Introduction

As part of the launch for our DFSRH 2020, we are introducing our new Online Theory Assessment (OTA) to replace the previous Electronic Knowledge Assessment (eKA).

This guide introduces the new OTA and how this forms part of the assessments within the redesigned DFSRH qualification and as an entry assessment for some of the Letters of Competence (LoCs).

We hope you find this information below useful. If you have any questions, please let us know at contact us.

What is the Online Theory Assessment (OTA)?

The OTA is an assessment of a candidate’s breadth of theoretical knowledge which underpins their practical skills, and therefore serves as a critical place in the programme of assessment. The OTA is an open-book, online theory assessment. Its purpose is to assess the candidate's knowledge, understanding and clinical decision-making abilities in contraceptive and non-specialist sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Sitting the OTA

Sitting the OTA takes one hour and the assessment contains 50 single best answer questions (SBA). The SBA question type is a multiple-choice single response; it is comprised of a question with 5 answers to choose. The pass mark is 60% and a result and score will be shared with the candidate. More detailed feedback will not be provided.

OTA candidates are recommended to sit the assessment in their preferred setting and will need to set aside 60 uninterrupted minutes in which to complete the OTA.

Candidates are allowed to have reference materials available to assist them. They must complete this assessment themselves. It is recommended that candidates undertake the OTA after some clinical practice.

As part of the DFSRH 2020

The OTA is part of our redesigned DFSRH 2020 assessment framework. DFSRH candidates will be given access to the OTA as part of their DFSRH journey. All questions presented will relate to DFSRH learning outcomes. There will be a practice assessment available to help candidates to become familiar with the style and level of the assessment.

DFSRH candidates can take the assessment at any time in their DFSRH journey, but we recommend that candidates only do so after they have experienced some clinical practice to support their knowledge for the assessment.
As an entry assessment to the LoCs

The OTA is an entry requirement for our LoC SDI-IR and LoC IUT qualifications. All questions presented will test the candidate’s knowledge base to ensure they are ready to undertake the LoCs.

Once a candidate has enrolled and purchased an attempt of the OTA for the Letters of Competence, they will have up to six months to complete the assessment. We encourage candidates to take the OTA as soon as possible, to ensure they can progress with their LoC. Extensions and refunds will not be given for those that go beyond this time.

There will be a practice assessment available to help candidates to become familiar with the style and level of the assessment.

Preparing for the OTA

There are a number of FSRH learning resources that you can use to help you prepare for the OTA.

These include:

- eSRH online learning
- Over 20 NICE-accredited standards and guidance
- Access to the Women’s Health Library – a resource developed by ourselves, the RCOG and RCGP
- Our conferences and events

If you are already an FSRH member, you can also access additional resources including online access to our quarterly Journal, and webinars on clinical guidance – live or recorded to watch again.

Quality assurance of the OTA

All questions for the OTA are authored, monitored and updated by experienced SRH clinicians and educational experts.

Cost of the OTA

For candidates completing LoC qualifications, the OTA costs £75 per attempt. This is paid upfront when enrolling.

Those completing the DFSRH will have one attempt at the OTA. This is included within the Diploma application fee. If they are unsuccessful on the first attempt, they will be charged £75 for each further attempt.

Completion of the OTA is an entry requirement for our Letter of Competence qualifications. We are unable to provide feedback regarding responses to individual questions as this would compromise the integrity of the questions presented.
If I have completed my eKA previously is it still valid?

Where candidates have previously passed the eKA as part of another qualification which has been awarded within five years of starting the new qualification, they will not be required to take the OTA.

Where candidates have previously passed the eKA (without achieving another FSRH qualification) within two years of starting the new qualification, they will not be required to take the OTA.

What if I fail an OTA attempt?

As part of the DFSRH: If a candidate is unsuccessful on their first attempt, they will be prompted to make a further payment of £75 for each subsequent sitting of the OTA.

If a candidate fails the third attempt, there will a period of six months before they can re-sit the OTA. This will allow them to undertake further learning and be better prepared for this assessment.

As an entry to the LoC: If a candidate is unsuccessful on their first attempt, they will be prompted to make a further payment of £75 for each subsequent sitting of the OTA. Candidates may take the OTA as many times as they like but we do encourage candidates to prepare well for any additional attempts.

Further support and requests for additional time

You can contact our FSRH Education Team if you have any questions about the OTA.

Requests for additional time must be selected from the options presented when purchasing your OTA attempt through our FSRH website.

Candidates will need to provide evidence for this to the FSRH Education and Training team who will confirm your additional time. We will update this on our system to ensure you are provided with this time during your attempt. Candidates should not start their OTA until additional time has been confirmed.