

Common Registration Assessment - FAQ

This FAQ provides a summary of frequently asked questions about the Common Registration Assessment (CRA), outlining key information on its format, content and administration.

Key resources and important documents

All information about the CRA is available on the [Sitting the CRA webpage](#). This page includes the following key resources and important documents:

- **CRA regulations**: These outline the rules and requirements of the assessment for all trainee pharmacists.
- **CRA specification and permitted items**: These explain the structure, format, on-screen functionality, and delivery of the assessment, as well as the permitted items during the assessment, including approved calculator models.
- **CRA framework**: The framework outlines the topics, skills, and knowledge areas that may be assessed, with all assessment content directly derived from it.
- **Example questions**: These are provided by the Board of Assessors to support familiarisation with the assessment, demonstrating the style, format, and level of challenge. There are example questions available for both parts of the CRA. **Part 1** includes examples of each calculation specified in the CRA framework, while **Part 2** includes a range of questions across clinical therapeutics and, law, governance and regulation. An additional [example questions guide](#) gives further details on functionality and provides answers. There is a short [walkthrough video](#) demonstrating the example questions and the functionality of the on-screen tools.

Assessment structure and standards

Q: Will independent prescribing be assessed?

A: Learning outcome 37 in the initial education and training 2021 standards is not currently assessed in the CRA. For further detail, see page 2 of the CRA framework, section 'Pharmacist Independent Prescribing'.

Q: What is the weighting of clinical topics?

A: There are no weightings or fixed numbers attached to the three content areas outlined in the CRA framework. The frequency of questions reflects UK disease prevalence, prescribing trends, and key patient safety risks in pharmacy practice.

Q: Do I have to pass Part 1 and Part 2 in the same sitting?

A: Yes, a trainee pharmacist must achieve the pass mark or greater for Part 1 and for Part 2 within the same sitting. For further detail, see pages 2 - 3 in the CRA regulations, section 'the assessment'.

Q: How is the pass mark set?

A: The CRA is set at the standard required for safe and effective person-centred care and professional practice in the UK, at the point of registration. The GPhC uses recognised methodology and psychometrics to ensure reliability, validity and fairness. The standard is consistently applied across sittings. The GPhC does not set target pass rates. Each correct answer scores one mark, with no negative marking. There are no mandatory questions required to pass.

Assessment content

Q: Which classes of medicines are covered in the CRA?

A: All classes of human medicines used in UK pharmacy practice, including prescription-only medicines (POM), pharmacy medicines (P), and general sale list (GSL) medicines. Any of these may be assessed across the three content areas: clinical therapeutics; law, governance and regulation; and pharmacy and healthcare calculations.

Q: Are legal topics assessed in the CRA?

A: Yes. For further detail, see page 5 of the CRA framework, section 'Law, governance and regulation'.

Q: Are recently published guidelines included in the assessment?

A: Trainee pharmacists are expected to be up to date on the day of their assessment sitting in the same way that they are expected to be up to date in practice. Questions will reflect up-to-date published guidance and law.

Q: How are regional differences in policy and services addressed within the assessment?

A: The assessment is delivered across the four UK countries. Questions in the assessment are not country specific. Questions are written to ensure they do not disadvantage trainee pharmacists based on differences in statutory or professional practice. Trainees will not be assessed on differences in national policy or local arrangements for the delivery of NHS services.

Q: What is a time-critical medicine?

A: Whether a medicine is time-critical depends on clinical and contextual factors and should be determined using professional judgement. All relevant information needed to support this decision will be provided within the question.

Q: Will medicines be described by generic ingredients or brand?

A: Generic (non-proprietary) medicine names are used unless there is a valid reason to use a brand name. This may include clinical need or where a brand name is more appropriate. Where a brand name is used, the generic name will be included in brackets. Full medicine names, including salts, will be used where specified in the BNF/BNFC. For further detail on how medicines are described, see the example questions.

Calculations

Q: Can I use commas in calculation answers?

A: For each question, enter your answer using numbers only. You may use a decimal point (full stop) and commas; no other characters are accepted.

Whole numbers: Commas may be used for numbers over 999 but are optional (e.g. 200000 or 200,000).

Decimal numbers: Use a decimal point to show fractional part of a number. The use of a comma will result in the answer being marked incorrect. For example, for twenty-two point three, enter '22.3'.

Q: How will I know when to round and give the correct number of decimal places?

