

Common Registration Assessment mark awarding algorithm

For 2026 sittings

The **Board of Assessors** (hereinafter 'the Board') primary purpose is to protect patients and the public by ensuring that the standard of the Common Registration Assessment (hereinafter 'the assessment') is maintained at the appropriate level: this will take precedence over all other considerations. The purpose of applying this mark awarding algorithm is to ensure that trainee pharmacists who pass the assessment do so on merit at the required standard to safely enter the register.

The mark awarding process is multi-step and evidence based.

The Board does not know the identity of any trainee pharmacist when awarding or how many times they have attempted to sit the assessment. Some trainee pharmacists will be sitting for the first time, others will be repeat sitters.

The assessment comprises two parts: Part 1 (pharmacy and healthcare calculations) and Part 2 (safe and effective pharmacy care of the public).

Table 1: Stage 1 – review of statistical performance of questions and assessments

Actions	Relevant Common Registration Assessment Regulation(s)
The primary focus of this stage is a review of each question and its associated data. Stage 1(a) – consideration of individual question performance and assessment reliability data (see Appendix 1 for post assessment review process) The Board considers the performance of individual questions, based on metrics provided by the marking contractor. In doing so the Board also considers the performance data for each question and for each assessment part. In addition, the Board considers any issues raised about a question by trainee pharmacists and other interested parties. If there is valid reason for doing so, the Board may agree to: • remove a question • accept more than one answer for a question • remove a question from item response theory (IRT) anchor set <i>This list is not exhaustive</i> Stage 1(b) – review of sitting data provided by the marking contractor (Report 1) This includes: • preliminary pass marks for Part 1 and Part 2 • preliminary pass rates for Part 1 and Part 2 and for the overall assessment • statistical performance data Stage 1(c) – recalculation of results data based on decisions made at stages 1(a)-1(b) The marking contractor will make the necessary amendments to the results data to incorporate the decisions made at stages 1(a)-1(b).	

Table 2: Stage 2 – review of trainee pharmacist performance and associated demographics

Action	Relevant Common Registration Assessment Regulation(s)
At this meeting the Board is provided with Report 2 by the marking contractor. The data presented in Report 2 reflects decisions made by the Board at Stages 1(a)-1(b). This report includes: • raw cut scores and pass marks* for Part 1 and Part 2 • mean % scores, provisional percentage pass rates for Part 1 and Part 2 and for the overall assessment • individual trainee pharmacist performance (identified by unique trainee pharmacist number) Stage 2(a) – consideration of the quality of the sitting and assessment parts The Board will consider available evidence: (i) a report of the operational aspects of the sitting, provided by the GPhC operations team and any external contractor as appropriate; (ii) a report of the statistical performance of Part 1 and Part 2, provided by the marking contractor; and (iii) other relevant evidence. *The standard required to pass the assessment is set periodically using modified Angoff methodology and maintained using IRT.	

Action	Relevant Common Registration Assessment Regulation(s)
Stage 2(b) – statistically determine pass marks Having taken information provided at stage 2(a) into account, the Board will consider whether there is reason to modify the pass mark for Part 1 and/or Part 2 of the assessment to be satisfied that the passing score is at the required performance standard for initial registration.	
Stage 2(c) - recalculation of results data based on decisions made at stage 2(b) The marking contractor makes the necessary amendments to the results data to incorporate any agreed changes to the pass mark for Part 1 and/or Part 2 of the assessment. The assessment pass rate is recalculated and noted for the record.	

Table 3: Stage 3 – awarding marks

Action	Relevant Common Registration Assessment Regulation(s)
Stage 3(a) - awarding passes and fails to trainee pharmacists Trainee pharmacists who have met the pass requirement for both Part 1 and Part 2 of the assessment (as agreed at stage 2(b)) will be awarded a pass. Trainee pharmacists who have not met the pass requirement for both Part 1 and Part 2 of the assessment (as agreed at stage 2(b)) will be awarded a fail.	1.15 To pass the assessment, a trainee pharmacist must achieve the pass mark or greater for Part 1 and for Part 2 within the same sitting. 1.16. Marks from any previous sitting cannot be carried forward to any future sitting.
Stage 3(b) – confirming the marks The Board will conclude the mark awarding process by agreeing that the marks are correct and confirming the pass/fail outcomes. The Chair will confirm this for the record.	1.1 To ensure consistency and integrity, all assessments are developed and moderated by the Board of Assessors (hereinafter ‘the Board’), an independent body appointed by the GPhC and the Society. The Board’s primary purpose is to protect patients and the public by maintaining the assessment at the appropriate standard for safe and effective pharmacy practice at the point of registration. This will take precedence over all other considerations.
Stage 3(c) – recording of final pass marks for Part 1 and Part 2 for communication purposes For clarity of reporting to trainee pharmacists, the mark required to pass each part will be reported to trainee pharmacists to the whole mark equivalent. At this stage, the mark needed to pass Part 1 and Part 2 will be recorded in this format. For purposes of the Board, the corresponding percentage pass mark for each part will be recorded to two decimal places. The Chair will confirm these for the record.	7.1 Great Britain trainee pharmacists will be notified of their individual results by the GPhC, Northern Ireland trainee pharmacists will be notified of their individual results by the Society. Results will include the pass mark for each part, the trainee pharmacist’s mark for each part, and their overall pass or fail outcome.

Appendix 1: Analysing performance data for the Common Registration Assessment

Reporting data set 1 for the Board:

For each part present:

- standard error of measurement (SEM)
- standard deviation
- Cronbach's alpha
- mark boundaries to classify pass fail and borderline
- raw cut score
- provisional passing criteria (as both a mark and a percentage)
- rounded pass mark required to achieve the pass percentage

For each item (question) present:

- correct answer
- facility value for all trainee pharmacists and the borderline facility value
- item-total correlation
- flagging of the item-total correlation if less than 0.1
- performance per quintile, presented as a chart
- correct answer plus full answer response profile as a percentage and number for all answer variations given by over 1% of trainee pharmacists (Part 1)

- percentage spread of all answer choices as a table and chart, with correct answer clearly identified (Part 2 multiple choice)
- percentage of not answered responses for both Part 1 and Part 2
- IRT difficulty
- IRT discrimination
- information at the pass mark if requested
- DIF analysis for anchor items (historic versus current diet performance) if requested

For each part present:

- raw pass rate as a percentage and as a number
- bar chart showing mark distribution

Reporting data set 2 for the Board

Results data above to be updated with decisions made at the post assessment stage, which may include:

- removal of questions
- accepting more than one correct answer to a question
- removal of an item as an IRT anchor
- recalculation of cut score
- recalculation of IRT ability “passing standard”

Presented for each sitting:

- updated sections from Report 1 based on decisions at stages 1(a) – 1(b)
- for each part - pass rate as a percentage and as a number

- overall – pass and fail rate as percentages and as numbers
- results data for each trainee pharmacist (identified by trainee pharmacist number):
 - mark and percentage score for each part and overall
 - whether their mark for each part falls within the pass or fail criteria
 - whether they have passed or failed the sitting overall