

Written Exam FAQs

Cancelled Divisional Written Examination

Why was the Written Divisional Examination cancelled?

An unknown technical fault left a significant number of candidates locked out of the computer based testing system and unable to complete the second part of the examination after their scheduled break. The Chairs of the Adult and Paediatric Exam Committees determined that the examination should be called off, and all results put aside, in order to be fair to all candidates.

Why did the computer system fail?

We are investigating this with Pearson VUE. We understand that there was a technical fault which resulted in problems with the second paper. We will let you all know the outcome as soon as we can.

Why was there no back up in place?

The contingency plan has been enacted. The two reserve examinations were validated and ready to go. Both papers are currently being printed. Working with our provider of paper based exams we are identifying secure venues across Australia and New Zealand to sit the paper based exam. Details regarding venues and instructions to candidates are available on the website.

Why can't everyone who sat the exam on 19 Feb just be passed and go through to the Clinical later this year?

It is important that the clinical applications and medical sciences areas of knowledge are formally assessed prior to undertaking the Divisional Clinical Exam. This is a requirement of completing Basic Training.

I understood that I was to get a phone call from the RACP on 21 February but I haven't heard from anyone yet - when will this happen?

We are making every effort to contact all affected trainees as soon as possible by phone and email.

If you have not received a phone call and would like to speak to RACP staff regarding your experience on 19 February or to discuss the reserve exam, please contact member services at memberservices@racp.edu.au or call 1800 69 7227 (Aus) or 0508 69 7227 (NZ).

When will the inquiry into what happened be completed?

The College is working with the service provider Pearson VUE to complete a report on Monday's events.

The RACP Board is convening a panel to review the issues around the examination, including the technical aspects, the operation of the examination centres, the response of the College and the impact on the trainees. We have also undertaken to let our members know the outcome, as soon as we can.

We welcome your input. If you'd like to make a submission, please send an email outlining your experience to memberservices@racp.edu.au

I successfully completed the first part of the examination. Why can't the RACP use that information to determine if I can pass?

The Divisional Written Examination consists of a Clinical Applications paper and a Medical Sciences paper. Both of these are essential components of the overall exam. Each examination is designed based on a blueprint to ensure comprehensive sample of assessment on both components. Comprehensive assessment, therefore, requires the completion of both papers.

How do I register for the reserve exam?

Exam registration for the paper-based reserve exam is being confirmed by RACP staff when contacting affected trainees. We will be emailing all trainees to confirm their intent to sit the reserve exam and preferred location. You can call Member Services to confirm your location or register for the reserve examination.

Will the exam on 2 March have entirely new questions? What about the alternate reserve exam?

Yes, the reserve exam and alternate reserve exam will have entirely new questions in each. No exam questions will be reused from the cancelled examination.

Will there be RACP staff at each examining venue, along with invigilators?

Yes.

I had a special consideration approved for 19 February. Will this be carried over to the reserve exam/supplementary exam?

Candidates who had special arrangements for their exam will be contacted directly about their individual circumstances.

Can I bring food and water to the reserve exam or supplementary exam?

You are permitted to have a water bottle at your desk.

I would like to re-sit the exam at a different location, can this be accommodated?

The reserve exam will be held in the following locations: Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Christchurch, Darwin, Dunedin, Hamilton, Hobart, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney, Townsville, Gold Coast, Wellington or Wollongong.

Please notify the College of your preferred location if you have not done so already.

When will the results of the exam on 19 February 2018 be released?

The paper from 19 February and all the results have been set aside and will not be counted as an exam attempt.

Will the exam questions from 19 February 2018 be made available to everyone?

The text of the cancelled examination for both the Adult Medicine, and Paediatric and Child Health Medicine papers are now available on the College's website, and can be downloaded here:

[RACP Written Examination – Adult Medicine – Clinical Applications Q1-100](#)

[RACP Written Examination – Adult Medicine – Medical Sciences Q101-170](#)

[RACP Written Examination – Paediatrics & Child Health – Clinical Applications Q1-100](#)

[RACP Written Examination – Paediatrics & Child Health – Medical Sciences Q101-170](#)

Will the RACP negotiate with hospitals for more leave to attend reserve exam?

The RACP has been in contact with health jurisdictions and DHB's asking for their support for the resit next Friday. Also, we've been in touch with your DPE to let them know about the date of the reserve exam. You can contact your DPE to discuss further.

Will the Clinical exam still be going ahead on the same dates for both Paediatrics and Adult Medicine?

Yes, further information can be found on the webpages for the Divisional Clinical Examination.

How will the paper-based reserve exam be marked?

The marking and determination of the results of the paper-based reserve exam and the alternate exam will be undertaken in accordance with the RACP Divisional Written Examinations protocol.

How will the pass mark be determined?

The RACP Psychometrician will use Rasch Modelling to statistically equate both examinations. The examinations' pass mark will be set in a manner that corrects for potential differences in difficulty of the papers. This will fairly determine the same outcomes regardless of the version of the examination.

College communications

I haven't heard from the College yet about when I'm sitting the exam

Hi xxx. Thanks for letting us know. Please contact us on 1300697227 and we'll resolve this.

Exam dates

When is the second reserve exam scheduled for?

The second reserve exam will be held on 23 March for people who cannot make the 2 March exam.

Compensation for trainees

How soon can I expect an exam fee refund?

Exam fee refunds should be able to be processed by Friday as a reversal of credit if you have paid by credit card. If you have paid by direct deposit, the College will need to contact you to confirm your bank details.

Will the cancelled Computer Based Test, the reserve exam on 2 March, or the second reserve exam count as one of three attempts?

No, none of these exams will count as an attempt.

Will incidental expenses for things like travel and accommodation for the cancelled exams be compensated for?

This is something we are still discussing with our insurers, but the intention is that no candidate who sat the cancelled exam will be financially disadvantaged. We will advise as soon as we have further details.

Computer Glitch

What happened?

The RACP has requested an explanation from Pearson Vue detailing the cause of the exam shut down. The company's preliminary view was that it related to human error in the quality assurance phase of the exam set up.

Independent Inquiry

What about the RACP's role in this?

This will be considered as part of an independent inquiry which the Board has ordered into examinations.

ENDS