

Examination Report

Part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) Oral Examination

April 2019

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# Summary

Since April 2014 the part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Opthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination has been taken separately by candidates, being no longer directly linked to the written examination. The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) consists of six stations worth a total of 198 marks, one of which is conducted with the vivas, whilst the structured viva consists of five stations worth a total of 60 marks.

A total of 84 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the OSCE was 126 and the pass mark for the structured viva was 38.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.6 (viva) and 0.9 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 70/84 (83 per cent) and 56/84 (67 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 54/84 (64 per cent).

# Candidates

There were 84 candidates for the examination. Of these, 57/84 (68 per cent) were in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST). The largest group (33 per cent) were in training level OST5.

# The structured vivas

There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 1 April and Tuesday 2 April. The communication skills OSCE station was conducted as one of the viva stations, making six stations in all (the OSCE station is not included in the analysis of the viva; it is merely administered at the same time). Each viva lasted 10 minutes. The stations were:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Station 1:**  | **Patient investigations and data interpretation** |
|  |  |
| **Station 2:**  | **Patient management 1** |
|  |  |
| **Station 3:**  | **Patient management 2** |
| **Station 4:**  | **Attitudes, ethics and responsibilities.** |
|  |  |
| **Station 5a:**  | **Audit, research and EBM (5 minutes)** |
|  |  |
| **Station 5b:**  | **Health promotion and disease prevention (5 minutes)** |
|  |  |
| **Station 6:**  | **Communication skills (part of OSCE)** |

## Results

Maximum mark (5 stations, 5 examiners, 12 marks per station): 60

1. Marks for the viva

| **Statistic** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pass mark (using borderline candidate method) | 34/60 | 56.7% |
| Mean score | 43.8/60 | 73.0% |
| Median score | 45/60 | 75.0% |
| Range | 26 – 57 | 43.3% – 95.0% |
| Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted) | 0.7 |  |
| SEM | 3.49 | 5.8% |
| Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM) | 38/60 | 63.3% |
| Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 34/60) | 76/84 | 90.5% |
| Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 38/60) | 70/84 | 83.3% |



1. Distribution of viva scores
2. Station summary – viva

| **Station** | **Category** | **Maximum possible** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Min** | **Max** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | PI | 12 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | PM1 | 12 | 9.1 | 10.0 | 3 | 12 |
| 3 | PM2 | 12 | 8.4 | 8.0 | 2 | 12 |
| 4 | AER | 12 | 9.2 | 10.0 | 5 | 12 |
| 5 | HPDP/EBM | 12 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 3 | 12 |

1. Correlation between viva stations

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** |
| **Station 1** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 2** | -0.02 |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 3** | 0.23 | 0.13 |  |  |  |
| **Station 4** | 0.31 | 0.08 | 0.30 |  |  |
| **Station 5** | 0.37 | 0.05 | 0.39 | 0.36 |  |

## Standard setting for the structured vivas

1. Viva standard setting

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** | **Total** |
| Number of passed candidates | 67 | 59 | 56 | 61 | 51 |  |
| Number of borderline candidates | 11 | 13 | 19 | 21 | 24 |
| Number of failed candidates | 6 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| Median borderline candidate mark | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 34 |

# The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all. The five clinical stations were held from Wednesday 3 April to Friday 5 April. The communication OSCE was conducted with the vivas.

## Results

1. Marks for the OSCE

| **Statistic** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pass mark (using borderline candidate method) | 115.5/198 | 58.3% |
| Mean score | 136.6/198 | 69% |
| Median score | 142/198 | 71.7% |
| Range | 61 – 189 | 30.8% – 95.5% |
| Reliability (Cronbach's alpha) | 0.9 |  |
| SEM | 9.55 | 4.8% |
| Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM) | 126/198 | 63.6% |
| Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 115.5/198) | 64/84 | 76.2% |
| Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 126/198) | 56/84 | 66.7% |



1. Distribution of OSCE scores
2. Station summary – OSCE

| **Station** | **Category** | **Maximum Possible** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Min** | **Max** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Anterior segment | 33 | 25.0 | 26.0 | 10 | 35 |
| 2 | Glaucoma and lid | 33 | 24.2 | 23.0 | 11 | 36 |
| 3 | Posterior segment | 33 | 26.2 | 27.5 | 10 | 36 |
| 4 | Strabismus and orbit | 33 | 25.3 | 25.5 | 10 | 36 |
| 5 | Neuro-ophthalmology | 33 | 23.6 | 24.0 |  6 | 36 |
| 6 | Communication skills | 33 | 12.2 | 12.5 |  1 | 18 |

1. Correlation between examiners' marks at each station

| **Station** | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** | **Station 6** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Anterior segment | Glaucoma and lid | Posterior segment | Strabismus and orbit | Neuro-ophthalmology | Communication skills |
| Correlation | 0.85 | 0.94 | 0.83 | 0.89 | 0.92 | 0.83 |

1. Mean absolute difference in examiners' marks at each station

| **Station** | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** | **Station 6** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Anterior segment | Glaucoma and lid | Posterior segment | Strabismus and orbit | Neuro-ophthalmology | Communication skills |
| Mean absolute difference | 1.58 | 0.86 | 1.63 | 1.19 | 1.13 | 1.01 |

