

MRCPUK Part 2 Clinical Examination performance report 2023

The MRCPUK Part 2 Clinical Examination (Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills - PACES) is designed to test the clinical knowledge and skills of trainee doctors who hope to enter higher specialist training (ST3). The examination sets rigorous standards to ensure that trainees are competent across a range of skills and ready to provide a high standard of care to patients. To pass PACES, candidates must achieve a minimum standard in each of the seven skills assessed and attain a minimum total score across the whole assessment. PACES23 format have been introduced in the 3rd diet of 2023.

In 2023 6,904 candidates sat the MRCPUK Part 2 Clinical Examination; 2,882 declared that they are in UK training while the candidates who did not declare their training details (4022) are reported as ‘other candidates’. From 2022, UK trainees self-declared as OTH (Other) were excluded from UK trainee group.

Pass rate and performance by attempt

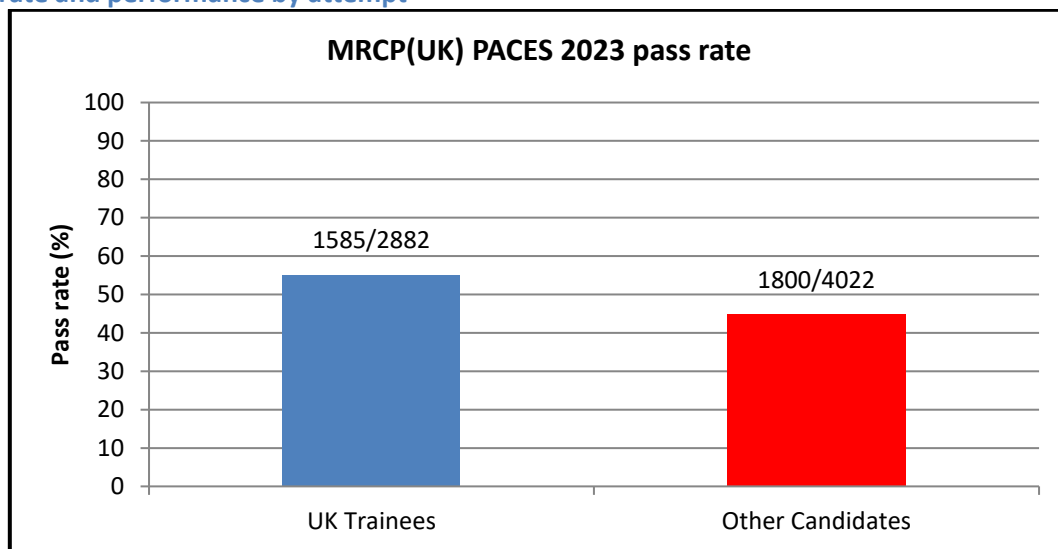


Figure 1. Pass rates for UK trainees and other candidates. Note that training details are self-declared.

UK trainee’s pass rate at first attempt = 57.2% (968/1691)

Other candidates’ pass rate at first attempt = 45.0% (925/2055)

UK trainees					Other candidates				
Attempt	Pass	Fail	Total	Pass rate (%)	Attempt	Pass	Fail	Total	Pass rate (%)
1	968	723	1691	57.2	1	925	1130	2055	45.0
2-6	613	565	1178	52.0	2-6	861	1056	1917	44.9
7+	4	9	13	30.8	7+	14	36	50	28.0
Total	1585	1297	2882	55.0	Total	1800	2222	4022	44.8

Table 1. Pass/Fail rates by Attempt for UK trainees and other candidates. Candidates will be counted multiple times if they have sat on more than one occasion. For example if a candidate failed at the second attempt but passed on the third, they would be in the fail column for the second attempt but pass column for the third attempt.

