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The Society of Apothecaries of London

Guide to

The Diploma in Genitourinary Medicine

(Dip G-U Med)

Incorporating the Regulations and Curriculum

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Notice of future amendments to the Guide (incorporating the Regulations and Curriculum) and revisions following publication of this version.

The Dip G-U Med examination will continue to change to reflect developments in medicine. While every attempt has been made to ensure that this version of the Dip G-U Med Examination Regulations and Curriculum is accurate, further changes to the Dip G-U Med examination, the Regulations and closing dates may be implemented during this time. Candidates should refer to the Society of Apothecaries website (www.apothecaries.org) for the most up-to-date information, and where any such changes will be detailed. In order that candidates are fully briefed about the status of any proposed changes, they are advised to check the Society website regularly.

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Date and place of the examination	3
Examination timetable and fees	3
Regulations for admission to the examination	3/4
The examination	4/5/6
Review and appeal procedures	6
OSCE	7
Written BO5 Paper	7
Marking system	7/8
Curriculum	8
Links to GUM 2022 Curriculum & GUM Syllabus	8

INTRODUCTION

In 1973 The Court of the Society instituted an examination leading to the award of a Diploma in Venereology. This Diploma, now known as the Diploma in Genitourinary Medicine, covers sexually transmitted infections and related conditions and is open to registered medical practitioners who have worked in a Department of Genitourinary Medicine, Venereology or Sexual Health, or who have other relevant experience.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION

The Dip GUM examination is held once a year. The BO5 examination is conducted online once a year via a specialist platform with live remote invigilation. The OSCE Examination is held once a year at Apothecaries' Hall (for address refer to front cover). The OSCE and Bo5 components of the examination have now been uncoupled and a candidate can sit either both components or one component in any given year in any order that they choose. A candidate who sits and passes one component only, can then bank that pass for a period of two years. The OSCE and the Bo5 exam are normally scheduled approximately 6-8 weeks apart for organisation and administration purposes.

EXAMINATION TIMETABLE AND FEES

Please refer to the **Administrative Guidance for Candidates** (available online at www.apothecaries.org).

REGULATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

1. The examination is exclusive to medical graduates, who must be registered with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom and have held a qualification for **at least three years** to practise Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.
2. Medical graduates who have qualified as follows may be admitted to the examination with the approval of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee if they have complied with all the other requirements of the Regulations:
 - a. Within the United Kingdom (UK), who are no longer registered with the General Medical Council in the UK but who are registered with an equivalent National Medical Council;

Or

 - b. A qualification to practise Nursing and be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) of the United Kingdom;

Or

 - c. Outside the UK, who are not registered with the General Medical Council in the UK but who are registered with an equivalent National Medical Council.
3. Candidates must produce satisfactory evidence that, after qualification, they have **at the time of application**:
 - a. Completed *three months* full-time supervised experience, or the part-time equivalent, in a level 3 Integrated Sexual Health Department **AND** have satisfactorily attended the BASHH course, modules 1-4;

OR

 - b. Completed six months full-time supervised experience, or the part-time equivalent, in a Level 3 Integrated Sexual Health Department
4. The examination can be taken by registered nurses / midwives, who must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of the United Kingdom and have held a qualification for **at least three years** to practise nursing or midwifery.
5. Nursing or Midwifery candidates must produce satisfactory evidence that, after qualification they have **at the time of application**:

- a. Successfully completed a master's level award (postgraduate diploma or master's degree) in advanced clinical practice or related subject **or** be recognised as an advanced clinical practitioner by the Centre for Advancing Practice **or** be credentialed by the Royal College of Nursing as an Advanced Level Nursing Practitioner;

and

- b. A non-medical prescribing qualification, which is recorded with the nursing and midwifery council;

and

- c. Have successfully completed a module or course in health assessment / advanced clinical assessment;

and

- d. Completed at least three years current full-time experience, or the part-time equivalent, working in a Level 3 Integrated Sexual Health Department at an advanced practice level (equivalent to ST4 in 2016 curriculum or ST5 under the 2022 curriculum).

It is highly recommended that the nurse/midwifery candidate undertake the BASHH theory course modules 1 to 4 in preparation for the examination.

