

Data Interpretation

10% of questions in the AKT (i.e. 20 questions) will be on evidence-based practice (including evidence interpretation and the critical appraisal skills needed to interpret research data). Although this is a smaller section of the exam, consider how much your own undergraduate and postgraduate teaching focussed on this.

Discuss early on in your training what else you need to do to prepare. Start by looking at what the GP Curriculum states about evidence based practice, research and sharing knowledge:

[GP curriculum: Professional topic guides \(rcgp.org.uk\)](https://www.rcgp.org.uk)

While the curriculum provides potential areas for questions, in addition the exam team have compiled a list of topics that have commonly formed the basis of questions in recent years until September 2024. Although future topics and questions in the AKT will continue to evolve, we trust the following guides some of your exam preparation.

- Study design types, and types of analysis
- Understanding of commonly used statistical terminology and practical applications of this including:
 - absolute risk
 - numbers needed to harm
 - numbers needed to treat
 - prevalence
 - relative risk
 - risk ratios
 - sensitivity
 - specificity
- Data presented in different ways including:
 - Abbe plots
 - bar charts
 - box and whisker plots
 - Cates charts
 - funnel plots
 - line charts
 - quadrant analysis
- Interpretation of data including:
 - audit outcomes
 - cancer risk charts
 - patient decision aids
 - prescribing data
 - standardised death rates

In the [‘Resources for trainees and trainers’](#) section of the RCGP AKT website there is a tutorial document with some examples of the types of charts that can be used. Professor Michael Harris has also produced some excellent videos with doctors in training explaining some of the important concepts.

It is recommended to look at some data interpretation questions with your ES and ‘talk out loud’ through your answers.

Explore early on what is available via your VTS programme, and what local or national courses exist. For example, the RCGP Education team provide a regular course [‘Statistics for the AKT and beyond’](#).