



HONG KONG COLLEGE OF  
COMMUNITY MEDICINE  
& Faculty of Public Health

*of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the  
United Kingdom*

DIPLOMATE CONJOINT  
EXAMINATION FOR  
MEMBERSHIP

Candidate Information  
Pack

**Tuesday 24 and  
Thursday 26 March 2026**

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## Introduction

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) Diplomate MFPH examination tests candidates' knowledge and understanding of the scientific basis of public health, and their ability to apply their knowledge and skills to the practice of public health. It consists of two papers (Paper I and Paper II).

Papers I and II are both split into two parts/components named A and B (Paper IA, Paper IB, Paper IIA and Paper IIB).

### **Please note the following:**

- For this sitting, Paper I will be on Tuesday 24 March 2026 and Paper II will be on Thursday 26 March 2026.
- As of March 2025, the exam is now being delivered through a number of distributed test centres with in-person invigilation.
- Please refer to the end of this pack for information about the location of the Formulae Sheet within the TestReach canvas.
- Please note that changes were made to the marking rules in March 2023. Please find more information on the website [here](#). The marking algorithm can be found [here](#).

This pack is designed to provide you with all the information you will need to undertake the Diplomate MFPH examination: [The Diplomate Examination \(DFPH\) - Faculty of Public Health](#)

## Test centre examinations

Following discussions with registrars, Heads of School, Training Programme Directors and the FPH Board, the Faculty decided to move away from using remote invigilation for the Diplomate Exam.

As of March 2025, the exam is now delivered through a number of distributed test centres with in-person invigilation. There will be several centres across the UK and one in Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>. Candidates will still be required to use the TestReach platform but without the need to connect to a remote invigilator.

VICTVS will be providing invigilation services. They are a UK-based global company and are experts in the administration of important professional examinations. They currently run all PLAB exams in the UK on behalf of the GMC.

FPH will have exclusive access to the test centres – or a discrete part of them – to minimise the risk of disturbance from other exams that might be taking place on the same day.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that additional centres may be used where necessary to accommodate reasonable adjustment requests. Exact exam centre locations are dependent on candidate numbers and specific requirements and therefore candidates are advised not to book accommodation/travel etc. until their individual test centre location is confirmed.

## Familiarising yourself with the online exam canvas

We strongly recommend that you take the Diplome Exam Functionality Test to ensure you are fully prepared for your exam.

The Functionality test enables candidates to view the exam canvas before receiving their personal log in details. The tutorial also provides candidates the ability to review the different types of exam canvas options available and decide which may be best to support their individual needs.

There are three types of exam canvas options available.

- Option 1: Standard exam canvas
- Option 2: Dyslexia specific canvas
- Option 3: Low vision canvas

To access the above-mentioned exam canvas options, please follow the steps outlined below.

1. Copy this address <https://app.testreach.com/system-requirements/> into your browser and download the TestReach app.

2. Log in with the credentials for your chosen stylesheet/canvas (please see details below).

**Option 1: Standard exam canvas**

Username: fph-check-setup@testreach.com  
Password: fph123!

**Option 2: Dyslexia specific canvas**

Username: fph-check-setup-dyslexia@testreach.com  
Password: fph123!

**Option 3: Low vision canvas**

Username: fph-check-setup-lowvision@testreach.com  
Password: fph123!

3. Login – please note that the screen menu can take some time to load.

4. Click on the tab 'Take tutorial'. Select the option 'Start Flexible Canvas Tutorial'.

Please note that the live exam you will be given on the day is set up in the Flexible Canvas which allows you to zoom, highlight, annotate and change the size of the different panes on the screen.

### Alternative stylesheets

If you wish to have the dyslexia stylesheet option or the low vision stylesheet applied to your account, please email the Exams Co-ordinator, [suweenipanagoda@fph.org.uk](mailto:suweenipanagoda@fph.org.uk). Please note that you **do not** need to apply for a reasonable adjustment to use these alternative stylesheets. This is available for anyone to use.

## FPH Functionality Familiarisation Test

The TestReach tutorial includes an introduction to the online exam canvas and how to use it.

Once you have finished the tutorial, you will be able to enter the FPH specific Functionality Familiarisation Test. This can be accessed after Question 14.

Past Diplomate exam questions have been included as example content.

