

MRCP(UK) Part 1 Written Examination – October 2025 Standard Setting Exercise

The MRCP(UK) Part 1 Written Examination Standard Setting Group met in October 2025 to consider whether the pass mark of 540 derived from test equating was still appropriate. The MRCP(UK) Assessment Data Analytics aided with historical candidate performance.

The Group's discussions and recommendations are summarised below:

- The standard was set using an Angoff method. Members reviewed the 2025/3 examination to consider the proportion of borderline candidates they felt should correctly answer each question. The reference group for the process was UK core medical trainees working in the NHS.
- The group had to consider the outcome of Hofstee's methodology resulting in pass rates acceptable for all candidates, UK graduates and UK trainees. This ensures that actual candidate performance will modify the judgement of the group and increases confidence in any recommended change to the pass mark.
- After discussions the group agreed that the pass mark should be changed to 450 equated score.
- The recommendation was considered at the November 2025 Part 1 Examination Board meeting. It was noted that the correct standard setting process had been followed and that careful analysis had been undertaken. The group had discussed the matter in detail before making a recommendation. The Board agreed to support the recommendation to change the equated passing score to 450.

*MRCP(UK) Assessment Data Analytics
November 2025*