EHA REPORT

European Hematology Exam 2025

European Hematology Association

Contents

The ninth edition of the European Hematology Exam took place on June 12 2025 during the EHA2025 Hybrid Congress in Milan, Italy. A total of 267 candidates completed the exam across 20 global locations, including the main venue in Milan and in 19 international centers.
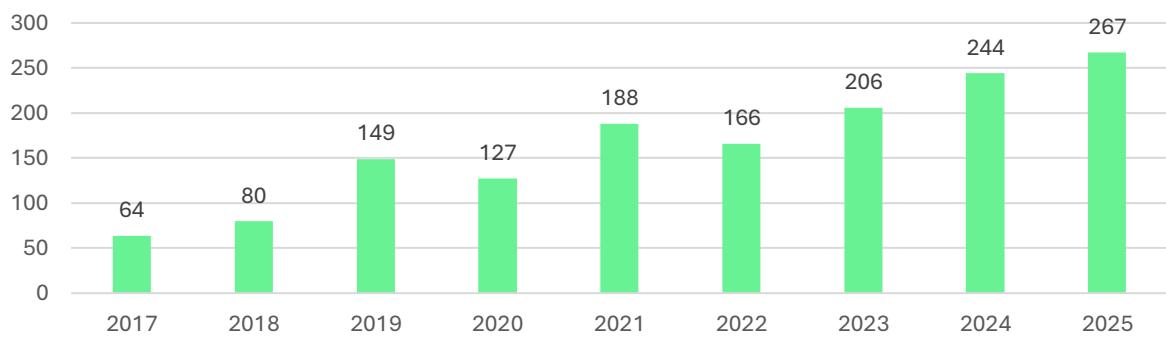

Figure 1 Number of candidates over time

This report summarizes participation patterns, exam quality, psychometric outcomes, curriculum coverage, and candidate performance.

Exam structure & psychometric quality

Structure of the exam

Candidates answered 100 multiple-choice questions, with one point per correct response. Twenty items from the 2024 exam were re-used as anchor items for score equating across years.

Item quality review

Psychometric screening identified 10 statistically irregular items. Expert review confirmed one item lacked clarity and was removed from scoring. 99 items factor into the results.

Reliability and standard error

The 2025 exam demonstrated strong reliability, as reflected by a Cronbach's alpha of 0.88. This value exceeds the expected 0.80 standard for high-stakes exams.

The Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) for the 2025 exam was 4.2, reflecting a high level of precision in score estimation. This low SEM value means that candidates' actual scores closely represent their true abilities.

Standard setting & pass rate

Using IRT-based equating aligned with the 2024 standard, the passing threshold was set at 59 correct responses out of 99 scored items.

The overall pass rate was 71%, with 178 candidates passing and 89 not meeting the requirement.

Exam Difficulty & Item Distribution

The 2025 exam shifted toward more challenging content.

Difficulty level	2024 exam	2025 exam
Easy items	45.5%	31.3%
Medium items	40.4%	54.5%
Hard items	14.1%	14.1%

Despite this shift, overall performance remained stable, indicating good candidate preparedness.

Curriculum Alignment & Section Coverage

The exam maintained balanced coverage across the eight curriculum domains, with proportional representation:

Section	Description	% of exam
S1	Non-malignant hematology	21%
S2	Myeloid malignancies	20%
S3	Lymphoid malignancies & plasma cell disorders	23%
S4	Treatment of hematological disorders	13%
S5	Laboratory diagnosis	12%
S6	Thrombosis & hemostasis	10%
S7	Transfusion medicine	10%
S8	General skills	8%

Performance by curriculum domain

Candidates performed strongly in clinical malignancy-related sections. However, General Skills scored lowest at 48.6%, revealing a clear gap in non-clinical competencies.

Performance by curriculum section (mean % correct)

