

FAMILY MEDICINE APPLIED KNOWLEDGE TEST

HANDBOOK



Division of Graduate Medical Studies
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

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OVERVIEW

The Family Medicine Knowledge Applied Test (FM AKT) is Part 1 for both the Graduate Diploma of Family Medicine Examination (GDFM) and the Master of Medicine (Family Medicine) (MMed FM) Examination.

It is the requisite common theory examination that all candidates will need to pass in order to sit the GDFM Part 2* and MMed FM Part 2 Examinations*.

**Training validity and eligibility criteria to sit the Part 2 Examinations apply.*

EXAMINATION FORMAT

FORMAT

The FM AKT consists of 180 single best answer multiple choice questions (MCQs). It will be conducted on the same day as two papers containing 90 MCQs each, with a break between the two. Candidates are given up to two hours to complete each paper. No extra time will be provided for toilet breaks or special requests.

CONTENT

The FM AKT aims to evaluate a candidate's application of medical knowledge and clinical judgement. Candidates will be assessed across all disciplines relevant to family medicine practice, and across pediatric, adult, and geriatric age categories. Questions will be contextualized to local practice and will be psychometrically validated.

STANDARDS

The examination pass mark will be determined using a criterion-based statistical method and will **NOT** be norm based (i.e. 50%). Candidates are expected to perform at the level of a **competent** Family Physician.

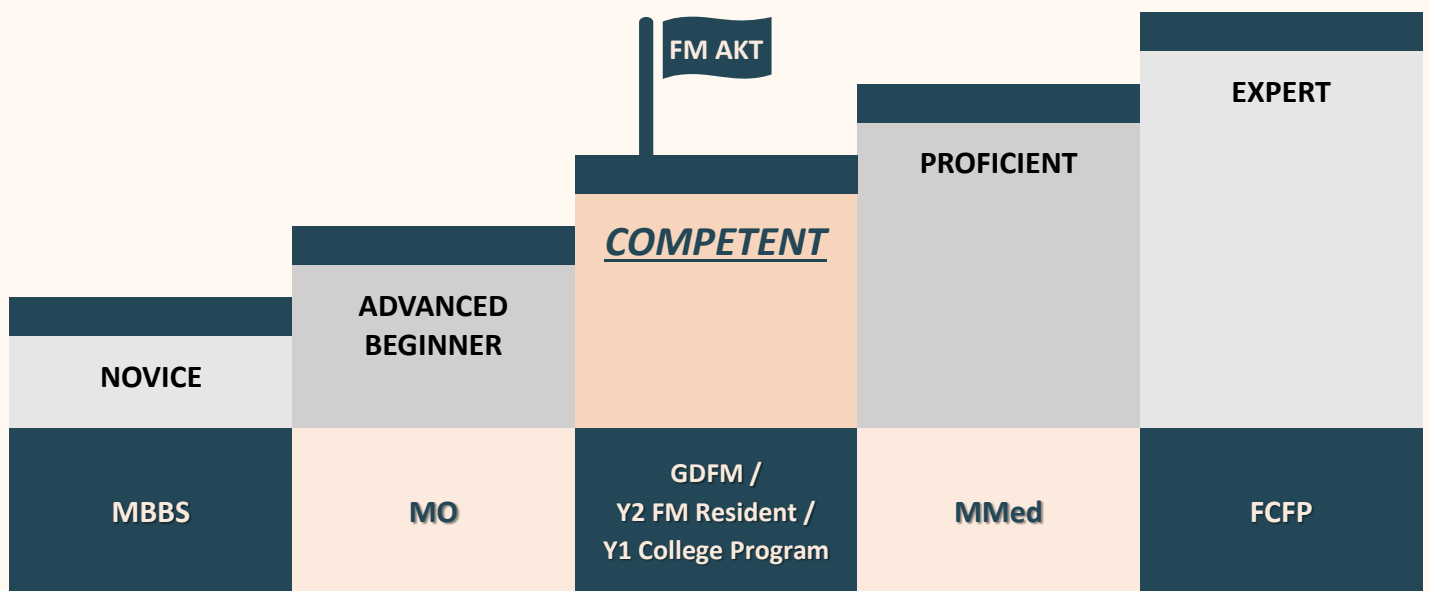


Figure 1: Standards expected from different levels of Family Physicians

BLUEPRINT

The examination blueprint will be reviewed and revised annually to ensure that content and weightage reflect current practice in Singapore.