This will need to be verified by the Nursing or Midwifery candidate's line manager

- 6. Other applications will be considered on merit.
- 7. Precision in communication is essential. The examination is conducted in English. Candidates must have demonstrable skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking in English that enable effective communication in clinical practice with patients and colleagues, as set out in Domain 3 of the GMC's *Good Medical Practice (2024)*.
- 8. Available entry options:
 - OSCE and BO5 First time entry
 - OSCE first time entry
 - BO5 first time entry
 - OSCE and BO5 Re-entry
 - OSCE Re-entry
 - BO5 Re-entry

The fee must have been received by the closing date published in the **Administrative Guidance for Candidates** (available online at www.apothecaries.org). In order for applications to be processed, on application, candidates **must** provide the email address of the educational supervisor who is able to confirm that the candidate meets the entry criteria.

- 9. If applicable, Form Q (Application for Reasonable Adjustments) must have been received by no later than 4 weeks before the application deadline for the examination, published in the **Administrative Guidance for Candidates**.

THE EXAMINATION

- 10. The examination will consist of:
 - **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**: comprising 12 OSCE stations each lasting 10 minutes; and

- **Online BO5 Written paper:** lasting 3 hours and containing Best of Five (BO5) questions only

Note: The two parts may be undertaken separately and candidates will be informed of their pass/fail results. The Diploma will only be awarded when both parts of the exam have been successfully completed.

The Diploma of GUM is blueprinted to the Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) curriculum 2022, available on the JRCPTB website (include link). For ease of reference, Appendix A, at the end of this document, details the GUM Syllabus from the 2022 curriculum, parts of which the Dip GUM is examining. The critical progression point (CPP) for passing the Dip GUM on the 2016 curriculum is at the end of year 2 (ST4) for a higher specialist trainee (HST) in GUM. However, for the 2022 curriculum it is at the end of year 3 (ST6). Setting their CPP a year later means that HSTs on the 2022 curriculum are not disadvantaged by needing to take time out of GUM training to focus on internal medicine attachments. However, in order to examine knowledge equitably between the 2016 and 2022 curricula, the examination standard set by the Dip GUM is at the level of a competent HST at the end of year 2 of their training i.e. (ST4 on the 2016 and ST5 on the 2022 curriculum). Those applicants who are not at that level may lack some of the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to pass the examination. Experience should be current so that candidates are fully aware of any recent developments.

11. In order to pass the examination, candidates must pass both parts of the exam. A “pass” in one part of the exam may be retained for a maximum of 2 years, whilst a candidate may re-enter the exam to complete the single outstanding part. A “pass” in only one part of the exam will become invalid after 2 years have elapsed without successful completion of both parts. Re-entry to the whole exam is not time restricted.
12. Candidates who have successfully completed both parts of the exam are entitled to use the letters Dip G-U Med after their names.
13. The examination fees will be determined from time to time by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee and published in the **Administrative Guidance for Candidates**. Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date will forfeit a proportion of the fee.
14. Candidates will be issued with an OSCE admission document once a place for the examination has been confirmed. This must be produced on the examination day, along with an official form of photographic identification. Candidates will be contacted directly by TestReach with full details and instructions to sit the BO5 examination.
15. The Written paper lasting 3 hours is now conducted fully on-line. Candidates sit the examination using their own computer equipment and access the examination remotely via a specialist platform. Live remote invigilation is provided using a webcam and strict guidelines are followed, replicating the situation that would normally have occurred had candidates been present in the examination room.
16. On the days of the examination, candidates are forbidden to bring books, papers, calculators, mobile phones or any other electronic aid into the online examination room environment. It is strictly forbidden for candidates to talk to, or to attempt in any other way to communicate with each other whilst a written examination is in progress.
17. Candidates who present themselves for OSCE examinations after the start time stated in the admission document will not be admitted.

18. Candidates who present themselves for written examinations after the start time stated, will be admitted if they arrive within 15 minutes of this times, but may not be admitted if they arrive thereafter. In any case, candidates will forfeit the time lost. In exceptional circumstances, where all candidates are affected by delays, the examination timings may be amended.
19. The Academic Quality and Standards Committee reserves the right to refuse to admit to the examination, or to proceed with the examination, any candidate who infringes a regulation or who refuses to comply with the reasonable request of an officer of the Society and the fee may be forfeited.
20. Candidates' completed examination scripts become the property of, and will be retained by, the Society. Under no circumstances will they be available for further study.

REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

21. The processes outlined in the paragraphs below will be dealt with according to the Examination Review and Appeal Procedures, which are available to download on the website. In no circumstances should a candidate make representations directly to an examiner.
22. The stages of the review and appeal procedures are as follows:
 - a. Feedback – first, automatic stage
 - b. Review – second, optional stage;
 - c. Appeal – third, optional stage.
23. The processes outlined below will be dealt with according to the Examination Review and Appeal Procedure, which is available on the website. In no circumstances should a candidate make representations directly to an examiner.
24. The stages of the review and appeal procedures (which are on the examination area of the website) are as follows:
 - a. Feedback – first, compulsory stage;
 - b. Review – second, optional stage;
 - c. Appeal – third, optional stage.
25. **Feedback.** The feedback process operates through the Registrar. Feedback on examination performance will be provided automatically to all candidates.
26. This information should be read in conjunction with the explanation of the marking scheme and the standard that is required to achieve a pass in the examination contained in this Guide.
27. The Registrar can also relay a transcript of additional general advice directly to the candidate, if such advice is available. This is advice generated by the Examination Panel, which had been agreed at the time of the examination. The Registrar's role is to distribute the prepared information but not to interpret it.
28. There is no charge to the candidate for this service.
29. **Review (optional).** A request by a candidate for a review of a paper must be received in writing within 28 days of the date of the notification informing the candidate of the result and feedback. There is a fee of £175 for a review.

30. **Appeal (optional).** An appeal to the Society's Academic Quality and Standards Committee is open to a candidate who is not satisfied with the decision of the Examination Panel, feedback or the Review Panel. In accordance with the Society's Examination Review and Appeal Procedures, available to download, the detailed grounds on which the appeal is made must be stated. The appeal must be received in writing within 28 days of the date of the notification informing the candidate of the examination result or the review. It is not necessary to seek a review before appealing. There is a fee of £250 for an appeal.
31. If the appellant is dissatisfied with the report of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee Appeal Tribunal and wishes to make an appeal to the Court of Assistants, this should be communicated to the Registrar within 28 days of the date of the notification informing the candidate of the decision of the Appeal Tribunal.

OSCE

32. The examination will take the form of 12 stations. It may be necessary to include extra 'rest' stations if candidate numbers require them; candidates will not be asked questions nor marked for these stations. On occasions, written information may be provided at a rest station for "reading in" in preparation for the following station.
33. The stations will test candidates on technical knowledge, clinical skills, clinical problem solving, clinical examination and management and counselling techniques. Examiners will be present at all stations and use will be made of actors and counsellors, who will also be involved in assessing candidates. Candidates must pass 8 out of the 12 stations to pass the OSCE.
34. Candidates will receive a further briefing on the day of the OSCE.
35. On rare occasions, the performance of a candidate during the OSCE examination may give cause for concern to one or more examiners. In this instance, the Society would communicate with the candidate's Educational Supervisor about any concerns, which would allow an opportunity for any training issues to be addressed.

WRITTEN PAPER

36. The paper will consist of 120 Best of Five (BO5) questions only. The examination will be conducted via a specialist online platform with live remote invigilation.
37. Example questions are given in the **Administrative Guidance for Candidates** to show the style and format of questions.

MARKING SYSTEM

38. The Dip G-U Med examination is criterion referenced to the current nationally acceptable standard as determined by the Examiners.
39. Before the examination, the Dip G-U Med Examination Panel assesses the difficulty of the questions against the level of knowledge expected of candidates using a standard procedure such as the modified Angoff method.
40. All judgements by the standard setters are then analysed and a criterion-referenced pass mark is established. As a result of the standard setting, the pass mark and pass rate can vary from one examination to the next, although the standard required remains the same.

41. The Examination may include pre- and post-test questions (trial questions that are used for research purposes only). A small number of pre-test questions may appear in any paper. Responses to them do not count towards a candidate's final score.

CURRICULUM

42. The examination is mapped to the GUM, HIV and Epidemiology & Public Health competencies of the Specialty Training Curriculum for Genitourinary Medicine 2022 which was approved by the General Medical Council on 9th April, 2022 with an implementation date of 1st August 2022, issued by The Joint Royal College of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB).

Links

Links to the new syllabus for our 2022 curriculum, from the JRCPTB website: [GUM Specialty Syllabus 2022.pdf \(jrcptb.org.uk\)](https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/GUM%20Specialty%20Syllabus%202022.pdf)

Appendix A - [GUM 2022 Curriculum](#)

Appendix B - [GUM 2022 Syllabus](#)