1. Correlation between OSCE stations

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** | **Station 6** |
| **Station 1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 2** | 0.43 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 3** | 0.39 | 0.40 |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 4** | 0.52 | 0.30 | 0.45 |  |  |  |
| **Station 5** | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.16 | 0.42 |  |  |
| **Station 6** | 0.34 | 0.25 | 0.28 | 0.30 | 0.23 |  |

## Standard setting for the OSCEs

1. OSCE standard setting

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** | **Station 6** | **Total** |
| Number of passed candidates | 49 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 57 | 55 | 42 | 47 | 45 | 49 | 49 | 44 |  |
| Number of borderline candidates | 21 | 24 | 26 | 26 | 16 | 18 | 24 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 23 |
| Number of failed candidates | 14 | 15 | 18 | 18 | 11 | 11 | 18 | 16 | 23 | 17 | 15 | 17 |
| Median borderline candidate mark | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11.5 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 115.5 |

# Overall results for the oral examination

## Results

1. Overall Results summary

| **Statistics** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pass Mark | 164/258 | 63.6% |
| Mean | 180/258 | 69.8% |
| Median | 188/258 | 72.9% |
| Range | 93 – 243 | 36.0% – 94.2% |

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either pass both the viva (38/60 (63 per cent)) and OSCE (126/198 (64 per cent)) or pass the OSCE, achieve 34/60 (57 per cent) in the viva and achieve 164/258 (64 per cent) overall.

Overall, 54 out of 84 candidates passed the examination.

1. Pass rates

| **Statistics** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Overall pass rate for the oral examination | 54/84 | 64.3% |
| Pass rate for candidates in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST) | 45/57 | 78.9% |
| Pass rate for non-trainees | 9/27 | 33.3% |

The correlation between the structured viva and the OSCE was 0.67.



1. Distribution of (combined) total scores

## Breakdown of oral examination

1. Breakdown of results by training

| **Training** | **Failed** | **Passed** | **Pass rate (%)** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| In OST | 12 | 45 | 78.9 | 57 |
| Not in OST | 18 | 9 | 33.3 | 27 |
| **Total** | **30** | **54** | **64.3** | **84** |

1. Breakdown of results by level of training

| **Level of training** | **Failed** | **Passed** | **Pass rate (%)** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MO ST5 | 0 | 2 | 100.0 | 2 |
| OST3 | 2 | 2 |  50.0 | 4 |
| OST4 | 2 | 13 |  86.7 | 15 |
| OST5 | 5 | 14 |  73.7 | 19 |
| OST6 | 2 | 9 |  81.8 | 11 |
| OST7 | 1 | 5 |  83.3 | 6 |
| **Total** | **12** | **45** |  **78.9** | **57** |

## Comparison to previous examinations

1. Comparison to previous examinations

| **Date** | **Candidates** | **Viva pass mark** | **Viva reliability** | **OSCE pass mark** | **OSCE Reliability** | **Oral pass rate** | **Oral pass rate in OST** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nov 2012 | 103 | 58% | 0.9 | 61% | 0.8 | 58% | 64% |
| Apr 2013 | 109 | 60% | 0.8 | 63% | 0.8 | 57% | 56% |
| Apr 2014 | 104 | 57% | 0.8 | 61% | 0.8 | 58% | 65% |
| Nov 2014 | 79 | 63% | 0.8 | 62% | 0.7 | 63% | 70% |
| Apr 2015 | 77 | 60% | 0.9 | 60% | 0.9 | 62% | 80% |
| Nov 2015 | 72 | 61% | 0.8 | 62% | 0.8 | 69% | 86% |
| Apr 2016 | 61 | 63% | 0.8 | 63% | 0.9 | 56% | 69% |
| Nov 2016 | 107 | 60% | 0.8 | 63% | 0.8 | 71% | 84% |
| Apr 2017 | 105 | 61% | 0.8 | 63% | 0.8 | 66% | 82% |
| Apr 2018 | 74 | 62% | 0.8 | 60% | 0.8 | 70% | 80% |
| Nov 2018 | 106 | 58% | 0.8 | 64% | 0.8 | 58% | 74% |
| Apr 2019 | 84 | 63% | 0.6 | 64% | 0.9 | 64% | 79% |
| The MCQ examination has been de-coupled from the oral examination since April 2014 |

1. Cumulative results by deanery (September 2010 to date)

| **Country** | **Deanery** | **Number of passes** | **Number of candidates** | **Pass rate (%)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UK | East Midlands |  40 |  55 | 72.7 |
| East of England |  38 |  65 | 58.5 |
| East of Scotland |  9 |  10 | 90.0 |
| London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) | 209 |  273 | 76.6 |
| Mersey |  40 |  59 | 67.8 |
| North of Scotland |  9 |  15 | 60.0 |
| North Western |  38 |  70 | 54.3 |
| Northern |  31 |  43 | 72.1 |
| Northern Ireland |  15 |  19 | 78.9 |
| Oxford |  36 |  42 | 85.7 |
| Peninsula (South West) |  15 |  32 | 46.9 |
| Severn |  28 |  39 | 71.8 |
| South East of Scotland |  17 |  22 | 77.3 |
| Wales |  25 |  45 | 55.6 |
| Wessex |  21 |  41 | 51.2 |
| West Midlands |  61 |  96 | 63.5 |
| West of Scotland |  27 |  44 | 61.4 |
| Yorkshire |  59 |  97 | 60.8 |
| Overseas | Eire |  0 |  1 |  0.0 |
| Europe and Overseas |  7 |  18 | 38.9 |
| **Total** | **725** | **1086** | **66.8** |