

Linguistic review of the MRCGP AKT

In February 2025, a routine, independent linguistic quality assurance review of the MRCGP Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) was conducted by expert linguist Lynne Rustecki BA, RSA TESOL.

Lynne Rustecki, Education Lead for the Specialist Communication and Linguistic Service at the London Professional Support Unit, NHS England, has a particular interest in the communication challenges faced by doctors who practise in English as a second language. Her work focuses on how linguistic and cultural factors influence professional interaction and contribute to differential attainment.

The review assessed the linguistic complexity of the AKT in relation to the GMC's English language requirements and the clarity guidelines set out by the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) Style Guide.

Overall, the review found that most questions were clear, concise, grammatically straightforward, and correctly punctuated. The language was appropriately formal and professional, and many questions included helpful explanatory statements to support candidate understanding.

Following the review, specific recommended style changes will be implemented to further improve clarity of language. The findings will inform the development of future test content and are already being incorporated into MRCGP AKT Examiner item writing training.