A: Trainee pharmacists are expected to apply their knowledge to determine when and how to round during calculations. Where required, specific instructions for rounding the final answer will be provided within the question. For further detail, see the Part 1 example questions.

Q: Will formulae be provided?

A: For further detail, see CRA framework page 8 section 'Part 1: Pharmacy and healthcare calculations'.

Q: What type of calculations are in Part 1?

A: See page 8 (table 5) of the CRA framework for the full list of Part 1 calculations.

Q: Are displacement volumes covered in the CRA?

A: Yes. Displacement volume calculations are assessed; they reflect an important pharmaceutical principle.

Assessment interface and functionality

Q: What functionality is available in the Surpass platform during the assessment?

A: The Surpass platform includes tools to support navigation and time management. Guidance on platform functionality, including permitted keyboard shortcuts, is available in the navigation video on the GPhC website and in the specification and example question guide. The example question functionality directly replicates the functionality on the day of the assessment. Note that Ctrl + F is not available during the assessment.

Q: Are the questions in the same order for each trainee pharmacist?

A: All trainee pharmacists receive the same assessment questions; however, the order in which these questions appear onscreen varies from one trainee pharmacist to another. This means each trainee pharmacist sees the questions in a randomised order, while the content remains identical for everyone.

Q: What should I know about resources and images in the assessment?

A: Resources will be provided through the Surpass test platform PDF viewer in selected questions across the assessment. For further detail, see CRA framework page 7 section 'Resources'. Some questions may also include images (e.g. clinical photographs). See the Part 2 example questions for examples of how images may be used within questions.

Assessment planning and applying

Q: Which areas of the CRA framework are poorly answered?

A: After each sitting, the Board of Assessors publishes feedback highlighting topics trainees found challenging. This is available in the [preparing to sit the assessment section](#) of the webpage.

Q: How do I apply for a reasonable adjustment?

A: Details are available on the GPhC website under requesting a reasonable adjustment. This includes when to apply and what information you need to provide.

Assessment day arrangements

Q: Can I change my test centre?

A: The GPhC allocate trainee pharmacists to the nearest available test centre based on their myGPhC address. Subject to availability, there is a limited window to change test centre using the scheduler account.

Q: What time should I arrive at the test centre?

A: To help you prepare for the day, read the guide to sitting the assessment which outlines what to expect on the assessment day. This includes arrival times, timings of the day including breaks between papers.

Q: What happens if there are technical issues on assessment day?

A: Minor technical issues may occur but are unlikely to disadvantage you. Report any issues immediately to an invigilator, who will resolve and log them for notification to the GPhC. These situations are normal in computer-based assessments and are unlikely to be grounds for appeal unless you are significantly affected. Assessment content is preloaded onto your workstation, so an internet connection is not required during the assessment. Systems are in place to securely save and recover your answers, and robust checks ensure all responses are received.

Q: Is there paper in the assessment room?

A: You will be provided with 9 sheets of paper and a pen for each part of the assessment. All materials must be returned at the end of each part and cannot be taken out of the room. You must write your trainee number on each sheet. Additional paper can be requested if needed. Whiteboards are not permitted.

Q: What are the calculator rules, and can I bring a spare calculator?

A: Trainee pharmacists may use the on-screen calculator or bring a physical calculator. A spare calculator is permitted. For full details, see the CRA specification and permitted items.

Q: What can I bring into the assessment room, and will there be somewhere to store my belongings?

A: Only items on the permitted items list may be kept on your person or at your workstation during the assessment. Exceptions apply only to items approved in advance through the reasonable adjustments process. Each test centre will advise on the designated area to store your belongings during the assessment.

Q: Can I bring earplugs into the assessment?

A: Earplugs can be provided by the test centre.

Q: Does my ID need to have the same address as the one registered with the GPhC?

Your photographic ID is used to verify your first and last name. Address details are not part of the security checks.

Marking, results and registration

Q: When will I receive my results?

A: Key dates are on the GPhC webpage. This includes when results are released, application windows, adjustment deadlines and test centre scheduling information. You will receive a notification by midday on results day to check your myGPhC account via the communication preference you selected when you signed up to myGPhC.

Where can I get further information about the CRA?

Further information can be found on the [GPhC sitting the common registration webpage](#). You can contact the GPhC about the assessment by emailing regexam@pharmacyregulation.org or calling **0203 713 8000**.

The GPhC is on the following platforms:

Instagram [@thegphc](#)

Facebook.com/The GPhC

LinkedIn.com/company/general-pharmaceutical-council