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
Cardiovascular	9%
Endocrine	9%
Gastrointestinal	8%
Hematologic/Immune	5%
Dermatology	6%
Musculoskeletal	8%
Renal	5%
Neurologic	8%
Nonspecific	7%
Psychiatry	7%
Reproductive: Female and Male	11%
Respiratory	8%
Special Sensory	4%
Population and Patient Based Systems	5%
Total	100%

Table 1: FM AKT blueprint matrix

ELIGIBILITY

GDFM TRAINEES

The following groups of GDFM trainees will be eligible to take the FM AKT**:

- In-training Year 2 GDFM trainees
- GDFM trainees who have completed their training
- Trainees undergoing Year 2 of the GDFM refresher course before re-entry into MMed FM College Programme

FM RESIDENTS / MMED TRAINEES

The following groups of MMed trainees/residents will be eligible to take the FM AKT**:

- In-training Year 2 and 3 FM residents
- Residents who have completed their training
- In-training Year 1 and 2 MMed FM College Program trainees
- MMed FM College Program trainees who have completed their training

***Training validity and eligibility criteria to sit the FM AKT apply.*

Please note that all candidates must be in their Year 2 training or equivalent at the time of the examination application and must be endorsed by their Programme Directors. Candidates who exit their training programme before completion of training and before the FM AKT will not be allowed to sit the FM AKT.

Residents/trainees who wish to enquire on their training validity should contact their training provider directly.

VALIDITY OF FM AKT

The FM AKT is valid for **5 calendar years***.

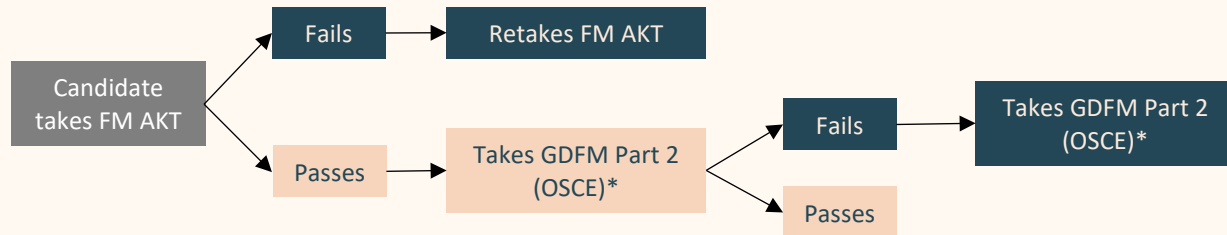
**Training validity and eligibility criteria to sit the Part 2 Examinations apply.*

Candidates who plan to sit both the GDFM Part 2 and MMed FM Part 2 Examinations are advised to plan the timing at which they sit the FM AKT to ensure its validity when attempting the respective Part 2 Examinations subsequently.

IMPACT ON PROGRESSION

GDFM TRAINEES

The FM AKT is the pre-requisite to take the GDFM Part 2 (OSCE).

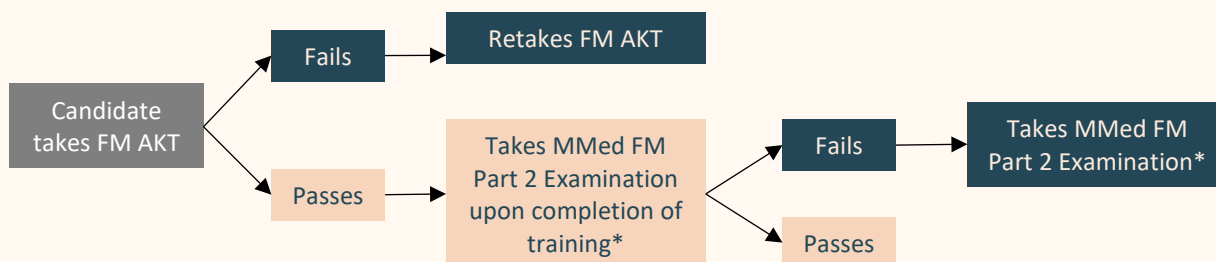


**The eligibility criteria for GDFM Part 2 and GDFM training validity apply.*

Figure 2: AKT examination flowchart for GDFM trainees

FM RESIDENTS / MMED TRAINEES

A pass in the FM AKT is the pre-requisite to take the MMed (FM) Part 2 Examination upon completion of training.



**The eligibility criteria and training validity for MMed FM apply.*

Figure 3: AKT examination flowchart for MMed trainees/residents

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Candidates are strongly recommended to **keep the entire day free**.

Examination details (including timing and venue) will only be released a few weeks before the examination via the admission letter which will be emailed to candidates.