Some points to note:

- There is no attempt limit.
- There is no spell check functionality available in the live exam
- The exam paper has a set time duration of 2½ hours. Please note that you can re-enter the TestReach tutorial and re-start the Functionality Test as many times as you wish. Your answers will not be marked. The paper consists of four questions – one Paper IA question, one Paper IIA question (with a word limit feature enabled) and two Paper IIB questions.
- The time duration for your individual exam is displayed on the top right-hand corner. This counts up from zero on the left-hand side and displays the total time permitted on the right-hand side.

### Tips for exam canvas functionality

- When you begin the exam, you may find that your exam canvas is positioned in such a way that only one of the four parts of the question is visible. The introduction to the question will tell you how many parts there are to the question. Please ensure you scroll down to see all parts of the question.
- There is no 'save' button. Your answers will automatically be saved as you move between questions.
- There is an 'undo' button on the formatting toolbar. It is also possible to use 'Control Z' to undo a change you made accidentally.
- If you find your text is being overwritten by new text, you may have accidentally pressed the 'Insert' key. Please press the Insert key again and this should return the typing mode back to normal.
- The Paper IIA question appears with a word count feature enabled (set to 660 words). You can add text in excess of 660 words, but the background will change to red to indicate that you have exceeded the word limit.
- The word count feature will also be enabled in the live exam for Paper IIA, Question 1. Please note that this is the only question that has a word count limit. **In the live exam, examiners will not mark any text after the point where the script exceeds 660 words.**
- There is a notebook tool available from the top panel which allows you to add notes during your exam and copy them across to your answer. Please note that examiners will only be able to see and mark the text that is within the answer panel on the exam canvas. Any text that is only in the notepad or within comments/annotations will not be marked.
- It is possible to fully expand the notebook by pressing the button on the toolbar with four arrows. Pressing this again will minimise your notebook.
- Please use the Zoom function on the top right-hand side of your screen to amend the size of figures within the resource panel for optimum viewing.
- To access the equation keyboard, please click on the square root button on the formatting toolbar. You can then enter your equation and click 'Apply'. To edit your equation, double click on it within the answer panel. Please note that the equation keyboard is intended for entering equation notation into your answer rather than calculating an answer.
- Please note that the Functionality Familiarisation Test is a tool for you to familiarise yourself with the functionality of the online exam canvas ahead of the live exam. It is not intended to be a mock exam.

If you wish to view the full questions and answers, these can be found online here:

Question 1: [key-points-examiner-comments-jan17-final.pdf \(fph.org.uk\)](#) – Question 1

Question 2: [new-paper-ii-a-specimen-questions.pdf \(fph.org.uk\)](#) Question 1

Question 3: [Paper IIB Specimen questions - FPH](#) – Specimen Question 1

Question 4: [Paper IIB Specimen questions - FPH](#) – Specimen Question 2a

Further instructions on how to access the Functionality Test can be found here: [Application form and useful information - Faculty of Public Health](#)

## Examination timetable

Please note that you should ensure that you arrive at the test centre, with your valid ID document and exam centre confirmation, **30 minutes** before your exam start time. The invigilator will then take you through the necessary ID checks and briefing ready to start the exam.

Please note that there is one working day between Paper I and Paper II.

<b>Paper I Tuesday 24 March 2026</b>	<b>Time (HKT)</b>
Paper IA Start time	15.30
Paper IA Finish time	18.00
Paper IB Start time	19.30
Paper IB Finish time	21.10
<b>Paper II Thursday 26 March 2026</b>	<b>Time (HKT)</b>
Paper IIA Start time	15.30
Paper IIA Finish time	18.00
Paper IIB Start time	19.30
Paper IIB Finish time	21.30

**\*If you have an approved reasonable adjustment your individual start and finish times will be detailed in your offer letter.**

### Late arrival

In the event of exceptional issues, you will be permitted to start your exam up to 30 minutes late.

### Contact numbers

In case of any issues, please store the following number for VICTVS and FPH on your phone.

VICTVS – (24/7 support) 0113 539 7056

FPH Education Team 44 (0)203 696 1471, 44 (0) 203 696 1466 or 44 (0) 203 696 1473.

If you experience any technical issues during your exam, please report these to FPH so that they can be investigated.