More information about the limit on the number of attempts can be found on the MRCPUK website: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations/limit-attempts>

Pass rate and performance by gender and ethnicity

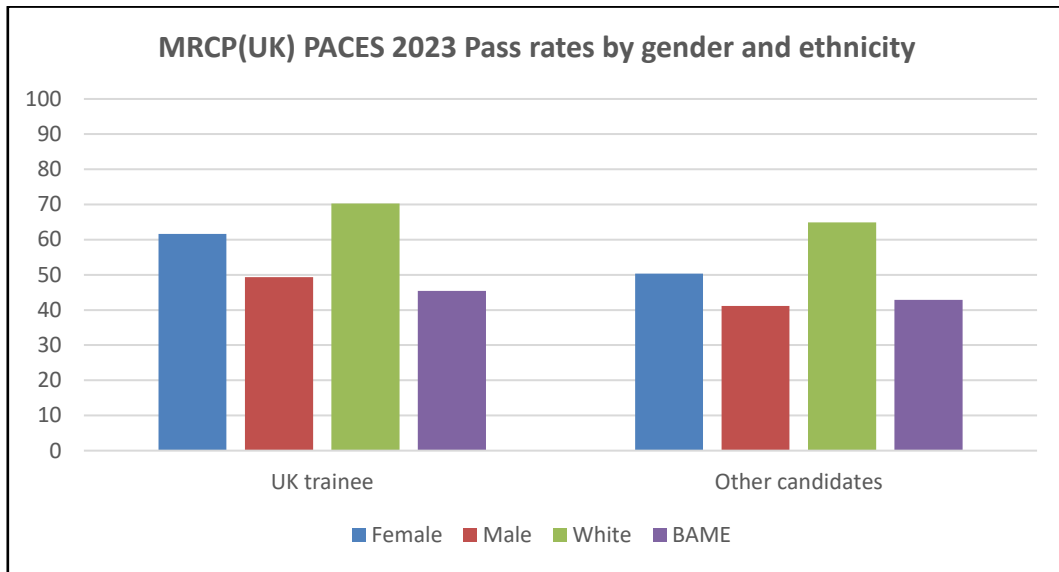


Figure 2. Pass rates for UK trainees and other candidates by gender and ethnicity. Note that the percentages are calculated using scores from all attempts made at the examination.

Female candidates have higher pass rates than Male candidates and White candidates have higher pass rates than BAME, for both UK trainees and Other candidates.

Pass rate and performance by skill

The seven skills are:

- A Physical Examination
- B Identifying Physical Signs
- C Clinical Communication
- D Differential Diagnosis
- E Clinical Judgement
- F Managing Patients' Concerns
- G Maintaining Patient Welfare

