THE MEMBERSHIP EXAMINATION

Panel of Examiners

J. W. Affleck, M. W. Annear, I. R. C. Batchelor, D. Bennett, R. H. Cawley, P. H. Connell, J. E. Cooper, A. H. Crisp, S. Crown, D. Russell Davis, K. Davison, H. V. Dicks, J. J. Fleminger, M. G. Gelder, T. C. Gibbens, J. L. Gibbons, J. G. Gibson, M. Hamilton, E. H. Hare, J. A. Harrington, W. A. Heaton-Ward, J. Hinton, J. G. Howells, J. T. Hutchinson, I. M. Ingram, F. A. Jenner, D. W. Kay, W. I. N. Kessel, D. M. Leiberman, A. D. Leigh, I. Leveson, D. W. Liddell, W. A. Lishman, R. C. MacGillivray, P. G. MacGrath, A. K. M. Macrae, B. Mandelbrote, M. Markowe, W. M. Millar, A. B. Monro, J. N. P. Moore, G. O'Gorman, J. D. W. Pearce, D. A. Pond, F. Post, J. B. Randell, B. W. Richards, T. F. Rodger, Sir M. Roth, P. Sainsbury, P. D. Scott, A. Shapiro, M. Shepherd, M. Sim, E. T. O. Slater, E. Stengel, F. H. Stone, A. C. Tait, C. Tetley, R. W. Tibbetts, G. C. Timbury, W. L. Tonge, P. H. Tooley, R. F. Tredgold, M. G. Valentine, H. J. Walton, W. Warren.

Dates of Examinations

The examinations will be held in London, Birmingham and Edinburgh as follows:

Preliminary Test	19th March 1973
	24th September 1973
Membership Examination	
Written	30th April 1973
Orals	Week beginning 28th May 1973
Written	29th October 1973
Orals	Week beginning 26th November 1973

Closing Dates for Receipt of Applications

Preliminary Test	
March Examination	19th January 1973
September Examination	24th July 1973
Exemption Preliminary Test and Entry to April 1973 Membership Examination	14th February 1973
Exemption Preliminary Test and Part(s) April 1973 Membership Examination	15th January 1973
October Membership Examination	31st July 1973

Please note that after 15th June 1973 no exemptions from the preliminary test or parts of the Membership Examination will be granted.

Information Relating to the Examination and Preliminary Test

1. Candidates for the Membership Examination, as distinct from the Preliminary Test, must furnish evidence in a prescribed form to show that they have had not less than three years' experience in such general professional training in psychiatry as the Court of Electors may approve as suitable for the purpose.

Applications must be accompanied by statements from two sponsors who shall normally be Members or Fellows of the College. The candidate shall have worked with each of such sponsors for at least six months and normally with at least one of them within the two years preceding the application. Candidates may submit a list of their publications, if any. In exceptional cases where one of the sponsors is not a member of the College the application shall be referred to the Court of Electors.

2. The sponsors shall, if requested, report in answer to confidential enquiries made to them by the Court of Electors which shall satisfy itself that the character, ability, training and experience of the applicant is such that he/she qualifies for admission to the Examination for Membership.

3. An applicant may give the names of not more than two other persons willing to act as referees. The Court of Electors may make confidential enquiries, at their discretion, from the applicant's referees.

4. The Examination for Membership will normally be held twice yearly and at times which will be advertised (probably during April and October). Candidates will be required to have passed, or be exempt from the Preliminary Test (See paragraphs 6, 17 and 18).

5. The Examination will be held in such places as the Court of Electors shall from time to time decide.

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Initially these will be London, Birmingham and Edinburgh. Although candidates may be expected to be able to exercise a degree of choice as to where they shall sit the Examination, the Court of Electors will reserve the right to direct any candidate to take the Examination in any of several places where it is normally held.

6. The Preliminary Test will consist of a Multiple Choice Paper consisting of about sixty questions, together with an Essay Type Paper and may be taken after the candidate has undergone one year's approved training.

7. The Multiple Choice Paper may include questions on any of the following:

(i) Structure, functions and pathology of the nervous system with reference to psychiatry (including basic and applied neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, biochemistry and neuroendocrinology, and the action of drugs on the central nervous system).
(ii) Genetics applied to psychiatry.
(iii) Psychology applied to psychiatry (including experimental, clinical, developmental and social psychology and ethology).
(iv) Basic clinical psychopathology—(descriptive, experimental, dynamic and phenomenological).
(v) Methodology of investigations in psychiatry (including elementary statistics and epidemiology).

8. The Essay Type Paper will consist of five questions, only one of which is to be answered. As the object of this paper is to test a candidate's ability to present knowledge, formulate ideas, evaluate evidence, communicate clearly and show critical judgement, the Examiners will give as much weight to this ability as to the assessment of the candidate's factual knowledge.

9. The Membership Examination shall consist of two written papers, clinical and oral examinations.

10. At examinations held in 1972 the first written paper will consist of four compulsory questions which may relate to any field of psychiatry and examine the candidate's knowledge of the Theories and Principles of Psychiatry and Treatment. From 1st January 1973 the first written paper may be a Multiple Choice Questionnaire. (See Note 1.)

11. The second written paper will consist of five sections, each consisting of two questions. Candidates will be required to answer four questions in all. The sections will be concerned with (i) General Psychiatry, (ii) Child Psychiatry, (iii) Mental Subnormality, (iv) Forensic Psychiatry and (v) Psychotherapy and other methods of psychological treatment.

