1. Introduction

The Examination for the European Diploma in Adult Respiratory Medicine will take place on the Saturday afternoon, 9 September 2017 during the ERS International Congress in Milan. This examination is in line with the ERS commitment to achieving the highest possible standards of practice in the specialty and harmonising training across Europe.

This examination will be a knowledge-based examination with multiple choice questions (MCQ) in English. A European Diploma in Adult Respiratory Medicine will be conferred from the ERS Educational Activities Department upon successful completion of this examination. The blueprint for this examination will be based on the European syllabus published in 2006 (see Examination Preparation section 5 of this document). This examination will be held annually under the authority of the European Respiratory Society.

2. Aims of the Examination

The European Examination in Adult Respiratory Medicine is aimed to be a proof of excellence. Taking the examination shows the candidate’s commitment to life-long learning. Even without legal recognition, this will be recognised within the profession throughout Europe, thus encouraging the mobility of specialists in respiratory medicine. Taking the examination will provide the candidates with a self-assessment tool. It will enable them to know where they stand with regards to the current state of the art. Upon completion, the ERS will grant successful candidates the European Diploma in Adult Respiratory Medicine. As a tangible recognition, diplomates will belong to the ERS Diplomates Club with enhanced networking possibilities and other benefits. Their profiles will also be highlighted in the HERMES Diplomates Registry presented on the official HERMES website.

3. The European Diploma in Adult Respiratory Medicine

In accordance with the EU principle of subsidiarity, this examination and diploma will have no legal standing, since only national authorities can grant physicians the right to practice. The examination will therefore be reserved to registered medical practitioners who have already obtained their national accreditation (or equivalent) to practice as a specialist in adult respiratory medicine.

Re-validation: To comply with European Curriculum recommendations (Breathe 2008; volume 5, number 1), candidates are advised to voluntarily re-sit the European Examination.
every 5 years to demonstrate that their knowledge is up-to-date. The European Diploma will expire in 10 years and sitting the examination again will be necessary.

4. Who can take the Examination?

In order to be allowed to take the examination, in addition to having already obtained their national accreditation (or equivalent) to practice as a specialist in adult respiratory medicine, candidates must meet all the following criteria:

a. Be a qualified medical practitioner with current full medical registration
b. Be a practicing qualified specialist in adult respiratory medicine OR a last-year specialty trainee
c. Be in good professional standing
d. Be an ERS member

Only candidates, who have provided the ERS office with all the required documents and information supporting the above to be true, will be allowed to sit the examination.

Once all required documents have been received by the ERS office and the examination fee has been settled, candidates will receive an email confirmation that all requirements are in order and will be advised of their examination number. The examination is a separate educational activity from the ERS International Congress and as such candidates are responsible for their travel arrangements. Examination vouchers will be provided to all candidates to allow access to the Congress Centre.

5. Examination preparation

The blueprint for the content of this knowledge-based examination is the consensus-based European syllabus published in Breathe 2006; 3:59-70. This is available in several languages. All available versions of the syllabus are available at:


The selected format for this examination has two dimensions:
1. Respiratory diseases composed of 10 categories
2. Actions of the doctor

The examination blueprint can be downloaded in the website:


ERS Handbook of Respiratory Medicine (2nd edition)
The 2013 second edition follows on the successful handbook that was first published during the ERS Barcelona Congress 2010. The content follows the HERMES syllabus and HERMES curriculum and provides a compact guide on each of the key areas in respiratory medicine. Each section featured in the ERS Handbook has been assembled by senior specialists across Europe and beyond to create a state-of-the-art textbook.
The ERS Handbook: Self-Assessment in Respiratory (2nd edition)
This is an invaluable tool for any practitioner of adult respiratory medicine. The 261 multiple-choice questions cover the full breadth of the specialty, using clinical vignettes that test not only readers' knowledge but their ability to apply it in daily practice. The book is a very useful revision aid.


For more practical tips to getting ready to sit a HERMES examination please visit:

ERS Summer School
To help candidates prepare for the HERMES examination, ERS organises annually the HERMES Summer School for Adult Respiratory Medicine.

This interactive course, led by a world class faculty will provide a comprehensive overview of the major fields of respiratory medicine. Educational materials are distributed onsite, including copies of the ERS Handbooks.

The nearest Summer schools will take place on 28 June – 1 July 2017 in Barcelona, Spain. We recommend registering early due to the limited capacity of the Summer school. For further information and to register, please visit the ERS website.

ERS MCQ App (Adult respiratory medicine only)
Do you want to practice your readiness on the go? A mobile application is available for your iPhone and iPad through the App store. Basic set of MCQs is for free, while additional packages of MCQs can be downloaded for a small payment (the MCQs come from the handbook version). The ERS MCQ app has been updated in July 2016 with new and revised questions from the 2nd edition of Self-Assessment in Respiratory Medicine.

