Physician Associate Registration Assessment

Knowledge-Based Assessment Blueprint

Physician Associate Registration Assessment (PARA) Knowledge-Based Assessment (KBA) has been designed for candidates who have completed the requirements of the Physician Associate Curriculum (2023)[1]. The full list of areas that may be covered as part of the examination's blueprint can be found at the end of this document.

The KBA comprises 200 multiple choice ('best-of-five' or single best answer format) single best answer questions, which are split into four papers, each containing 50 questions. Candidates have 1 hour to complete each paper, with all papers being completed during a single day. The papers are sat online at an appropriate location (a candidate's home or office, for example).

Candidates' overall results are calculated as an aggregated total of the points awarded in both papers. For the exam and subsequent result processing, the four papers are considered a single assessment, with candidates receiving a single overall mark for the KBA in its entirety.

The marking system is as follows:

> One mark (+1) is awarded for each correct answer

> No mark is deducted for an incorrect answer (ie there is no negative marking)

> No mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered

> The pass mark for the KBA is calculated using the Angoff method of standard setting.

> One standard error of measurement (SEM) is then added to this total exam score to generate the total pass mark for each KBA[2].

> To achieve a pass in the KBA candidates must achieve or exceed this overall pass mark.

---

[1] Until December 2026 it will also assess candidates who have completed the requirements of the Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant.

[2] For clarity, the working process will be that a non-integer (whole number) total pass mark will be rounded up to the next integer.

The distribution of questions across tasks and specialties for each PARA KBA are selected as shown below:

Table 1: Exam composition by specialty	
Specialty	**Percentage of questions in KBA**
Acute and emergency care (inc. toxicology)	7
Cardiovascular	8
Child and adolescent health	5
Clinical haematology	3
Dermatology	4
Ear, nose and throat (ENT)	3
Endocrine and metabolic	6
Gastrointestinal	7
Healthcare service and structure and legal framework inc. ethics	2
Health promotion	2
Infection (inc. sexually transmitted infections)	5
Medicine of older people	3
Mental health	6
Musculoskeletal	5
Neurosciences	6
Obstetrics and gynaecology	5
Ophthalmology	2
Renal and urology	5
Respiratory	6
Surgery	6
Palliative and end of life care	2
Research and evidence-based medicine (i.e. statistics)	2

Table 2: Exam composition by task	
Specialty	**Percentage of questions in KBA**
Diagnosis: Choice of investigations	20
Diagnosis: Interpretation	20
Clinical management	40
Biomedical knowledge (inc. anatomy and physiology, pathology and microbiology)	20

Please note that the above is a guide, and the actual number of questions relating to each specialty area and/or task may vary in each KBA.