12. At the Clinical Examination candidates will be expected to examine a case or cases which may be drawn from any aspect of clinical psychiatry (general medical or neurological cases having a substantial psychiatric aspect may be included).

13. The Oral Examination will consist of interviews with two pairs of examiners.

14. The fees for the Membership Examinations are published separately.

Exemptions

(This does not apply after 15th June 1973)

15. For *two* years after the foundation date (16th June 1971) of the College, the Court of Electors may grant exemption from a part or parts of the Examination to candidates whose attainments and experience shall in its opinion justify such exemption. Such exemption shall extend so far and only so far as may be prescribed by the Regulations, a draft of which was circulated to all members of the R.M.P.A. but shall in no case include exemption from the Final Oral Examination.

16. For two years after the foundation of the College (16th June 1971) the Court of Electors may grant exemption from the Preliminary Test to applicants who:

(a) hold a Diploma in Psychological Medicine of a University or Conjoint Board of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, or a qualification in psychiatry which the Court of Electors accepts as equivalent thereto; and
(b) have completed not less than one year of such general training in psychiatry as may be approved by the Court of Electors or such other experience as the Court of Electors may accept as equivalent thereto. (See Note II).

17. For two years after the foundation of the College, the Court of Electors may grant exemption from any parts of the Membership Examination (except the final oral examination) where in view of any additional experience, qualifications, publications or attainments of the applicant, the Court of Electors deems such exemption to be appropriate. Applications for exemption shall be made on the prescribed form.

18. Candidates elected to Membership either by Examination or by exemption by the Court of Electors from having to sit any part of the Examination (except the final oral examination) shall be admitted as such on paying the appropriate fee.

Note I The following subjects formerly included in the Preliminary Test will now form part of the Membership Examination:

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(i) Aspects of General Medicine applied to Psychiatry.
(ii) Manifestations of Psychiatric Disorders in Children, Adults and the Aged in their Clinical and Community Aspects.
(iii) Aspects of Epidemiology, Social and Cultural Anthropology relevant to Psychiatry.
(iv) History of Psychiatry.

Note II (i) Exemption granted from the Preliminary Test before 16th June 1973 will remain valid for a period of five years from the date on which the exemption was granted.
(ii) Exceptionally, candidates passing the D.P.M. (Edinburgh) examination held before 16th June 1973, but receiving notification of their results after that date, will be eligible to apply for exemption from the Preliminary Test.
(iii) Exceptionally, candidates passing Part I of the M.Phil.(London) before 16th June 1973 will be elegible to apply for exemption from the Preliminary Test.

SYMPOSIUM ON POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN PSYCHIATRY

This Symposium, under the Chairmanship of the Dean, Prof. K. Rawnsley, was held at The Royal Society of Medicine on Tuesday, 4th July 1972, and formed part of the Summer Meeting of the College.

In opening the Symposium PROF. RAWNSLEY (Welsh National School of Medicine) drew attention to the 1969 Conference on Postgraduate Psychiatric Education which was held in London under the auspices of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and the Association for the Study of Medical Education. He used this as a way of reminding the audience of the R.M.P.A.'s long standing interest in the field of postgraduate education and went on to mention the work of its Education Committee and particularly of the Clinical Tutors Sub-Committee, the promotion of scientific meetings and especially the Maudsley Bequest series of lectures. The Royal College had taken up these strands and was concerned with the progressive formulation of the requirements and desiderata for a sound postgraduate psychiatric education. A new and important feature was the institution of an ongoing detailed assessment on a national scale of the facilities available for providing this education; he was referring here, of course, to the accreditation programme. The other new development which the College had inaugurated was the standardized assessment of the product of the educational process. At the present time this took the form of the Membership examination, but the form of this assessment was something which the College was concerned to keep under review and which it was hoped would in time develop into something more satisfactory.

Prof. Rawnsley laid emphasis on what he believed to be the College's responsibility for organizing and promoting postgraduate training activities throughout the country. This could be done by means of national meetings with a strong educational slant, e.g. the Maudsley Bequest lectures, and more particularly by the development of programmes under the auspices of Regional Divisions of the College. These would provide an important stimulus to the life of the College in the Regions and would also be more accessible to trainees throughout the country. Other ways in which the College might contribute to postgraduate education was by the support of clinical tutors and through close liaison both with University Departments of Psychiatry and the organs of the National Health Service.

He went on to say that these lofty hopes, aspirations and intentions must be examined against the backcloth of the harsh realities of the present time, and referred in particular to the following:
(a) The decline of the absolute numbers of British graduates entering the specialty,
(b) The Department of Health's declared policy for future psychiatric services, in particular the development of district general hospital units and the implications of this for training programmes,
(c) The uncertain basis for the financing of postgraduate education, and
(d) The problem of balancing service and training commitments both for trainers and for trainees.

PROF. MICHAEL SHEPHERD (Institute of Psychiatry, London) quoted the statement made by Dr. John Ellis that 'Postgraduate training, is not like undergraduate education developing an individual's full potential; it should take a person and give him or her a training tailored to fit a particular type of person in the health service. One must, therefore, define precisely what one is trying to change to fit a man for a particular job'. He then illustrated Dr. Ellis's comment, first emphasizing that the local situation could and should be viewed in a broad context. For example, in India, with a population of 530,000,000, there were only 400 psychiatrists, which contrasted with the 'overdevelopment' of American psychiatry with over 20,000 psychiatrists for a population of 200,000,000.

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