



# Changes to the FRCPath examinations in the Clinical Science Specialties

The changes outlined in this document will affect examinations in the following specialties:

Genetics

Haematology Clinical Science

Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

Molecular Pathology

Reproductive Science

Transfusion Science

## Changes to the Part 1 Examination

There are two changes to Paper 1:

1. Paper 1 will now be named “Long Answers” instead of essays to allow a greater flexibility in the way questions are presented. This means that answers can be given in short notes or include bullet points/lists and questions can be asked in multiple linked parts. The information presented to candidates when starting this paper will be amended to include these changes.
2. The long answer paper will be marked using an open mark scheme, with a pre-defined pass mark for each question agreed using the Angoff method.



3. The pass mark for the exam will then be created using the Angoff pass marks for each paper and candidates must reach the overall total to pass the exam so there will be some limited compensation between papers. Moderation will take place for any candidates who are borderline fails and any candidate who has reached the overall pass mark with a very high score in one paper compensating for a poor score in the other.

## Changes to the Part 2 Examination

There will be no changes to the structure of the Part 2 examinations at this time. However, as outlined above, changes will be made to the marking structure for each of the examinations to move away from the current close marking scheme where it is still used meaning that all exams – both practical and oral - will be marked on an open marking scheme (questions in this part of the examination may carry different numbers of marks).

