comfort break to have a drink from your locker. Please be aware that you will be supervised at all times.

Please note that your examination time will continue running whilst you are away from your exam station.

***How will I know how much time is remaining on the exam?***

Your remaining time will be displayed on screen at all times.

***Can I make notes during the examination?***

Every candidate will be provided with an erasable whiteboard and pen when they enter the examination. You can use this to note down your workings for calculations. No data from this whiteboard can be taken from the examination room at the end of the examination.

***Will a calculator be provided or permitted in the examination?***

Calculators are not permitted in this examination. If you need to work out calculations you can use the erasable whiteboard provided.

***How can I give feedback or raise concerns about particular questions in the exam?***

Feedback on questions will be recordable via an online survey which will be emailed to you by your College in the days following the exam.