Personal mentor
To help prepare for the exam, candidates registering for the Diploma examination can receive mentorship by interacting with HERMES Diplomates who have successfully passed HERMES examinations in the past years. A candidate can ask for a mentor when registering for the exam.

For more details:
- On mentorship for the Adult examination please visit this link
6. Structure of the Multiple Choice Examination

The examination is knowledge-based only. It will be run in the form of a paper-based Multiple Choice Examination in English. Candidates will have 3 hours to answer 90 questions.

Each candidate will be given an EXAMINATION BOOKLET CONTAINING THE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONNAIRE (MCQ). Each booklet has a unique identification number for each specific candidate. Candidates can use the booklet during the examination to rapidly mark their answers to each question in the booklet itself in a preliminary form. It is possible to make alterations to answers in the booklet. However, candidates must leave sufficient time (about 15 minutes) before the end of the examination to transfer their final answers to the ANSWER SHEET, which will be used for electronic processing.

A description of the different types of multiple choice questions with examples is given below.

The Different Types of Multiple Choice Questions with Examples

Two different types of multiple choice questions are included in the Examination Booklet. Below you will find an explanation of these two types and the correct way to mark your answers in the examination booklet.

Type A questions: Single choice
Each Type A question or incomplete statement is followed by five possible answers or completions. Mark only one answer for each question by circling the appropriate letter:

- In positively formulated questions mark the only correct or the most appropriate answer.
- In negatively formulated questions mark the only exception or the only incorrect answer or the answer that appears least appropriate.

Example of positively formulated questions:
1. A 25-year-old woman has had nearly continuous daytime sleepiness for 6 years. She either falls asleep or “blacks out” involuntarily several times a day, especially in business meetings, and has to be awakened by colleagues. She has frequent nocturnal awakenings, sometimes associated with nightmares. She has been told that she snores, although she now lives alone. Review of symptoms is remarkable for a several-year history of almost daily “collapsing” spells, lasting 20 to 30 seconds, during which she feels her knees buckle, requiring her to sit for a few minutes. She is 152 cm tall, weighs 70 kg, has a neck circumference of 43 cm, a blood pressure of 100/72 mmHg, and an otherwise normal physical examination.

What is the most appropriate next step?
(A) polysomnography
(B) polysomnography followed by a Multiple Sleep Latency Test (MSLT)
(C) overnight screening pulse oximetry
(D) periodic office follow-up and advice to avoid or eliminate obesity, sleep deprivation, and bedtime alcohol or sedative intake
(E) diagnostic psychiatric evaluation

Correct answer: B
Type Kprime questions: Four correct/incorrect decisions
Each Type Kprime question is followed by four statements which may be correct (true) or incorrect (false). For each of these four parts, candidates must decide whether they are correct or incorrect and mark each part appropriately with a (+) for correct or a (-) for incorrect.

Independent of the grammatical formulation of the question (singular or plural), 1, 2, 3, 4 or none of the answers may be correct.

Marking all four answers correctly results in a full mark, 3 correct marks result in half a point.

Example of Type Kprime question:

1. Which of the following statements concerning benign asbestos pleural effusion is/are true?
   (A) The presence of hemorrhagic fluid almost always indicates malignancy.
   (B) The latency period between exposure to asbestos and onset of disease is the same for mesothelioma and benign pleural effusion.
   (C) It rarely produces diffuse pleural thickening.
   (D) The predominant cell on cytologic examination of pleural fluid is the lymphocyte.

Correct answer: K1 - - + - (to A, B, C and D, respectively)
7. How to Answer Correctly

1. Always read the entire question and all related answers carefully.

2. First mark all your answers in the examination booklet.
   For Type A questions, circle only one correct answer (sample question on page 3 to 4).
   For Type K’ questions, mark (+) for each answer you consider True; mark (-) each answer you consider False (sample question on page 4)

3. Answer every question. If you don’t know the correct answer, and for the one you consider most appropriate.
   There is no negative marking for incorrect answers.
   An unanswered question is considered incorrect.

4. Before you copy your answers onto the answer sheet, make sure you have properly marked all answers onto the examination booklet. In the event of loss or destruction of the answer sheet, the answers marked on the examination booklet will be assessed.
   **Allow enough time to copy answers from the examination booklet to the answer sheet** (15 minutes recommended) and follow the instructions in section 9.

5. **Sign the examination booklet and the answer sheet.** By signing you confirm that you understand and adhere to the regulations.
8. Transferring Answers to the Answer Sheet in the Correct Style needed for Electronic Processing

The Answer Sheet contains ‘answer boxes’ that need to be completed for each of the multiple choice questions. In the following illustrations, the answer boxes have been enlarged for easier reading.

- Mark the boxes as shown on the left of the illustration. In pencil, you should mark a line from the top to the bottom of the appropriate box to indicate your answers to each of the Type A and Type K’ questions.