## Equipment

- Candidates will take the exam on a test centre device.
- The screen size will be a minimum of 17 inches. A separate mouse and keyboard will be provided.
- All desks and IT equipment are cleaned with sanitiser prior to all exams.
- Candidates will be provided with 2 sheets of A4 plain, VICTVS headed paper which will be numbered and assigned to each candidate. Each sheet will be collected at the end of the exam. Should you require more paper during the exam, please raise your hand and another sheet will be provided.
- As paper will be provided, candidates no longer need, or are permitted, to use a whiteboard.
- If candidates wish to use their own ergonomic mouse or keyboard this will need to be approved by the Exams Team in advance of the exam so that the invigilators can be informed. This information is required at the point of application so that arrangements can be made with the test centre.
- Candidates who have arranged this in advance will be able to enter the exam room 15 minutes before the exam starts to set this up. Please note that there may be candidates who have a reasonable adjustment and may have started their exam already so please do this as quietly as possible.
- Foam/silicone earplugs can either be brought into the exam or can be provided free of charge at the test centre at the registration desk. No other headphones/earplugs are permitted unless the candidate has prior agreement as part of a formal adjustment request.
- **Candidates should bring their own simple, non-scientific, non-programmable calculator for ALL papers.** Invigilators will verify that the calculator matches this specification upon entrance to the exam.
- Please note that as timers will be a distraction to other candidates, timers will not be permitted for the in-person exams. A wall clock will be visible to all candidates.

Examples of permitted calculators can be seen here:

[Example 1](#)

[Example 2](#)



## Permitted examination room materials

Candidates are only permitted to take the following items into the exam room. All other personal items must be left in the locker provided or the candidate waiting room that will be locked during the exam.

1. A valid ID document.
2. Ergonomic equipment (if approved in advance).
3. Candidates should have a non-scientific, non-programmable [calculator](#) for all four papers.
4. Pens, pencils, sharpener, eraser. These items can be either loose or in a clear, small 15 x 15 cm bag.
5. Highlighters can be used but please be mindful of potential noise distraction to other candidates of opening and closing lids.
6. Water/snacks in clear packaging only (no labels). Please ensure that snacks are nut free in case of any other candidate allergies. Please do not bring any snacks or packaging that could be distracting to other candidates in terms of noise or smell.
7. Medication in blister packs only (no boxes).
8. Foam/silicone ear plugs.
9. Sanitary items in clothes pocket or a clear bag.

### Prohibited items

Note paper will be provided to candidates at their desk. Whiteboards are therefore no longer necessary or permitted. Other prohibited items include:

- Any timers.
- Any type of watch (smart watch, digital or analog) or other wearable technology.
- Any phone or other devices unless permitted as part of an approved reasonable adjustment.
- Any resources, books, paper, notes (including English and/or foreign language dictionaries).
- Scientific or programmable calculator.
- Headphones unless permitted as part of an approved reasonable adjustment. This is to maintain exam security.
- Paper or any writing materials.

## On the day of the exam

Please note that you should ensure that you arrive at the test centre, with your valid ID document and exam centre confirmation, **30 minutes** before your exam start time. The invigilator will then take you through the necessary ID checks and briefing ready to start the exam.

For the afternoon paper, you will be asked to register and go through the necessary security checks 30 minutes before your exam start time.

You may leave the building or use the breakout area at the test centre (if available at the centre) during the break between 12.15 and 13.15.

## Registration process

### 1. Identification documents

Please ensure you have one of the following forms of ID ready to show the invigilator when you arrive at the test centre. Please ensure it is within a valid date and has not expired. If your ID does not match the name on your application form, please send evidence of the change in your name to the Exams Coordinator in advance of the exam day.

Please have one of the identification documents listed below as proof of identity. It must be original, current and bear a photograph:

- Passport
- UK Immigration and Nationality Department identification document
- Home Office travel document
- Driving licence
- EU identity card
- National identity card (or Hong Kong Identity Card for Hong Kong candidates)

If the name on the identification document is different from that on the exam centre confirmation, original evidence (no photocopies or screenshots) must be provided to show that the candidate is the person named in the exam centre confirmation. FPH will accept:

- A marriage or civil partnership certificate.
- A declaration from the awarding body which granted the primary medical qualification stating that both names relate to the candidate.
- Confirmation of name change by enrolled deed poll.

If candidates do not bring the documents listed above, or if the identification document does not bear a photograph, they will not be allowed to take the examination. The examination fee will not be refundable under these circumstances.

If you are unable to provide the appropriate ID for your exam, please contact the exams coordinator.

