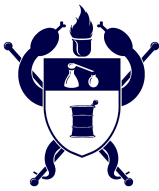




**September 2017 GPhC Registration  
Assessment  
BPSA Feedback**

16th October 2017  
[www.bpsa.co.uk](http://www.bpsa.co.uk)



British Pharmaceutical Students' Association  
The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

## Introduction

The British Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPSA) have collated feedback from 43 respondents in regards to the September 2017 GPhC Registration Assessment. The key themes highlighted from the responses has been collated below and presented to the GPhC.

The majority of the points raised in this report were echoed in the June 2017 Registration Assessment Report. The GPhC have responded to the recommendations made in that report. We hope, the fact that these issues have been raised again after this sitting, highlights the importance of addressing these concerns.

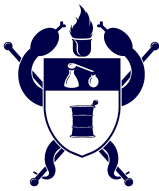
I hope this short report proves useful to all stakeholders, especially those who sat othe September 2017 Registration Assessment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the BPSA.

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## Paper 1

- **Length of Questions**

Overall, there was little feedback in regards to paper 1 of the registration assessment. However, from 43 respondents, 36 respondents felt that the wording of the questions was considerably and unnecessarily lengthy. There was a consensus that this unnecessary wording meant that questions took longer to complete as candidates spent more time trying to decipher key points from the question.

- **Clarity of Questions**

In regards to the clarity of the question and answers required, 30 respondents felt that this was very unclear. There were issues around the ambiguity of whether a value should be rounded up or down and different steps of the question. Candidates felt that with the limited time given for each question, these details should be made easier and clearer.

## Paper 2

- **Length of Questions**

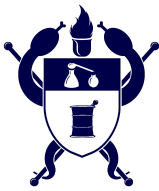
31 respondents stated that the majority of questions took considerably longer than the estimated 1.25 minutes. This meant that they ran out of time towards the end of the paper, rushing questions and some not finishing the assessment. It was also by 33 respondents that there was little to no time to check answers resulting in this assessment being unreflective of day-to-day practice.

- **Summary of Product Characteristics Questions**

Thirty-five respondents felt that there were too many questions requiring the use of an SPC, and 33 felt angered and annoyed by their order of appearance within the assessment. They stated that the majority of these questions appeared towards the end of the assessment, where candidates would be running out of time and rushing questions, and these questions were the ones that took the longest to complete. It was of the view that (38 respondents), SPC questions were not a test of any skill or clinical knowledge and merely a reading comprehension that is never necessary in day-to-day practice due to the use of technology.

- **GPhC Sample Questions**

Twenty-eight respondents felt that the sample questions provided by the GPhC were not a true reflection of the Assessment. They felt misled by the sample questions on the website as the length, complexity and content of the two did not compare.



- **Registration Assessment Framework**

Thirty-one respondents stated that the Assessment was not reflective of the Registration Assessment Framework provided by the GPhC, and felt that they had been misled in their learning by this. Three respondents highlighted a lack of Over The Counter / Responding to Symptoms Questions, which they stated was a major component to the day to day role of a community pharmacist. One respondent addressed the larger number of questions on the Cardiovascular in contrast to other 'high weighted' topics and felt that this extremely disproportionate.

- **Calculation Questions**

The number and level of difficulty of the calculations questions in paper 2 was also an issue amongst the respondents. Twenty-six candidates felt that there were too many calculations in this part of the Assessment, and with the complex numbers used in the questions, the calculation was taking much longer to complete than would be anticipated. They felt that these questions did not test 'number sense' and that in practice, the calculations would have been carried out with the use of a calculator.

- **General Questions**

Thirty respondents fed back that the questions and the overall Assessment was not a true reflection of practice, due to time constraints and the type of questions within the Assessment. It was noted by 5 respondents that some of the questions could have been easily answered with the use of a resource in practice, and 'pharmacist would not need to know this from memory'. Twenty-two respondents were of the view that a qualified pharmacist would not have been able to answer some of the questions in the Assessment, and so a pre-registration trainee could not have known the answer. Concerns were raised about the types of questions in the Assessment, and the information a pharmacist would be expected to know without a resource.

### **Desk Space**

The issue of lack of space during the Assessment, was raised by five respondents, who felt that the small desks with A4 documents to utilise during the Assessment was annoying and time consuming. It also made it uncomfortable to move things around and was an irritating aspect to an already high stakes Assessment.



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### **Pre-registration Training**

Three community pre-registration pharmacists expressed their frustration of the training they had received throughout the year. They felt angered that they had received little to no self-directed learning time during the year, and had been treated as “an extra dispenser” whilst being expect to revise for this Assessment in their own time.