Section	Mean % correct
S1 Nonmalignant	59,9%
S2 Myeloid	63,1%
S3 Lymphoid & Plasma	72,7%
S4 Treatment	71,0%
S5 Lab diagnosis	65,5%
S6 Thrombosis & Hemostasis	67,7%
S7 Transfusion	67,5%
S8 General skills	48,6%
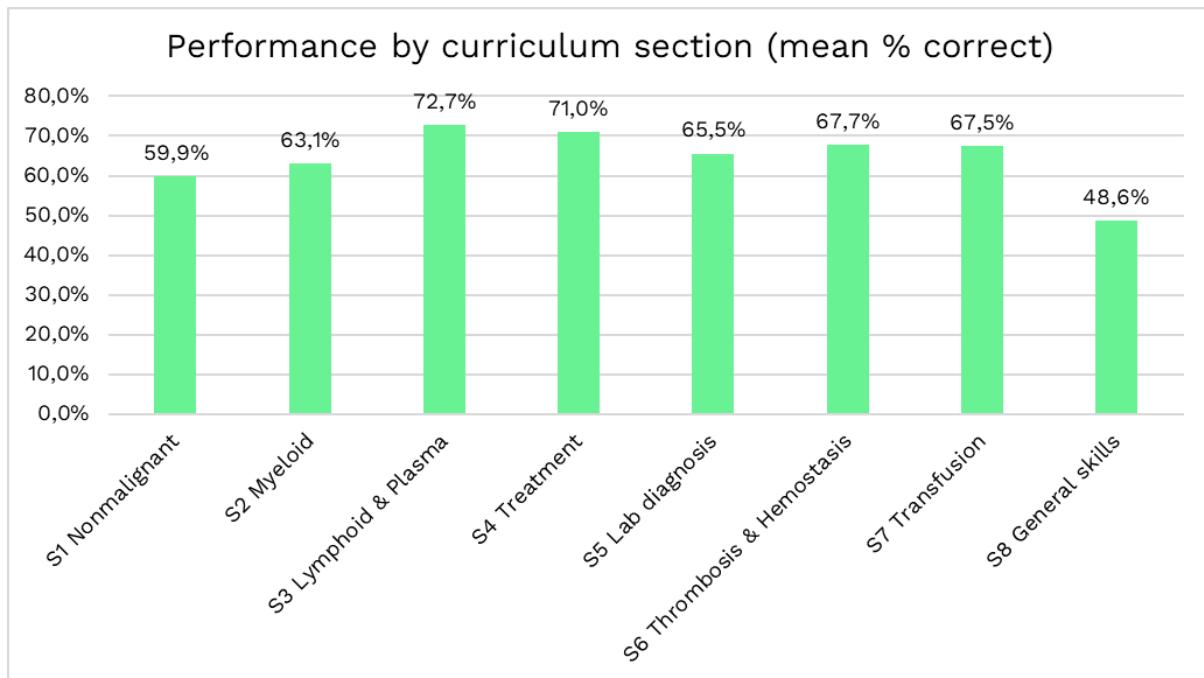
Demographics & Performance Trends

Membership status

EHA members performed substantially better (78% pass rate) than non-members (45%). This difference highlights the value of engagement with EHA educational resources.

Training timeline

Performance correlated with recency of training:

Training Status	Pass Rate Trend
Not Finished: more than 1 yr to go	84%
Not Finished: up to 1 yr to go	81%
Finished: up to 1 yr ago	73%
Finished: 1 to 4 yrs ago	43%
Finished: More than 4 yrs ago	65%

This aligns with the exam's emphasis on current academic knowledge.

Candidate Experience

Survey respondents reported a positive exam experience:

- 84% felt they had sufficient time
- 76% found the language clear
- Over 78% considered the content relevant to clinical training

Candidates described the exam as challenging but fair, with appreciation for the digital format and exam organization. Some requested improved technical support and clearer logistical communication.

National societies affirmed these impressions, noting the exam's continued high standards.

Collaboration with National Societies

EHA expresses gratitude to the 19 National Societies that organized local exam sessions, contributing to accessibility across Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, and Türkiye.

Acknowledgement

EHA thanks the Curriculum Exam Committee, Question Writers Group, and all experts involved in delivering the 2025 exam, coordinated by the EHA Education Team in The Hague.

EHA European Hematology Exams 2026

The 10th European Hematology Exam is scheduled for June 13, 2026, during the EHA2026 Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, with remote access for international participants.

More information will be available on the EHA website.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Anchor Items	Previously used exam questions included again to maintain comparability between exam years.
Candidate Performance Trends	Patterns in how candidates perform across questions, content domains, demographic groups, and difficulty levels.
Cronbach's Alpha	A statistic measuring internal reliability of the exam. Values above 0.80 indicate strong consistency

Curriculum Sections/Domains	The eight thematic sections of the European Hematology Curriculum.
CITO	An independent professional research institute responsible for psychometric evaluation, item analysis, and statistical validation of the European Hematology Exam.
Item Analysis	A psychometric review assessing how individual questions behave statistically (difficulty, discrimination, clarity).
Item Response Theory (IRT)	A statistical model used to estimate item characteristics and equate scores across different exam versions.
Pass Score / Passing Threshold	Minimum number of correct responses required to pass.
Psychometric Screening	Statistical evaluation of exam items to assess reliability, difficulty, discrimination, and identify irregularities.
Reliability (Internal Consistency)	The degree to which the exam yields stable and consistent results. High reliability indicates accurate measurement.
Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)	The margin of error around a candidate's observed score. Lower SEM indicates greater precision.
Standard Setting	The process of determining the pass mark using expert judgment and statistical analysis, aligned across years through equating.
"Deviant Items"	Questions showing abnormal statistical behavior (too ambiguous, too easy, too hard, or not discriminative). Reviewed for potential exclusion.