

# the mrcp guide

# GUIDE



## MRCP(UK) revision

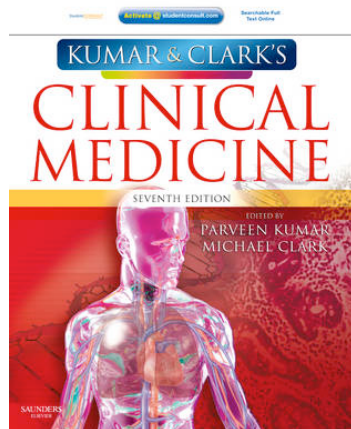
Here are some basic revision tips for the MRCP(UK). Best of luck!

### Get familiar with the Syllabus and make an effective study plan

The best way to prepare for the MRCP Part 1 exam is have a structured study plan. Once you have the outline of the syllabus you can identify and then allocate different amounts of time and effort on specialties requiring more study.

### Get a core text.

Ideally, you need a reference book. Kumar and Clarke is undoubtedly a good reference book, as well as Harrison's.



However, in practical terms, it's going to be impossible for you to do a full day's work putting in venflons, ordering investigations, completing histories and examinations, etc., and then put in time to read these lengthy textbooks.

It might be worth getting hold of a short guide especially written for the part of the MRCP(UK) exam you're doing. **The MRCP guide website** has a page specifically on books for the MRCP which you may find useful.

### Form a group.

Working in groups lets people share ideas, problems, their aspirations and concerns. If you have colleagues in your work place then join them to share past-papers books or whatever. The best place to discuss things in a private and confidential manner is to use a discussion forum. **The MRCP guide website** has a page specifically on a forum which accompanies this website.

There are no past questions available, but you should try to study hard books available, such as those from PasTest, Radcliffe Press or Elsevier, and put in as much practice as you can on the online sites. For example, OnExamination.com from BMJ Learning contains a huge bank of questions. Many people who have passed MRCP Part 2 have done so, citing this website as invaluable.

The MCQs are all now “best-of-five” format, so there’s point practicing the old true/false questions ad nauseam.

### **Time yourself**

Time yourself doing an exam. The best way to simulate actual exam conditions is to do under time constraints. Try a Law and Medicine mock Part 1 exam facility, which is timed to give you the effect sitting a real exam.

*Law and Medicine*



<http://www.lawandmedicine.org.uk>

*PasTest*

<http://www.pastest.co.uk>

*OnExamination (a very impressive site)*



<http://www.onexamination.com/>

## Careers

Throughout your medical career, you will be subjected to various interviews, which will hopefully lead to roles that will further advance your career. It is vital for you to be well prepared and confident during your interviews.

You should, early on in your career, understand the critical importance of putting your career on a good footing, and to appreciate the factors driving it academically, professionally and personally.

You may enjoy having a look at these superb websites:

### *General Careers Resources*

This is a particularly useful site for information about jobs and careers. The courses link on the front page of "The MRCP guide" will take you, meanwhile, to information about useful courses.

<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/hospital-medical-healthcare-doctors-jobs.html>

### *Careers Fair*

<http://careersfair.bmj.com/en/1/home.html>

The aim of a medical interview is to assess your competencies as a doctor and to analyse your personality.

### Interview questions

Below is a checklist to help you prepare for your interview:

#### *Past experience*

Are your past experiences sufficient to apply for the current role?  
What medical experiences and knowledge did you gain from your past work?  
Why did you decide to take your previous role?  
What are your weaknesses and how can you improve upon them?  
When should you call a SpR or Consultant?

#### *The post*

What are your reasons for applying for the current role?  
What do you expect to gain from this job?  
Why should the interviewer pick you? What have you got to offer?  
Are there any issues you think you may have with the job?  
What do you think of audit or research?

## *MRCP(UK)*

Why are you interested in MRCP/being a physician? What you do expect to achieve/learn from it?

How do you keep up to date with the latest developments?

What is the most interesting/least interesting aspect?

## *Teaching*

What teaching experience do you have?

What do you think is the most effective method of teaching?

## *Management*

What management experience do you have?

Have you done a management course in the past, or do you intend to take one?

## *About yourself*

What can you bring into the role/organisation?

Give a good example of work you have done.

Describe a mistake you made and how you came about to a resolution

What was your best/worst moment?

How do you balance work and home life?

Do you enjoy working in a team?

Do you have any outside interests or activities you take part in?

Is there a challenge you've had to overcome?

What is your biggest achievement?

Have you ever had to resolve conflict?

## **General tips**

The often stressful period before the MRCP(UK) exams can have a negative effect on the health and well being of junior doctors. As doctors we always emphasize to our patients the effects that stress has on the body both physically and mentally however, we often neglect this knowledge with regard to our own well-being and allow our body's to take strain and this has an adverse affect on exam results in the end. Please have a look at the 'Enjoyment' section of "**The MRCP guide**" website.