DIGITAL EXAMINATION SOFTWARE: EXAMPLIFY

The FM AKT will be administered via Exemplify, a digital examination software. Candidates are required to bring their **own laptop or iPad, AND charger** to the examination. Exemplify must be installed on the laptop or iPads before the examination. Please ensure that the laptop or iPad meets the minimum device system requirements for the installation of Exemplify. More instructions on how to download and install Exemplify will be provided nearer the date of the examination.

Questions will be randomised in Exemplify, and candidates will be allowed to move back and forth between questions and to skip questions if they wish. The time remaining for each section will be shown in Exemplify. Once the first paper (90 MCQs) is completed, candidates will not be allowed to return to any questions and view/change answers in the first paper.

For computer-related questions, please contact NUS Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT) at citbox25@nus.edu.sg.

More information can also be found using the useful links on the last page of the handbook.

BRIEFING ON EXAMPLIFY

NUS Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT) has scheduled common briefings for all NUS students on Exemplify. Candidates are strongly advised to attend one of the briefing sessions if they are new or have/had problems with Exemplify.

Details on the common briefings that have been scheduled may be found on NUS CTLT's website here: <https://nus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DAstudent/pages/22511675/Common+Briefing+Sessions>.

Please note that an NUS account is required to attend the common briefing sessions. As such, candidates will only be able to participate in the briefings scheduled for March/April, once their NUS account has been set up.

If you have further computer-related questions, please contact NUS CTLT at citbox25@nus.edu.sg.

EXAMINATION SECURITY

Examination security is strictly enforced. Examination materials are protected by copyright laws. No copying, reproduction, adaptation, disclosure, or reconstruction of examination content is allowed. A breach of any of the examination rules will render a candidate liable to disciplinary action which may result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All candidates will have to sign a Confidentiality Undertaking Form before sitting this examination.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Candidates are to submit their special requests (e.g. request for nursing rooms) to the Division of Graduate Medical Studies (DGMS) staff via email **at least 1 month** before the examination. Please contact either Alisa or Jocelyn via the following emails: alisalim@nus.edu.sg or jocelyn@nus.edu.sg.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Candidates will be informed of their results within 1 month of the examination date. No individual scores, breakdown of individual scores, or the pass mark for this examination will be provided. The examination results are final. **No appeals will be entertained.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a recommended text to use to prepare for the FM AKT?

There is no one recommended text that can be used. In general, we recommend any text, prevailing clinical guidelines or journal readings that will allow the learner to cover up to date information on the major topics and issues that a family physician is likely to encounter in his practice.

2. If there is no fixed text, how do we know what will be tested and what will not be tested?

As a general principle, what is tested will be commonly encountered and/or managed, will be of significance if not known/missed, or of public health significance. Basic principles of population health, systems-level practice, critical appraisal of evidence, and professional and ethics-related issues will also be tested.

3. Are there any sample papers to refer to?

The FM Examination Committee (FMEC) has released a 50-question sample AKT paper to provide a guide to prospective candidates on the standard to be expected for the FM AKT. Do note that this paper does not represent the FM AKT in its entirety. Please contact your Program Coordinators (PCs) if you require a copy of this paper.

4. Family Medicine is very broad ranging. Are there any areas to focus on?

We agree that the practice of Family Medicine is very broad ranging. For this reason, it is not possible to exhaustively delineate the syllabus from which testing will occur. However, as a general rule, what is tested will be commonly encountered and/or managed, will be of significance if not known/missed, or of public health significance because of novelty or evolution. The blueprint serves as a guide to the domains covered and the relative weight that each domain carries.

5. Which guidelines should we follow when there are differing recommendations from different guidelines?

As in actual clinical practice, in general, prevailing national guidelines will be followed. Where national guidelines have not been formalised, we will refer to prevailing guidelines from key professional bodies internationally. We are aware that different guidelines may differ at times. As far as possible, test questions will avoid areas of ambiguity and/or controversy.

6. When is the cut-off for inclusion of new guidelines into the test material, for new guidelines that are released near the examination?

Every effort will be made to ensure that testing is fair. To this end, new guidelines that have not been adopted into local practice are unlikely to be tested in an examination question. At the same time, learners are encouraged to take note of rapidly evolving knowledge of public health relevance, in the same way they would keep abreast of new developments in clinical practice and to have up to date knowledge. The FMEC is however unable to commit to a cut-off date for when older data will cease to be examinable.

7. What units of measurement will be used in the examination?

Conventional and SI units will be provided for investigation results.

8. What is the difference between GDFM standard and MMed standard?

The GDFM standard is the Competent Family Physician (FP) whereas the MMed standard is the Proficient FP.

