As part of our ongoing strategy to address the differential pass rates between UK graduates and International Medical Graduates in the MRCGP, we commissioned an independent review of the AKT and CSA components by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). Professor John Norcini, who conducted the review, suggested that we should consider increasing the amount of time candidates have available to complete the AKT. Although there is no evidence that time constraints in the AKT contribute in any way to the differential pass rates, they might pose more of a challenge for those candidates who are less proficient in the English language.

The GMC gave us permission to increase the duration of the AKT by 10 minutes on these grounds and we implemented this change in October 2014.

In addition to the extra time, an on-screen calculator was made available. This was provided at the request of candidates, but any calculation within the AKT will require only simple basic arithmetic, and most candidates will not need to use the calculator.

The additional time provided for the AKT does not change the standard required to achieve a pass in the AKT.

Candidates who require additional time as a result of a declared disability will have this calculated on the basis of the new AKT duration.