### 2. Security checks

Candidates will be asked to:

- remove outerwear, including hats, put hoods down and remove any items that prevent identification taking place
- show their ears
- pull up their sleeves to show no watches or smart devices
- show their basic calculator
- show any snacks and drinks – these MUST be in completely transparent packaging (no labels)
- show any ergonomic equipment (if you wish to bring your own equipment this must be approved by FPH in advance)
- pull out front and back pockets if any

- show or request earplugs
- place any personal items (including mobile phones) either in the locked room, lockers provided or at the front of the room (the arrangements will vary according to the test centre).

If candidates do not feel comfortable removing any items covering their face in the registration area, they may request to go to a private room with a gender-specific invigilator.

Please note that some exam venues may have their own security processes in place to allow access to the venue. Where possible, FPH will inform the candidates of the procedures in advance of the exam day.

### **3. Invigilator briefing**

Candidates will be briefed on exam rules and regulations either within the exam room or before entering. This will depend on whether there are candidates with reasonable adjustments who have already started the exam in the main room.

### **Entering the exam room**

- Candidates will be called into the exam room approximately 15 minutes before the exam begins.
- You will be allocated a specific desk in advance and the registration staff will tell you which desk to go to when you enter the room.
- Please do not write anything on your note paper until the exam has started.
- The invigilator will instruct you to login to the TestReach application with your username and they will inform you of the password to enter. Please note that each exam paper will have a different password and the invigilator will share this with you.
- Once all candidates have logged in and are ready to start the exam, you will then be given an exam 'pin' number and the exam will begin.
- You will then be asked to wait until all candidates are successfully logged in. The invigilator will help you if you have any issues with this.
- At this point the invigilator will read out an exam pin number. Once entered, you will be able to start your exam.
- You will be shown a list of exam protocols and you will be asked to confirm that each of the statements are correct before you can enter the exam.
- Please read the instructions on the cover page of the paper. Your exam time will have begun as soon as you are given access to the exam and see the cover page with exam instructions. Please note that if you have been permitted to additional time as part of a reasonable adjustment, the additional time will only be displayed in the clock timer in the exam canvas. The cover page shows the generic time allowed for all candidates.

### **During the examination**

- A wall clock will be visible to all candidates during the exam. Your individual exam time remaining will also be displayed in the top right-hand corner of the exam canvas.

- Should you wish to ask the invigilator a question, please raise your hand.
- Should you require more note paper, please raise your hand.
- If you have a prior arranged adjustment, you will receive information about this separately.
- If you wish to use the bathroom, please ensure that you ask the invigilator first and wait for their reply. Only one candidate can leave the room at a time so you may need to wait for another candidate to return. The invigilator will escort you to the bathroom area (not the cubicle).
- The invigilator will record all bathroom breaks and time taken for these on the invigilator report and will note any suspicious behavior. Please note that invigilators will also check the washrooms regularly for any materials that may have been placed there.
- Candidates will not be allowed to leave in the first 30 minutes or last 15 minutes of their allocated exam time but can leave at any other point if they wish to finish the exam early.
- There are no plans for fire alarm testing. Should the fire alarm sound during the exam, please leave the building and remain under exam conditions and do not speak to other candidates. If the policy is followed and time allows, the exam will be able to continue.
- Please note that any attempt to capture or record information about the content of the examination during, in advance or after the date of the examination will be deemed as misconduct.

## Finishing the examination

- Once the exam time is up as per the clock on your exam screen, this exam will be automatically submitted.
- If you wish to terminate your exam earlier than the allocated end time, please raise your hand.
- At the end of the exam, the invigilator will go to each candidate's desk and count their allocated sheets of paper.
- You will then be permitted to leave the exam. Please leave the room quietly as there may be candidates whose exams are still in progress.

## Leaving the examination

- If you feel unwell during the examination, please tell the invigilator immediately.
- If you feel that you cannot continue, please tell the invigilator that you wish to end the exam.
- Please see our [Extenuating Circumstances policy](#) for further information.

## Exam FAQs

Please ensure that you have read the [FAQs here](#) before the day of the exam.

## Misconduct

Candidates are required to agree to Exam Regulations and Misconduct Policy published on the FPH website at the point of application.

[FPH Examinations - Regulations and information for candidates](#)

As questions are now from a closed bank, candidates must not attempt to capture questions or share questions after the exam.

The invigilator may stop any candidate suspected of misconduct and issue a warning during the examination, and if necessary, expel the candidate from the examination. Failing to follow instructions of examiners and invigilators may be grounds for a misconduct issue.

Examples of **minor offences** include:

A minor offence is one that is deemed a low-level exception. Minor infringements may not compromise the test and can be rectified immediately; however, all minor infringements are logged.

