

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

MBChB Phase 2 Progress Testing Policy

Knowledge Assessment

Progress Testing will be used as the summative knowledge assessment in Year 3.5 & 4 of the MBChB programme. This document outlines how Progress Testing works with this stage of the programme including test scheduling, grading, progression requirements, and feedback.

1. Progress Testing

Progress Testing is a longitudinal assessment designed to measure your developing knowledge of the MBChB curriculum over Phase 2 of the ScotCOM programme.

- Each test contains questions written at the level expected of a graduating medical student
- Students in earlier years will not yet know all the material but can use the results to monitor knowledge growth across the programme
- Every Progress Test (PT) is comprehensive and covers all curriculum areas and disciplines as outlined in the MLA content map

2. Test Schedule

Progress Tests are delivered throughout Phase 2 of the MBChB (ScotCOM) programme.

MD4004

Timing	Assessment
MD4001 ESA Diet	Formative Progress Test (100 SBAs)
March	Progress Test 1 (100 SBAs)
June	Progress Test 2 (100 SBAs)
Late June	Additional Progress Test (100 SBAs)*

MD4005

Timing	Assessment
October	Progress Test 3 (100 SBAs)
February	Progress Test 4 (100 SBAs)
May	Progress Test 5 (100 SBAs)
Late May	Additional Progress Test (100 SBAs)*

MD5011

Timing	Assessment
Semester 1	Formative Progress Test (100 SBAs)

*Deferral or additional test window

3. Blueprinting

Each MBChB (ScotCOM) Progress Test contains:

- 100 SBA questions completed in 2 hours (equating to 1.2 minutes per question)
- The test is blueprinting to the MLA Content Map (see example in Appendix 1) to ensure a balanced coverage across disciplines and knowledge areas

4. Standard Setting

Progress Tests will vary in difficulty, so a fixed pass mark (e.g., 50%) is not suitable. Instead, the Cohen Method is used to set an appropriate cutpoint.

- The cut point (pass mark) is set at 60% of the score achieved by the student at the 95th percentile (the top 5%)
- The derived cut score will be calculated using results data from the sitting cohort only
- Appropriate historic results data may be used on any occasion where we have a reduced cohort sitting a test
- This ensures fairness across tests of differing difficulty and year groups

Progress Test Grading

The outcome from each progress test is graded according to the table below.

Grade	Description
U	Unsatisfactory (below cut score)
LP	Low Pass (cutpoint and up to 5% above)
S	Satisfactory ($\geq 5\%$ above cut score)

5. Progression Requirements

Progress Testing is a longitudinal assessment strategy designed to evaluate the evolving knowledge base of medical students, results across multiple progress tests are therefore used to calculate a cumulative grade which will determine progression to the next academic year.

Year 3 (MD4004)

To progress to Year 4 (MD4005), you must meet the following criteria:

1. Pass at least one of the two summative Progress Tests (PT1 or PT2)
2. At the end of MD4004 you must achieve a cumulative grade of Low Pass (LP) or Satisfactory (S)

If your cumulative grade is Unsatisfactory (U), you must sit a further Progress Test to determine your progression.

- Pass the test: Progress to MD4005
- Fail the test: Repeat MD4004 in full

MD4004 Outcomes

PT1	PT2	Cumulative Grade	Outcome
U	U	U	Additional Test*
U	LP	LP	Pass
U	S	LP	Pass
LP	U	U	Additional Test*
LP	LP	LP	Pass
LP	S	S	Pass
S	U	LP	Pass
S	LP	LP	Pass
S	S	S	Pass

*Pass - Progress to MD4005. Fail - Repeat MD4004

Year 4

To progress to Year 5 (MD5011), you must:

1. Pass two out of three tests in MD4005 (PT3–PT5)
2. Pass PT5 (final test)
 - If PT5 is failed but PT3 and PT4 are passed, a further Progress Test is required
 - Pass: Progress to MD5011
 - Fail: Repeat MD4005 in full

PT3	PT4	PT5	OUTCOME
U	U	n/a	Repeat*
U	LP	U	Repeat *
U	LP	LP	Pass
U	LP	S	Pass
U	S	U	Repeat *
U	S	LP	Pass
U	S	S	Pass
LP	U	U	Repeat *
LP	U	LP	Pass
LP	U	S	Pass
LP	LP	U	Additional Test**
LP	LP	LP	Pass
LP	LP	S	Pass
LP	S	U	Additional Test**
LP	S	LP	Pass
LP	S	S	Pass
S	U	U	Repeat *
S	U	LP	Pass
S	U	S	Pass
S	LP	U	Additional Test**
S	LP	LP	Pass
S	LP	S	Pass
S	S	U	Additional Test**
S	S	LP	Pass
S	S	S	Pass

*Repeat MD4005 in full

** Pass - Progress to MD5011. Fail - Repeat MD4005 in full

6. Post-Test Feedback

After each Progress Test, you will receive:

- Individual test score as a percentage
- Your Progress Test grade (U, LP, S)
- A detailed feedback report showing performance across:
 - Area of Clinical Practice
 - Areas of Applied Knowledge
 - Clinical Practice Settings

This feedback will allow you to identify areas for improvement as you advance through the programme and allow you to best prepare for sitting the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) at the end of Year 5.

Appendix 1. Blueprint Overview

Each Progress Test includes 100 questions distributed across the following domains:

Areas of Clinical Practice (minimum number of questions)

Area	≥ No. of Qs
Breast	1
Cancer	4
Cardiovascular	5
Child Health	6
Dermatology	2
ENT	2
Emergency & Intensive Care	4
Endocrine & Metabolic	4
Gastrointestinal	5
Haematology	2
Infection	4
Medical Ethics & Law	1
Medicine of Older Adult	5
Mental Health	6
Musculoskeletal	5
Neurosciences	4
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	5
Ophthalmology	1
Palliative & End-of-Life Care	1

Indicative weightings of 'Areas of Applied Knowledge' and 'Clinical Practice Settings' are shown below:

Area	% of Qs
Diagnosis	40%
Management	50%
Medical/Lab Science	10%

Setting	% of Qs
Acute Medicine	25%
Clinical Imaging	15%
Primary Care	30%
Surgery	25%