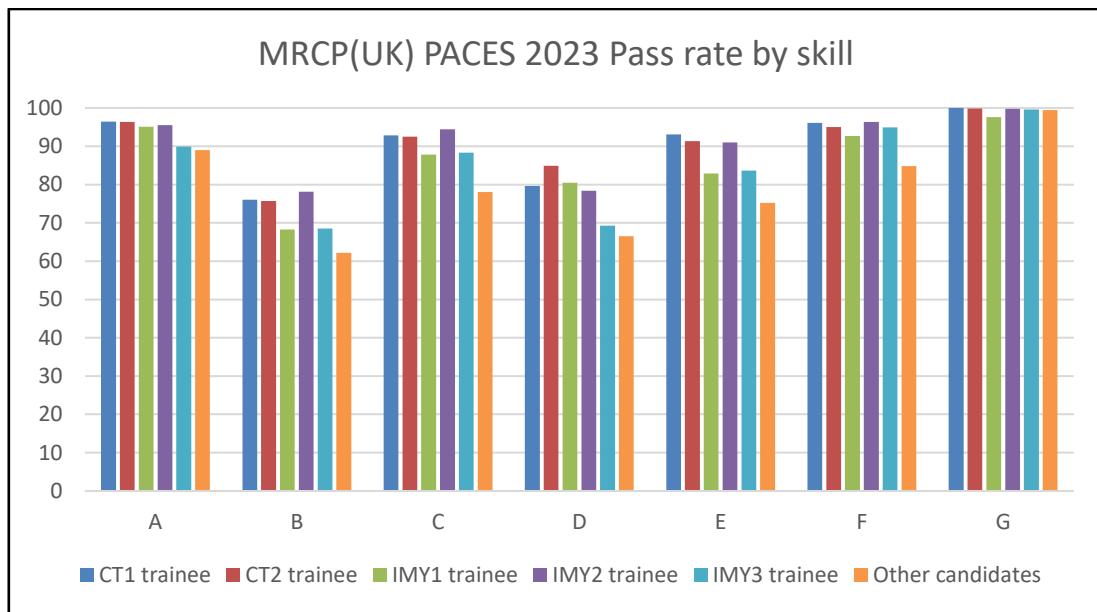


Figure 3. Performance by skill for CT1, CT2, IMY1, IMY2 and IMY3 UK trainees and other candidates. Note that the percentages are calculated using scores from all attempts made at the examination.

Skill G – Maintaining Patient Welfare - has the highest pass rate
 Skill B – Identifying Physical Signs - has the lowest pass rate

Performance by individual encounter

There are eight patient encounters across the five stations in PACES.

nPACES - 2023-1 and 2023-2		PACES23 - 2023-3	
Station	Encounter	Station	Encounter
1	1: Respiratory	1	1: Communication (1)
	2: Abdominal		2: Respiratory
2	3: History Taking	2	3: Consultation (1)
3	4: Cardiovascular	3	4: Cardiovascular
	5: Neurology		5: Neurology
4	6: Communication	4	6: Communication (2)
5	7: Brief Clinical Consultation 1	5	7: Abdomen
	8: Brief Clinical Consultation 2		8: Consultation (2)

Compared to the maximum achievable score, in 2023 the mean of the communication encounters (Station 4 in nPACES and Station 1 and 4 in PACES23) has the smallest difference for all candidates. For the 23-1 and 23-2 diets, encounter 2 (Station 1) and encounter 5 (Station 3) has the highest difference for CT1 trainees, encounter 5 (station 3) has the highest difference for CT2 trainees, while for other candidates encounter 5 (Stations 3) and encounter 7/8 (Station 5) have the highest difference. For 23-3 diet, encounter 5 (Station3) has the higher difference for IMY1 and IMY2 trainees, encounter 3 (Station 2) and encounter 5 (Station 3) have the highest difference for IMY2 trainees, and encounter 3 (Station 2) and encounter 8 (Station 5) have the highest difference for other candidates.