- Commencing hand movements that could be interpreted as sign language.
- Behaving in an unsuitable manner to the invigilator, test centre staff or other candidates.

### **Major offences**

A major offence is one that is deemed as misconduct. Candidates would be asked to stop the behaviour immediately and this will be recorded for FPH to review and if necessary, take action on completion of the exam.

- Accessing a scientific or programmable calculator.
- Failing to hand in all pieces of allocated notepaper at the end of the exam or attempting to remove them from the exam centre.
- Reading the questions aloud or talking during the exam other than to the invigilator (unless the candidate is in a separate room and has an agreed adjustment for this).
- Leaving the desk to visit the bathroom without alerting and waiting for confirmation from the invigilator.
- Attempting to conceal items in the bathroom facilities that would give advantage in an examination
- Having on your person any material that would give advantage in an examination once the examination has commenced (this includes electronic communication devices)
- Bringing any items into the exam other those that have been explicitly allowed in the above regulations.
- Attempting to conceal notes on your person, writing on hands/arms etc.
- Writing on any material other than the note paper given to you by the invigilator.
- Accessing (or trying to access) another site / document online or offline.
- Capturing or attempting to capture exam content – for example, taking a screenshot, taking a photo of the screen with another device, copying questions down, reading aloud, recording these on another device. This list is not exhaustive.
- Refusing to follow the instructions given by invigilators or examinations staff concerning the conduct of, and procedure for, the examination. This list is not exhaustive.
- Repetition of minor infringements.

Candidates committing these offences or any other activity that may be deemed to constitute professional or academic misconduct will be reported to examination officers and the FPH Education

and Training Department. All incidences will be investigated in accordance with the FPH Examinations Misconduct Policy and Procedure, and if found to have engaged in misconduct candidates may have their examination result declared invalid and their name reported to their professional regulatory authority, and (if on a UK training scheme) to that training scheme as well.

## Withdrawing from the examination

Candidates withdrawing from an examination after the closing date and up to one week before the examination will normally be charged 50% of the fee.

- No refund will be made to candidates withdrawing within seven days of the examination.
- No refund will be made to candidates without written notice of intention to withdraw.
- A greater refund may be granted at the discretion of the Academic Registrar under exceptional circumstances.
- Any candidate who holds a banked paper and withdraws can apply to retain their banked paper. This can be granted at the discretion of the Academic Registrar.

Please see the [FPH Withdrawal Policy](#) here.

## Extenuating Circumstances

Candidates may complete the Extenuating Circumstances Form to inform FPH of serious circumstances that occurred on the date of the Diplomate Examination and that have adversely affected their examination performance. This information will be made available to the relevant Chair of Examiners.

Please note, marks/results will not be altered to reflect individual circumstances. The only available outcome as a result of a successful submission is that the attempt can be discounted. Please note the record of the sitting will not be deleted.

It is the candidate's responsibility to complete and return this form to arrive at the FPH no later than **three working days** after the examination date.

Types of circumstances that the Faculty may consider to be serious include:

- The death or critical illness of a dependent or close relative on the day of the examination
- A severely debilitating illness/accident that strikes on the day of the examination.
- A serious deterioration of a long-standing illness on the day of the examination

Circumstances that would be considered ineligible:

- Late arrival to the examination
- English as a second language
- Long standing illness which was unchanged on the day of the examination
- Existing conditions/disabilities for which modifications are required but which were not notified to FPH ahead of time.

## Notification of results

Notification of examination results **will be released via the [MyFPH portal](#) on 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

We encourage you to look after your health and wellbeing and consider booking in time with your Educational Supervisor or someone similar who can be available that day to discuss your results.

A pass list and results summary will be published on the FPH website in the following week.

**Examination results will not be given over the telephone** and are not posted at the Faculty premises.

Candidates who have passed the examination will have their names passed to the Membership Department of the Faculty for election to Diplomate Membership.

Results of candidates on the Training Scheme will be sent to the relevant Training Programme Director.

Please note that it is not possible to apply for the Final Membership Exam until you have received your letter of results confirming that you have passed the Diplomate Exam.

In general, it is recommended that registrars on an approved training programme sit the Final Membership Exam with at least two years (whole time equivalent) of training remaining. This usually happens about six to twelve months after passing the Diplomate examination. Registrars working less than full-time should discuss the timing of the examination with their Training Programme Director and Educational Supervisor.