The Competent FP is expected to demonstrate the ability to handle multiple tasks in a consultation and keep focused on the key problem(s) presented, contextualize the problem to the patient's other issues, and also demonstrate familiarity with relevant practice guidelines.

The Proficient FP, in addition to the preceding attributes, is also expected to demonstrate the ability to take a holistic view of the patient in his biopsychosocial milieu and to prioritise the various issues that the patient presents before addressing them in a consultation. In addition, the Proficient FP is expected to be able to recognize deviations from pattern. This represents the ability of the Competent FP to practice Family Medicine independently and the ability of the Proficient FP to provide guidance and supervision to junior doctors.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (ADMINISTRATIVE)

1. Do I have to take the FM AKT and GDFM/MMed Part 2 Examinations in the same year?

No, the FM AKT and GDFM/MMed Part 2 Examinations do not need to be taken in the same year. The FM AKT is valid for **5 calendar years**. Successful candidates for the FM AKT may choose to take the Part 2 examination in the same year or following years, subject to their training validity and validity to sit the GDFM/MMed Part 2 Examination.

2. Can I use my Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA) for this examination?

No, the PSEA cannot be used for the FM AKT. However, candidates may utilise their PSEA for the GDFM Part 2 (OSCE) and MMed Part 2 Examinations.

For more information about the PSEA, please refer to MOE's website: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/psea/overview>

3. I do not own a laptop or iPad, am I able to borrow one?

Laptops or iPads are not available for loan, although a limited number of spare laptops will be available for loan should any candidate face technical difficulties on their laptops/iPads on the examination day.

4. Do I need to submit my BCLS certificate and practising certificate to sit for this examination?

No, the BCLS certificate and practising certificate are not a prerequisite for the FM AKT. Applicants who submit these two documents will not be required to submit again when applying for the GDFM and MMed Part 2 Examination. However, if their BCLS certificate/Practising certificate is expiring/has expired during the application for the Part 2 Examination, applicants will be required to resubmit a valid BCLS certificate/Practising certificate.

5. What can be brought for the examination?

Food and drinks (except plain water) will not be allowed in the examination venue. Personal items will have to be placed at a designated location. Candidates may bring sweaters and cardigans to the examination venue as the venue may be cold.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Division of Graduate Medical Studies Website

<https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/dgms/>

Please check our website for the most updated information.

Enquiries

Please contact either Alisa or Jocelyn at
alisalim@nus.edu.sg or jocelyn@nus.edu.sg.

USEFUL LINKS

Device Minimum System Requirements for Exemplify

<https://nus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DAstudent/pages/22511642/Device+Minimum+System+Requirement>

Guide to Download and Install Exemplify

<https://nus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DAstudent/pages/22511645/Download+and+Install+Exemplify>

Practice Exams on Exemplify

<https://nus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DAstudent/pages/22511648/Practice+Exams>

Exemplify Student Briefing Slides

<https://nus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DAstudent/pages/22511667/Exemplify+Student+Briefing+Slides?preview=/22511667/249692224/Exemplify%20-%20Student%20trial%20run.pdf>

Video on How to Download, Install and Use Exemplify

<https://mediaweb.ap.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=48df9509-7daf-41f4-9ee8-ae22008a7383>

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Digital Assessments

<https://nus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DAstudent/pages/22511652/FAQ>

FM AKT EXAMINATION TIMELINE

1

APPLICATION PERIOD

MID TO END JANUARY

All applications and fees must be submitted online by the stipulated deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be entertained.

2

PAYMENT NOTIFICATION

END FEBRUARY

Successful applicants will be notified to make the examination fee payment. Non-payment will be considered a withdrawal of application.

3

MISSING DOCUMENTS SUBMISSION

END MARCH

Candidates with missing supporting documents will be notified to submit them.

4

NUS ACCOUNT SETUP & EXAM SOFTWARE INSTRUCTIONS

MID APRIL

Instructions to set up your NUS account and download the exam software (Exemplify) will be provided. Ensure all required steps are completed and your device meets the minimum system requirements.

5

ADMISSION LETTERS SENT

END APRIL

Admission letters with your reporting time and venue will be sent 1-2 weeks before the examination.

6

EXAMINATION DAY

MAY

Candidates should keep the entire day free. Bring your device with Exemplify installed, along with a charger and your physical identification card.

7

RELEASE OF RESULTS

END MAY

Candidates will be informed of their results within 1 month of the examination date.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE SENT TO THE EMAIL PROVIDED IN YOUR APPLICATION. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL REGULARLY, INCLUDING THE JUNK FOLDER, BEFORE THE EXAMINATION