



The Society of Apothecaries of London

Diploma in HIV Medicine (Dip HIV Med)

Administrative Guidance for Candidates

EXAMINATION TIMETABLE: 2010

Closing date for entries	Tuesday 3 August
Written paper	Tuesday 28 September
OSCE	Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 October

APPLICATIONS

- To avoid disappointment, candidates are advised to apply for the examination well in advance of the closing date for entries. The closing date is the **final** date that a completed application can be considered for entry to the examination **but there is no guarantee that places will still be available at this date.**

WAITING LIST

- The Society operates a waiting list system once all places for the examination have been filled. Candidates will be notified in writing as soon as a place becomes available, candidates will then have two weeks to respond and advise whether they wish to accept the place. Please note that should candidates not respond in this time the place will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

EXAMINATION FEE

- The examination entry and re-entry fee is currently £495. Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date will trigger a forfeit fee as detailed below.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE EXAMINATION

- Candidates who wish to withdraw from the examination must notify the Society in writing. The following withdrawal penalties will be applied:

If the date of receipt of notification of withdrawal falls...	The penalty incurred will be...
Before the application deadline stated on page 1.	No penalty
8-6 weeks before the start of the examination (i.e. in the two weeks after the application deadline)	£75
Within 6 weeks of the start of the examination	£150

PAYMENTS

5. Payments can be made via:

Cheque	Made payable to 'The Society of Apothecaries'. Please write your name, address and the diploma name on the back.
PayPal™	Via the Society website: www.apothecaries.org N.B. PayPal™ is available for those paying at short notice to meet a deadline. Those choosing to use this method of payment should add 5% of the fee to cover the charges incurred by the Society.
Direct transfer	Details on application

Candidates from overseas should ensure that their cheques yield the correct fee in Sterling AFTER deduction of bank charges. Only bankers' drafts drawn on a UK bank are accepted. Bankers' drafts should be valid for at least three months after the examination date.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Best of five

A 60 year old man is diagnosed with acute pancreatitis. He is on antiretroviral therapy, has a CD4 count of 190 cells/mm³ and an undetectable viral load.

Medications

Zidovudine 250 mg twice daily

Didanosine 400mg once daily

Raltegravir 400mg twice daily

Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir) 2 caps twice daily

Inhaled pentamidine once monthly

Which of the following drugs is the most likely to be the cause of the pancreatitis?

- A. Didanosine
- B. Pentamidine
- C. Raltegravir
- D. Ritonavir
- E. Zidovudine

Answer: A. Didanosine

OSCE

Instructions to candidates

Station title: **Primary HIV infection**

This station lasts 10 minutes.

You are a doctor in an HIV clinic.

This patient is Mrs Haddon. She is 44 years old. Four weeks ago she developed a flu-like illness with fever that persisted for one week. Following investigation she was diagnosed HIV positive.

Her husband was diagnosed HIV positive when he presented with oesophageal candida two years before.

Mrs Haddon last tested HIV negative one year ago. Her current Her viral load is 800,000 c/ml and her CD4 count is 350 cells/ μ L.

She has attended your clinic to seek information and advice concerning her condition. Discuss with the patient the issues involved and answer any questions she has.

There is no need to write anything down.