Once the Diplomate examination (DFPH) has been passed, no candidate will be permitted more than seven years to pass the Final Membership examination (MFPH). The seven-year validity period will be calculated from the date that a candidate passes the DFPH examination. Should a candidate fail to achieve a Final Membership examination (MFPH) pass within the seven-year limit, they will be required to take the Diplomate examination (DFPH) again.

## Feedback

[Examiners' comments](#) will be posted on the website following each exam sitting. Candidates will not receive detailed individual feedback.

Candidates will receive a survey link after the exam to share their feedback of the exam. The survey will remain open for two weeks to allow candidates to submit their feedback. You can refer to the feedback from previous sittings by scrolling to the end of the below webpage – 'Candidate Survey Feedback Summary' [Diplomate Examination \(DFPH\) Results and Feedback](#)

## General advice to candidates from examiners

### Examination preparation

You are advised to practise writing exam papers under exam conditions including timing yourself taking a past paper and practising typed answers.

As always, in preparing for this exam, candidates are advised to ensure they can define common terminology and concepts from all parts of the syllabus, practice their examination skills, and be able to apply their knowledge and skills in a public health context. The latter is particularly important for Paper IIA, where being able to synthesise the key issues raised by a research paper, and being able to identify and communicate key public health messages (often beyond those narrowly described by the paper's authors) to a variety of audiences, is required for a pass.

Sitting the exam for 2.5 hours (or beyond for those with extra time) is tiring both mentally and physically. It is well worth preparing for that through timed practice exam opportunities (either formal or informal).

Specimen questions can be found here:

[The Diplomate examination \(DFPH\) Preparation - Faculty of Public Health](#)

### Taking the examination

You are advised to read the questions carefully and follow the instructions. The number of parts to the question will be listed at the beginning of each question. **Please ensure you scroll down to view all parts of the question. Please see the functionality test to familiarise yourself with the format.**

Answer all the questions. Where marks are divided across questions these provide an indication of how you should divide your time in answering the questions.

Please note that you will not be penalised for writing out formulae rather than using symbols. The examiner will mark what you've written regardless of format as long as it is possible to follow your working and understand what has been done.

Please note that Paper IA contains questions 1-6. Paper IB starts at Question 7.

### Expectations and characteristics of good answers:



Examiners look for clarity, brevity, focus, structure, an appropriate use of technical terms, avoidance of irrelevant material, and a suitable level of neatness. For those using an adjustment solution that may impact on formatting, please note that a sticker can be applied to your script to alert the examiner to residual formatting issues.

Candidates need to show an understanding of key public health principles, demonstrate that they can apply them to a problem and give answers that are framed from a public health perspective.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate evidence of public health knowledge, applied with care and where necessary show an ability to make connections across narrow subject areas. An answer is unlikely to require only a simple statement of facts or definitions (although this may form part of an answer), nor should an answer include material irrelevant to the question.

Some questions require evidence that demonstrates a candidates' knowledge of 'real life' public health practice, rather than an abstract discussion of the concepts.

A good answer will have logical order and an appropriate structure, framework or headings. Judicious use of bullet points where appropriate can be helpful, although the expectation is that the bullet points will contain explanatory sentences not single words. Candidates should be able to present facts and other material in an accessible, clear and logical way. Examiners need to see evidence that the candidate understands and can illustrate all aspects of the question in their answer.

#### **Characteristics of poor-quality answers:**

Inappropriate answers: writing information that has not been asked for in the question, even if the information itself is factually correct, will not gain credit.

Lack of focus: candidates who use a 'scattergun' approach that is, using a well-rehearsed general answer to a specific question, will not gain credit for relevant key points they happen to mention along with other material which is irrelevant to the question asked.

#### **Hints and tips for preparation for the Diplomate Examination**

More hints and tips can be found [here](#).

## **Paper IIA and word limit for Question 1**

There is a word count limit for your response to question 1 for Paper IIA. Examiners will stop marking if the word count is exceeded by more than 10% (i.e., 660 words).

The online exam answer pad has a word count limit for Paper IIA, Question 1. Please note that when you exceed 660 words, the background will turn red. The exam canvas will allow you to write over the limit (to allow you to write more before editing your answer) but please note that examiners will be able to see the point at which the answer has reached 660 words and will not any mark text that exceeds this.

Please ensure you **do not enter your name** anywhere in your answer.

## Examiners' comments and Specialty Registrars' feedback

Previous feedback from the Specialty Registrars' Committee and the letter of response from the Diplomate Exam Chair of Examiners can be found [here](#). Examiners' comments can also be found in the same [location](#).

