

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Before registering as a pharmacist, preregistration trainees must get over that one last hurdle — the registration examination. A new book has been published to help preregistration trainees practise for this examination. Nadia Bukhari, author of the book, describes its contents and provides a few examination-style questions for you to try

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After completing four years of study and graduating with a master of pharmacy (MPharm) degree, graduates are required to undertake training as a preregistration trainee before they can sit the registration examination.

Preregistration training is the period of employment that pharmacy graduates must embark on and complete before they can sit the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's registration examination. In most cases it is a one-year period following the pharmacy degree. For "sandwich" course students it is integrated within the undergraduate programme.

On passing the registration examination, pharmacy graduates can register as a pharmacist in Great Britain.

The registration examination harmonises the testing of skills in practice during the preregistration year.

It tests:

- Knowledge
- The application of knowledge
- Calculation
- Time management
- Managing stress
- Comprehension
- Recall
- Interpretation
- Evaluation

Questions are based on practice-based situations and are designed to test the thinking and knowledge that lie behind any action.

Format of the examination

The registration examination comprises two papers:

- A closed-book paper (for which no reference material can be used) that contains 90 questions for completion in 90 minutes
- An open-book paper (for which three specified reference sources are permitted) that contains 80 questions for completion in 150 minutes. Of these 80 questions, 60 are non-calculation style (recommended time for these: 90 minutes) and 20 calculation style (recommended time for these: 60 minutes)

The reference sources that the Society permits for use in the registration examination are the:

- BNF
- Drug Tariff for England and Wales or Scotland
- "Medicines, Ethics and Practice" guide

The registration examination is crucial for pharmacy graduates wishing to register in Great Britain. Preparation is the key.

'Registration exam questions', published by Pharmaceutical Press, is a bank of approximately 400 questions similar in style to those in the registration examination. The questions are based on law and ethics, clinical pharmacy and the therapeutic aspects of the registration examination syllabus. Here is a sample of some of the questions included. This book cannot guarantee that you pass the registration

examination. However, it can help you practise the clinical pharmacy-, and law and ethics-type questions — both important aspects of the examination. And as they say, "practice makes perfect".

Simple completion questions

Each of the questions or statements in this section is followed by five suggested answers. Select the best answer in each situation.

Open book Mrs Felicity is one of your regular patients who has acute porphyria. The GP is aware that there may be some drugs that may be unsafe to prescribe for her. From the following list, which drug is safe to prescribe for Mrs Felicity?

- A methyldopa
- B oxybutinin
- C diazepam
- D chlorambucil
- E glipizide

Closed book A patient on your ward has hospital-acquired septicaemia. The house officer asks for your advice on which antibiotics would be appropriate to prescribe. You check on the hospital system for cultures and sensitivities and you find the following results:

ceftazidime	sensitive
Tazocin	resistant
amikacin	sensitive
meropenem	resistant

After evaluating the results what would be the most appropriate prescription?

- A Tazocin and amikacin
- B amikacin and ceftazidime
- C amikacin and meropenem
- D meropenem
- E Tazocin

Multiple completion questions

Each of the questions or incomplete statements in this section is followed by three responses. For each question, ONE or MORE of the responses is/are correct. Decide which of the responses is/are correct, then choose:

- A if 1, 2, and 3 are correct
- B if 1 and 2 only are correct
- C if 2 and 3 only are correct
- D if 1 only is correct
- E if 3 only is correct

Directions summarised:

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| A | B | C | D | E |
| 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2 only | 2, 3 only | 1 only | 3 only |

Open book You have ordered some zinc phosphide for the destruction of rats and mice. How should you store this so that it meets legal requirements?

- 1 in a cupboard or drawer reserved solely for the storage of poisons
- 2 on a shelf reserved solely for poisons
- 3 in the household section with other rat and mice killers

Closed book You work in an independent pharmacy where baby milks and infant formulas are also sold. Your manager asks you to promote the sales of the infant formulas, as sales were down the previous month. Which of the following activities is/are prohibited at any place where the infant formula is sold by retail?

- 1 advertising
- 2 provision of free samples and discounting
- 3 special displays designed to promote sales

Classification questions

For each number, select the one lettered option that most closely corresponds to the answer. Within each question each lettered option may be used once, more than once, or not at all.

Open book What are names for the following E numbers?

- 1 E420
- 2 E171
- 3 E142
- 4 E104

- A quinoline yellow
- B sorbitol
- C green S
- D amaranth
- E titanium dioxide

Closed book Which of the following from the list of drugs provided:

52 is exempt from controlled drug prescription requirements?

53 is exempt from safe-custody requirement?

- A buprenorphine
- B phenobarbital
- C morphine sulphate
- D oxybutynin
- E fentanyl

Statement questions

The following questions consist of a statement in the top row followed by a second statement beneath.

Decide whether the first statement is true or false.

Decide whether the second statement is true or false.

Then choose:

A if both statements are true and the second statement is a correct explanation of the first statement

B if both statements are true but the second statement is NOT a correct explanation of the first statement

C if the first statement is true but the second statement is false

D if the first statement is false but the second statement is true

E if both statements are false

Open book First statement: Gastrocote tablets should be used with caution in diabetic patients with dyspepsia
Second statement: Gastrocote tablets have a high sugar content

Closed book First statement: Propranolol may cause vivid dreams
Second statement: Propranolol crosses the blood-brain barrier

'Registration exam questions' (ISBN 978 0 85369 699 5) is priced £19.95 and available from the Pharmaceutical Press. See www.pharmpress.com ■