

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SAUDI BOARD PROGRAM

Saudi Board Part I Examination 2017

Objectives:

- Saudi Board Part I Examination is designed to assess basic and clinical knowledge relevant to the specialty of Anatomic Pathology.
- Passing the Saudi Board Part I Examination in Anatomic Pathology is a prerequisite for any candidate to proceed to the senior level of training as determined by the specialty.

Eligibility:

- Current registration in the Saudi Board Anatomic Pathology Training Program.
- Successful completion of the first nine months of the first year of the residency.
- Completion of the registration form for the Saudi Board Part I Examination.

Rules:

- The Saudi Board Part I specialty examination will be held at least once each year on a date published on the SCFHS website.
- If the percentage of failures in the examination is 50% excluding R1 candidates, the exam shall be repeated after 6 months. Upon the approval of the General Secretary and at the discretion of the Scientific Examination Committee (SEC), the exam may be repeated even if failure is less than 50% with a maximum number of two exams per academic year.
- Candidates are allowed a maximum of three attempts to pass Saudi Board Part I specialty examination and an exceptional attempt may be granted once during the whole training period upon the recommendation of the Scientific council of the specialty and the approval of the executive council, before being dismissed from the program.
- Passing Saudi Board Part I specialty examination is a prerequisite for any candidate to proceed to the senior level of training as determined by the specialty.

Examination Format:

- A Saudi Board Part I specialty written examination shall consist of one paper with minimum 120 single best answer (SBA) MCQs. Ten unscored items can be added for pretesting purposes. Each question will have four options to choose from (A, B, C, D).
- Questions will be K2 (reasoning and application) and K1 (recall and comprehension).

- Clinical presentation questions include history, clinical finding and case approach. Health maintenance questions; includes health promotion, disease prevention, risk factors assessment, and prognosis.
- The examination content cover basic and clinical topics relevant to Anatomic Pathology including clinical presentation, pathologic findings, case approach, ancillary studies, quality management, and safety as well as research, EBM, professionalism and medical ethics see blueprint below.

Examination Conduct and Duration:

The exam duration is 2½ hours and will be delivered as a computer based test when available, otherwise paper and pencil.

Passing Score:

- The passing score is 65%. However if the percentage of candidates passing the exam is less than 70%, the passing score can be lowered by one mark at a time aiming at achieving 70% passing rate or a score of 60% whichever comes first. Under NO circumstances, may the score can be reduced below 60%.
- No compensation is allowed between the annual Continuous Evaluation Report (CER) and the Saudi Board Part I Specialty Examination passing scores.

Score Report:

- All score reports shall go through a post-hoc item analysis before being approved by both the Assistant of General Secretary for Postgraduate studies of SCFHS and SEC, and then issued by the SCFHS within two weeks of the examination.
- SEC shall provide the scientific council for the specialty with results feedback represent the performance of all residents based on each section of the exam according to the test blueprint, and based on their training center if possible.

Exemption:

The SCFHS at present has no reciprocal arrangement with respect to this examination or qualification by any other college or board, in any specialty. Therefore, exemption from the examination due to the completion of any other previous postgraduate studies/examination has to be approved by the scientific council.

Blueprint outlines (Saudi Board Part I Examination)

No.	Sections	%
1	Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology	50-55
2	General and Systematic Pathology	30-35
3	Laboratory techniques including: (Electronic microscopy, Quality and Safety, stains and ancillary techniques)	8-10
4	Introduction to Clinical Research for Residents, Professionalism & Ethics Education Handbook for Residents	8-10
Total		100%

***Note:**

Blueprint distributions of the examination may differ up to +/-3% in each category.

Suggested References for Saudi Board Part I

1. Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease. 9th Edition
2. Rosai and Ackerman's Surgical Pathology. 10th Edition
3. WHO classification Series. IARC
4. Cytology: Diagnostic Principles and Clinical Correlates, by Edmund Cibas and Barbara Ducatman
5. Manual of Surgical Pathology, by Susan Lester
6. College of American Pathologist quality manual

Research and Ethics References:

- 1- Introduction to clinical Research For residents
- 2- Professionalism & Ethics Education Handbook for Residents

It can be downloaded from the Saudi Commission's website:

<http://www.scfhs.org.sa/en/MESPS/TrainingProgs/EduMatActiv/>

***Note:**

This list is intended for use as a study aid only. SCFHS does not intend the list to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are the exam questions necessarily taken solely from these sources.

Example Questions

EXAMPLES OF K1 QUESTIONS

K1 Questions: Simple cognition, with recall, comprehension or the identification of a condition.

Question 1

How often should the staining quality of cytologic smears be checked?

- A. Daily
- B. Weekly
- C. Monthly
- D. Bi-weekly

Question 2

Which one of the following is best viewed by transmission electron microscopy for high magnification?

- A. Surface structure of fixed cells
- B. Internal structure of fixed cells
- C. Internal structure of live, motile cells
- D. Surface membranes of live, motile cells

EXAMPLES OF K2 QUESTIONS

K2 Higher cognition, for example with data analysis and reasoning with the case findings to decide or to establish a plan with.

Question 1

A 30 year-old man was found to have splenomegaly and pancytopenia (see reports).

Bone marrow biopsy: plump macrophages with a characteristic cytoplasmic appearance of crumpled tissue paper.

Genetic studies: mutation in the gene encoding glucocerebrosidase.

What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Gaucher disease
- B. Tay-Sachs disease
- C. Mucopolysaccharidosis
- D. Niemann-Pick syndrome

Question 2

A 42 year-old male has bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever for three days. He is febrile and has abdominal pain (see reports).

Stool sample: occult blood.

Colonoscopy: marked mucosal erythema with focal ulceration and inflammatory polyps from the rectum to the ascending colon.

Colonic biopsy: broad based flask shaped ulcer. The ulcer does not penetrate the muscularis propria. There are macrophages like cells clustered at the luminal surface and within the debris. Their cytoplasm is abundant and vacuolated and contains ingested red blood cells.

What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Vibrio cholera
- B. Giardia lamblia
- C. Salmonella enterica
- D. Entamoeba histolytica

EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH AND ETHICS QUESTIONS

Ethics:

Question 1

A surgeon with a busy operation list was told by his assistant that the next operation is to remove the patient's right kidney. After the operation it was found that it was the left kidney that should have been removed.

Which term best describes this event?

- A. Sentinel event
- B. Adverse event
- C. Unintentional error
- D. Medical negligence

Research:

Question 2

A study was conducted to evaluate the benefits of an intensive exercise program in reducing subsequent mortality among persons who survive after an initial myocardial infarction. Patients were randomized to receive either usual care (controls) or the exercise program. Among 100 controls, 50 died within the three year follow-up period, compared with 30 deaths among the 100 patients on the exercise program.

What was the relative risk of death for the exercise group compared to controls?

- A. 0.30
- B. 0.60
- C. 1.67
- D. 3.33