



Diploma in Geriatric Medicine FAQs

What does the examination comprise?

a) Part 1 Written Examination:

There are 100 'best of five' questions covering the published syllabus of geriatric medicine, community care of older people and problem-solving of clinical and social dilemmas. The questions are not designed to catch candidates out nor to test obscure aspects of geriatric medicine. Three hours will be allowed for the examination. For information on sample questions please refer to the PDF document below. Please note: Owing to recent changes in the examination format, there are currently no publications with past examination questions available.

b) Part 2 Clinical Examination:

A four-station standardised examination similar to an Objective Standardised Clinical Examination (OSCE). Assessments include history-taking, communication skills and ethics, clinical examining skills with a selection of patients who may exhibit clinical signs or symptoms, and discussion of the diagnosis and management.

What does the DGM examination seek to assess?

a) Part 1 Written Examination:

An understanding of medical knowledge as it relates to the physiology of ageing and the diagnosis and treatment of the older person. It includes clinical areas that are commonly seen in this speciality such as falls, incontinence, pressure ulceration and osteoporosis, as well as common problems encountered in old-age psychiatry such as depression, delirium and dementia.

b) Part 2 Clinical Examination:

- a friendly and courteous attitude to patients
- the taking of an adequate and appropriate history, including the social situation, involving relatives and/or carers when present
- the clear eliciting of clinical signs, and their interpretation
- the formulation of a problem list and differential diagnosis
- the presentation of a management plan that takes account of the particular needs of the older person
- familiarity with rating scales commonly used in geriatric practice in the UK.

How is the DGM examined?

The written examination is marked using an optical scanner and the process is overseen by the DGM Board.

For the clinical examination, each clinical centre has eight examiners. Candidates are assessed by different pairings of examiners across four clinical stations. Again, the process is overseen by the DGM Board.

Where are the examinations held?

The written examination is normally held in London at the Royal College of Physicians. The clinical examination is held in various clinical centres within the UK (such as Bournemouth, Cardiff, Exeter, Newcastle, Liverpool). There are usually two or three centres in operation at each sitting. You will be informed of the details of the examination venue, approximately 2–3 weeks before the examination date.

When will I receive my results?

a) Candidates will be notified by email when the results for the **written exam** are published on the website approximately four weeks after the examination date. Following this results letters will be emailed to the candidate's email address.

b) Results for the **clinical examination** are published and emailed to candidates approximately four weeks after the examination date.