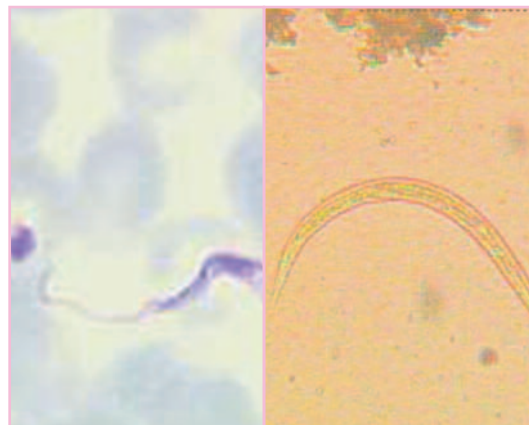


Parasitology Schemes

The parasitology schemes provide a variety of methods and specimen formats to cover several parasites and methods of detection. The ranges of parasites in the faecal specimens include helminth ova and larvae, protozoan cysts and oocysts and in the blood specimens, malaria parasites, microfilariae, trypanosomes and Leishmania. In addition to the EQA specimens, teaching programmes are available for both blood and faecal parasitology.

Public Health England, operating UK NEQAS for Parasitology, is a UKAS accredited Proficiency Testing Provider No. 7512. Please see the schedule for details.



Scheme	Examinations	Sample format	No. of distributions per year	No. of samples per distribution	Scoring
Blood parasitology	Microscopic examination for presence of blood and tissue parasites	Blood films on glass slides	8	1	Presence or absence of blood parasites including % parasitaemia for <i>P. falciparum</i> and <i>P. knowlesi</i>
Faecal parasitology	Examine for ova, cysts and larvae in faecal samples	Formalin fixed suspensions of human faeces, fixed smears and other formats dependent on the parasite	8	2-3	Presence of parasite and stage
Malaria (Molecular)	Detection of nucleic acid from all five Plasmodium species	Lyophilised blood	4	4	Presence or absence of nucleic acid from all five Plasmodium species infecting man
Malaria rapid	Testing for malarial antigen	Lyophilised human blood	2	2	Presence or absence of <i>P. falciparum</i> or Plasmodium species antigens
Parasite serology	Detection of antibodies to Strongyloides, Echinococcus, Entamoeba histolytica, Toxocara, <i>T. cruzi</i> and Schistosoma	Liquid human serum	4	6	Presence or absence of antibodies to these parasites
Toxoplasma serology	Detection of IgG and IgM antibodies to Toxoplasma and Toxoplasma IgG avidity	Liquid human serum	4	3	Presence or absence of IgG and IgM antibodies

Parasitology teaching schemes: These teaching schemes are held in various locations within the United Kingdom with one course held in the Republic of Ireland. Nine courses each in blood and faecal parasitology are available and carried out through presentations and workshops. These training courses are offered only to participants registered with UK NEQAS. See the following website for the course schedule and venues and to book a venue: <http://parasitologyprogramme.org.uk/>