- For Type A questions, mark only one box with a vertical line.

![Correct marking style](image1)

![Incorrect marking style](image2)
• For **Type Kprime** questions, mark **4 boxes** with a vertical line (+ stands for True, - stands for False). See the illustration, below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct marking style</th>
<th>Incorrect marking style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type Kprime</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[A] -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[+ B]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[+ C]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[+ D]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All 4 boxes are correctly marked with a vertical line indicating either true (+) or false (-) for each of the 4 answers.

This is incorrect. Only 2 of the 4 boxes have been marked. All 4 boxes must be marked.

This is incorrect. Vertical lines must be used to mark the boxes (not + or – signs).

• **Erase as little as possible.** If you have to erase, make sure that no traces of the eraser remain on the sheet and no other answers are affected.
9. Onsite Regulations

The following regulations will be applied during the examination:

a. An identification document *(i.e. passport, valid ID)* will be required on the day of the examination in order to enter the examination room and take the examination.
b. Examination duration is maximum of 3 hours for 90 questions including completion of the answer sheet. This is strictly applied.
c. Candidates will be requested to check their personal information on the examination booklet and answer sheet and sign both documents. Candidates will have to complete the additional information requested and signal any incorrect information to any of ERS staff.
d. The examination booklet and answer sheet are the only paper materials allowed on candidate’s desk during the examination.
e. Examination aids are not permitted e.g. review aids, calculator. English Standard Dictionaries will be available onsite at the examination venue.
f. All bags and belongings must be placed at the designated cloakroom. This includes mobile phones, laptops, PDA’s and other electronic aids which are not permitted during the examination.
g. Mobile phones must be switched off.
h. Only one person at a time may leave the room for a toilet break and this is only allowed if accompanied by an examination supervisor. Candidates are requested to ask the staff onsite to be escorted. The examination materials must be deposited with the examination supervisor.
i. The examination booklet and answer sheet must be filled in with a pencil (no pens). These will be provided onsite.
j. The examination booklet and answer sheet must be returned to the examination supervisor at the end of the examination.
k. No material (examination booklet, answer sheet, pencil, etc...) can be taken out of the examination room by the candidates, neither during nor after the examination. The examination booklets and answer sheets are confidential documents, which will be kept in the ERS Examination files. It is strictly forbidden to either copy or disclose the Examination questions in any way. All information will be treated confidentially.
l. No food or drink is allowed in the examination room. Water will be provided at the examination venue.
m. Copying or cheating of any description will result in disqualification and exclusion from future applications to sit the examination. The decision will be at the discretion of the examination supervisor.
n. Participants are requested to present themselves at the door of the examination room at least 30 minutes before the examination is due to start. It is recommended that candidates are available by 12h00 to look for the examination venue. Thereafter, candidates can settle in their seats at 13h30. At 13h45, the examination room will be closed. If a candidate arrives after the examination has started, he or she is automatically disqualified and will not be allowed to sit the examination.
o. During the examination, only technical questions will be answered. No questions regarding the content will be entertained.
10. Evaluation of the Examination and Individual Answers

All answer sheets are handled by IML (Institute of Medical Education: www.iml.unibe.ch) in Bern, Switzerland, who partners with ERS in the production and evaluation of the examination and MCQs. The pass mark is fixed each year based on difficulty estimation of the examination questions by the responsible examiners.

Examination results will be available for each candidate through their MyERS account. Candidates will be advised by email when the results are available. These can be expected within four to six weeks after the examination has taken place.

11. Re-evaluation of the Examination

Registration for the examination implies that the candidates accept that the result of the examination is final. No legal debate on the final decision is possible.

Candidates who fail the examination can take it again by reapplying and settling the appropriate examination fee.

12. Fee

Examination fees will be determined annually and will be published on the HERMES website (http://hermes.ersnet.org). The 2017 fee for the examination is € 290. This fee covers the administrative, printing, and examination costs. This fee must be settled before the candidate is allowed to sit the examination.

13. Withdrawal from the Examination

Notice of withdrawal must be sent in writing to the ERS, Education Activities Department. There is no refund of the examination fee. Fees cannot be transferred to the next examination.

14. Special Needs

Candidates who have a disability, special need or medical condition which may affect their performance in the examination or their ability to gain access to the examination venue, or who may require additional support of a specific facility are advised to notify the ERS office on the application form or at least four weeks prior to the examination date in order that they may be assisted where possible. A medical certificate may be required in support of such claims. All information provided will be treated in confidentiality.
15. Contact in Case of Questions

Any question or concern regarding the above can be sent to the ERS at the following address

**European Respiratory Society**
Educational Activities Department
Avenue Ste Luce 4
1003 Lausanne
Switzerland

Email: hermes@ersnet.org
Phone: +41 21 213 01 92
Fax: +41 21 213 01 00