**Advice on preparing for the Diplomate Exam from the winner of January 2018 Michael O'Brien prize:**

[Advice on preparing for Part A from the winner of this year's Michael O'Brien prize - Faculty of Public Health](#)

### **Communications before the exam**

Please note that the Exams Coordinator will send a reminder email to candidates the week before the exam. This email will include important reminders and any new updates so please look out for this in your email.

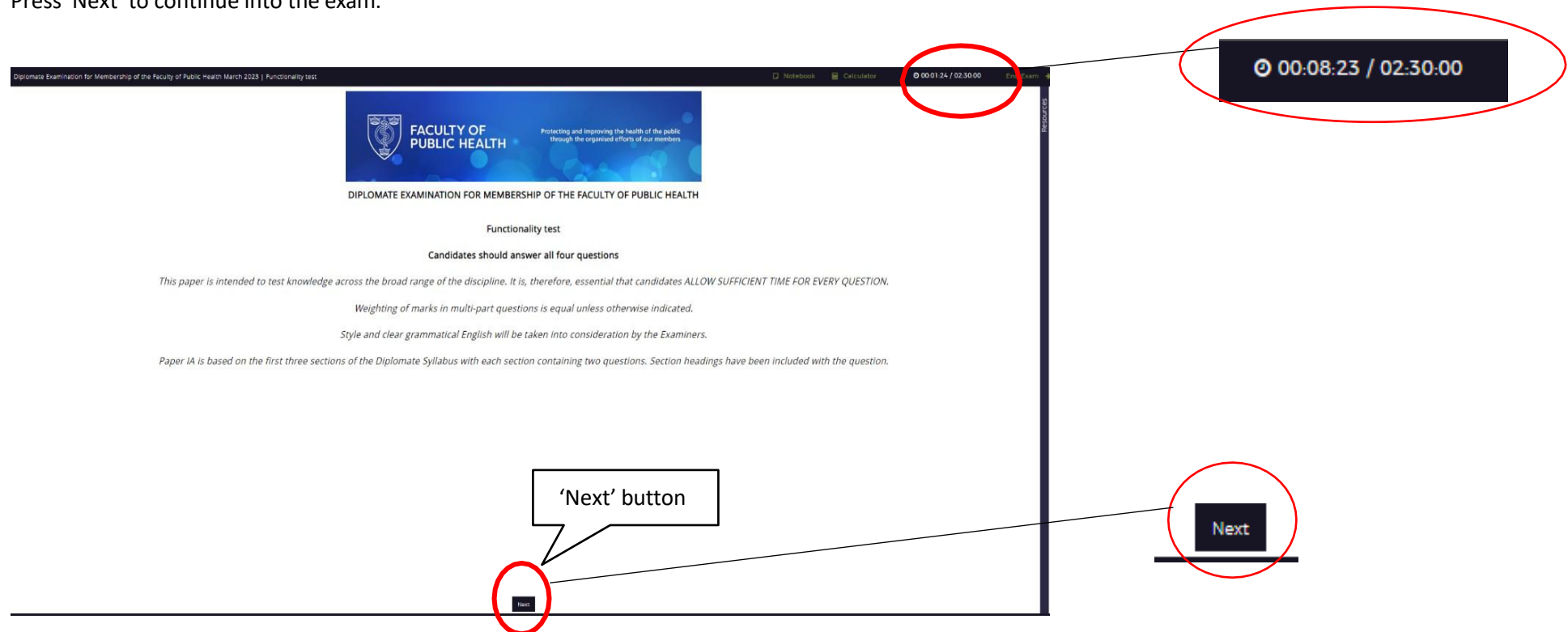
**We hope you have found this guide useful but please do not hesitate to contact FPH at [educ@fph.org.uk](mailto:educ@fph.org.uk) if you have any queries.**

**With best of luck for the exam.  
The FPH Exams Team**

## Location of the Diplomat Exam Formulae Sheet in the TestReach exam canvas

When you enter your exam paper you will first see the blue FPH banner and a cover page. The exam time will have started at this point and you will see the timer counting up from zero in the top right-hand corner.

Press 'Next' to continue into the exam.



You will then see the Formulae Sheet. You will be able to return to this once in the exam so press 'Next' again to continue to the exam.

