

Renal Technologists Training Scheme
Guidance notes on the formal assessments in Part A

The specific criteria being tested must be made explicitly clear to the trainees. The assessment questions therefore are clearly matched against each of the criteria in the relevant section of the syllabus. Also the trainee is allowed to see the questions that will be set in each assessment* prior to attempting it.

*A questions can however be presented in a different way on the actual assessment, but it will assess exactly the same criteria e.g.

What does the PH scale measure? / What is the measuring scale that is used to determine acidity or alkalinity?

The test must be carried out under controlled conditions without access to any resources

The date of any assessment must be agreed in advance with the ART Scheme administrator. No submissions of evidence will be accepted for any assessment that hasn't been scheduled in advanced with the scheme administrator.

The test can be delivered verbally or taken as a written test.

If verbal, then the assessor should restrict themselves initially to simply reading the questions verbatim and documenting the trainee's response with no further prompts or interaction. The documentation of the questions and the trainee's marked responses must be included in their portfolio (if it is a written assessment, then the marked test paper itself will of course provide the evidence).

The assessment must be supervised by a person who has been authorised by the ART education panel. This cannot be the assigned mentor. Normally this will be a fully qualified Renal Technician with ultimate line management accountability for the trainee within their organisation (usually the Renal Technical Services Manager) who has responsibility and accountability for the level of work the trainee is allowed to undertake within the department

Part A of the syllabus covers the essential/ underpinning, base line knowledge for a renal technologist. Due to the clear prior disclosure of the assessment criteria and the modular approach to assessment, the trainee must achieve 100% on each assessment to progress. If a trainee falls short of 100% then the following provisions are available.

- If there are omissions to some aspects of the criteria, or the assessor feels the trainee has simply failed to word the response adequately :
 - In a written assessment , further verbal questioning can be applied to supplement the written answers
 - In a verbal assessment, the assessor can prompt the trainee to supplement their initial answer.

- In both cases the application of this provision should be limited to a nominal 20% maximum of the trainee's responses. In both cases the supplemental questions/ prompts and the trainee's responses must be clearly documented and submitted in their portfolio. (The reasonable application of this provision will be moderated by the A.R.T. education panel from the submitted documentation)
- Where the trainee has clearly submitted an incorrect response as opposed to it just being incomplete or not clearly expressed, they are required to undertake further training to address the deficiencies and then retake the assessment.
- There is no theoretical limit to the number of times an assessment is taken but with any resit requirement the trainee's progress should be evaluated and repeated resit requests would need to be justified by a realistic progression plan. Assessment attempts are logged by the scheme coordinator and the education panel will review this as part of their moderation and accreditation processes.

The student still has to complete portfolio work for each sub-section of section A. The assessments supplement this and provide clear evidence that the trainee has acquired the key underpinning knowledge. (The assessments do not cover every section in section A)