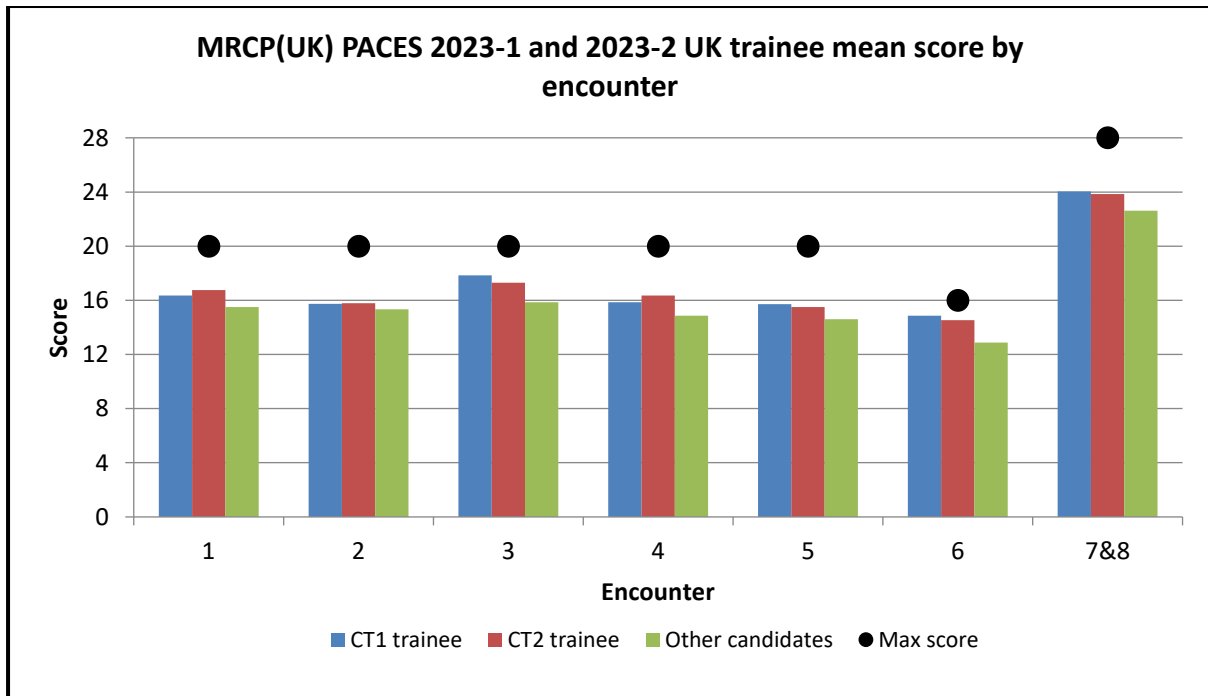


Figure 4. nPACES 23-1 and 23-3 Diets: Performance by encounter for CT1 and CT2 UK trainees and other candidates. Note that the average scores are calculated using scores from all attempts made at the examination.

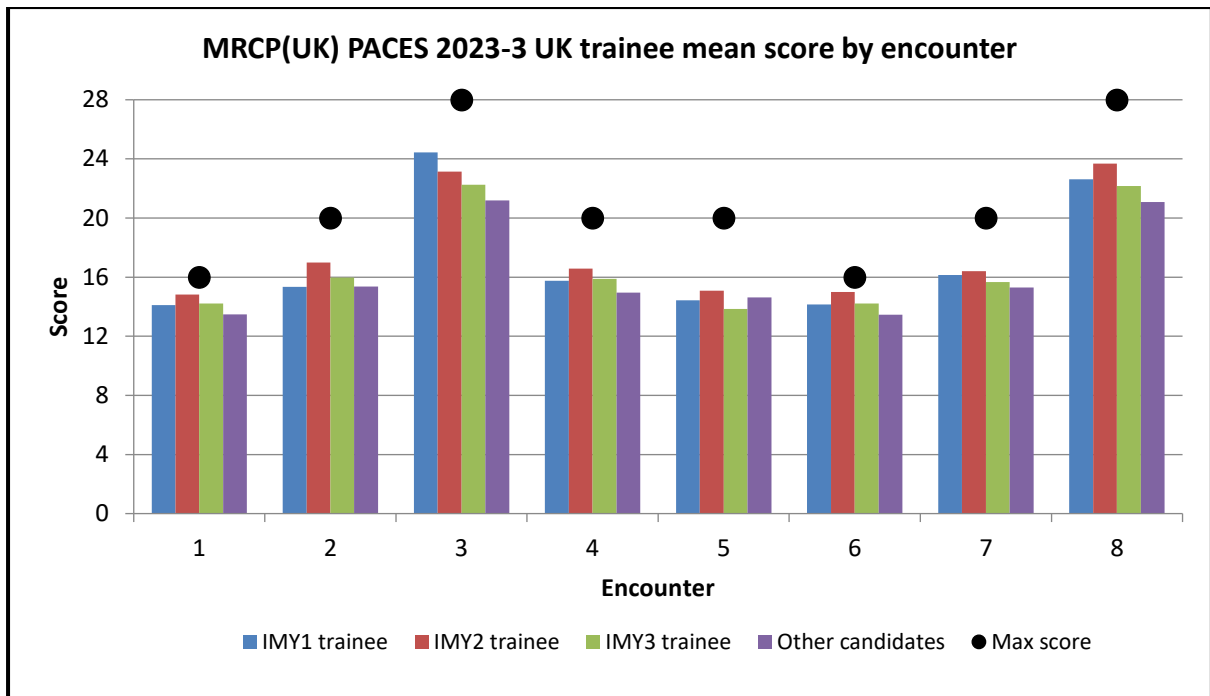


Figure 5. PACES23 23-3 Diet: Performance by encounter for IMY1, IMY2 and IMY3 UK trainees and other candidates. Note that the average scores are calculated using scores from all attempts made at the examination.

**MRCP(UK) Research Unit
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