Diplomate Examination for Membership of the Faculty of Public Health March 2023 | Functionality test

Notebook Calculator 00:04:00 / 02:30:00 End Exam

DIPLOMATE EXAMINATION  
FORMULAE SHEET

Term	Formula
Attributable Risk	$AR = R_{\text{exposed}} - R_{\text{unexposed}}$ where $AR$ = Attributable Risk $R_{\text{exposed}}$ = Risk in exposed group $R_{\text{unexposed}}$ = Risk in unexposed group
Attributable Risk Fraction Aetiological Fraction Etiological Fraction	$ARF = \frac{R_{\text{exposed}} - R_{\text{unexposed}}}{R_{\text{exposed}}} = 1 - \frac{R_{\text{unexposed}}}{R_{\text{exposed}}}$ where $ARF$ = Attributable Risk Fraction $R_{\text{exposed}}$ = Risk in exposed group $R_{\text{unexposed}}$ = Risk in unexposed group
Vaccine Efficacy	$VE = \frac{R_{\text{unvaccinated}} - R_{\text{vaccinated}}}{R_{\text{unvaccinated}}} = 1 - \frac{R_{\text{vaccinated}}}{R_{\text{unvaccinated}}}$ where $VE$ = Vaccine Efficacy $R_{\text{unvaccinated}}$ = Risk in unvaccinated group $R_{\text{vaccinated}}$ = Risk in vaccinated group
Population Attributable Risk	$PAR = R_{\text{population}} - R_{\text{unexposed}}$ where $PAR$ = Population Attributable Risk $R_{\text{population}}$ = Risk in population $R_{\text{unexposed}}$ = Risk in unexposed

Term	Formula
Population Attributable Risk Fraction	$PARF = \frac{R_{\text{population}} - R_{\text{unexposed}}}{R_{\text{population}}} = 1 - \frac{R_{\text{unexposed}}}{R_{\text{population}}}$ where $PARF$ = Population Attributable Risk Fraction $R_{\text{population}}$ = Risk in population $R_{\text{unexposed}}$ = Risk in unexposed $PARF = \frac{p(RR - 1)}{p(RR - 1) + 1}$ where $PARF$ = Population Attributable Risk Fraction $p$ = Prevalence of the exposure in the population $RR$ = Relative risk of outcome for the exposed compared with the unexposed
Variance	$s^2 = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{(n - 1)}$ where $s^2$ = Variance of sample $x_i$ = Individual value $\bar{x}$ = Arithmetic mean of sample

Next

Next

To return to the Formulae Sheet once you are in your exam paper, please click the **second** information button. The first information button is the cover page shown on page 1.

The screenshot displays the exam interface for the 'Diplomate Examination for Membership of the Faculty of Public Health March 2023 | Functionality test'. The top navigation bar includes buttons for navigation and information, with the second information button circled in red. The main content area shows 'Question 1' under the heading 'Research Methods (Tutorial sample Paper 1A question)'. The question text states: 'There are four questions in this paper. Question 1 has three parts (a, b and c). Please scroll down to see all parts of the question. A recent systematic review found that reducing saturated fat intake by reducing and/or modifying dietary fat reduced the risk of cardiovascular events by 14% (RR 0.86, 95%CI 0.77 to 0.96; 65,508 participants of whom 7% had a cardiovascular event; I<sup>2</sup> 50%). There were no clear effects of dietary fat changes on total mortality (RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.93 to 1.04; 71,790 participants) or cardiovascular mortality (RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.85 to 1.04; 65,978 participants).'

The question parts are:

- a) Describe the key stages of a systematic review. (5 marks)
- b) Interpret the finding of I<sup>2</sup> 50%. (1 mark)
- c) The authors stated that: "There were no clear effects of dietary fat changes on total mortality or cardiovascular mortality". Explain the possible reasons for this.

The right panel is blank with the message: 'There is no resource for this question. This panel is therefore blank.'

The bottom navigation bar also features the second information button circled in red, with a line connecting it to the top bar's button.

Please note the following:

- The Formulae Sheet will appear in all four papers.
  - Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of formulae that candidates are expected to know or need for the exam. For example, candidates will not be provided with formulae for key epidemiological concepts such as sensitivity, specificity, relative risk and odds ratio, for example.
  - It is not possible to copy, paste or edit the formulae. The Formulae Sheet is intended as a memory aid only.
  - We would recommend using the Functionality Test to try using the Formula Keypad so that you are familiar with this before your exam.
  - Please note that you will not be penalised for writing out formulae in word form in your exam if you prefer to do this.
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**End of document**