Examination Report

Confidential Report on the November 2017

Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Examination

**Contents:**

1. Summary 2

2. Candidates 3

3. The Structured Vivas 3

3a. Results and analysis 4

3b. Standard setting 5

4. The OSCE 6

4a. Results and analysis 6

4b. Standard setting 8

5. The Examination Overall

5a. Final results 9

5b. Breakdown of oral exam 10

5c. Comparison to previous examinations 12

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 Candidate feedback

**1. Summary**

This is the eighth time that the part 2 FRCOphth oral examination has been taken by candidates now that it is no longer directly linked to the written examination. The OSCE now consists of 5 clinical stations at which candidates are required to examine 3 patients (15 in total). The medicine/neurology station is now a neuro-ophthalmology station. The communication station remains unchanged. The total number of marks available for the oral examination has increased from 256 to 318 and as a result of these changes with a weighting towards the OSCE is 62% to 38% for the structured viva (SV).

108 candidates were allocated places at this examination and 107 candidates sat. This is the third consecutive sitting that has been oversubscribed.

The pass mark for the SV was lower at 59% than the last sitting and the OSCE pass mark at 61% was also lower than the previous sitting.

The reliability of the oral examination is high at 0.7 (SV) and 0.8 (OSCE).

The pass rate in OST (83%) remains at a high level. The pass rate for candidates who were not in OST was significantly lower at 39%, lower than the previous sitting.

Six ST4 candidates sat the exam and achieved a 100% pass rate.

Rehna Khan, FRCOphth

**Education Adviser**The 18th sitting of the Part 2 FRCOphth examination were held in Bournemouth from Monday 13 November to Friday 17 November 2017.

**2. Candidates**

107 candidates presented themselves for the examination.

**3. The Structured Vivas**

There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 November 2017. The communication skills OSCE station was conducted as one of the viva stations, making six stations in all. Each viva lasted 10 minutes. The stations were:

**Station 1:** **Patient investigations and data interpretation**

Monday PM OCT

Tuesday AM Pupils

Tuesday PM Acute diplopia

**Station 2:** **Patient management 1**

Monday PM ROP

Tuesday AM Septo-optic dysplasia

Tuesday PM Vernal

**Station 3:** **Patient management 2**

Monday PM FIS

Tuesday AM Dislocated lens

Tuesday PM coexisting cataract glaucoma

**Station 4:** **Attitudes, Ethics and Responsibilities.**

Monday PM Gilick Comptetence and parental responsbility

Tuesday AM Mental capacity act

Tuesday PM Never events

**Station 5a:** **Audit, Research and EBM (5 minutes)**

Monday PM Guidelines for amblyopia treatment

Tuesday AM Hydroxychloroquine

Tuesday PM Herpetic eye

**Station 5b: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (5 minutes)**

Monday PM Laser safety

Tuesday AM CJD transmission

Tuesday PM Needlestick

**Station 6: Communication Skills (part of OSCE)**

Monday PM Choroidal mass

Tuesday AM Herpetic Uveitis not responding

Tuesday PM Retinitis Pigmentosa

**3a) Results:**

Maximum mark (5 stations, 10 examiners, 12 marks per station): 120

Pass mark (using borderline candidate method): 64/120 (56%)

Mean score: 83/120 (69%)

Median score: 84/120 (70%)

Range\*: 39 – 112 (34% - 93%)

Reliability: (Cronbach alpha) 0.7

SEM: 7

Final adjusted pass mark (+ 1 SEM) 71/120 (59%)

Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 64/120) 94/107 (88%)

Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 71/120) 88/107 (82%)

**Table 1 Distribution of scores**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Score | Distribution | Total |
| 21-30 |  | 0 |
| 31-40 | **/** | 1 |
| 41-50 |  | 0 |
| 51-60 | **///// ///** | 8 |
| 61-70 | **///// /////** | 10 |
| **71-80** | **///// ///// ///// ///** | 18 |
| 81-90 | **///// ///// ///// ///// ///// ///// ///// //** | 37 |
| 91-100 | **///// ///// ///// ///// ////** | 24 |
| 101-110 | **///// ///** | 8 |
| 111-120 | **/** | 1 |
| Total |  | 107 |

**Table 2 Results for each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Station |  | Maximum  possible | Mean | Median | Min | Max |
| 1 | PI | 24 | 15 | 15 | 1 | 24 |
| 2 | PM 1 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 3 | 24 |
| 3 | PM 2 | 24 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 24 |
| 4 | AER | 24 | 16 | 16 | 6 | 24 |
| 5 | HPDP/EBM | 24 | 18 | 18 | 7 | 24 |

**Table 3 Correlation between examiner’s marks at each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 |
|  | PI | PM | PM | AER | HPDP/EBM |
|  | 0.92 | 0.95 | 0.89 | 0.8 | 0.9 |

**Table 4 Mean absolute difference in examiner’s marks at each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 |
|  | PI | PM | PM | AER | HPDP/EBM |
|  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.7 | 0 |

**Table 5 Correlation between examiner’s global judgements at each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 |
|  | PI | PM | PM | AER | HPDP/EBM |
|  | 0.83 | 0.86 | 0.84 | 0.73 | 0.84 |

**Table 6 Correlation between viva stations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 |
|  |  | PI | PM | PM | AER |
| Station 2 | PM | -0.05 |  |  |  |
| Station 3 | PM | 0.09 | 0.3 |  |  |
| Station 4 | AER | 0.13 | 0 | 0.09 |  |
| Station 5 | HPDP/EBM | 0.1 | 0.35 | 0.27 | 0.22 |

**3b) Standard setting for the structured vivas**

**Table 7**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *1* | | *2* | | *3* | | *4* | | *5* | | *Total* |
| *Number of passed candidates* | *48* | *48* | *61* | *63* | *76* | *83* | *64* | *71* | 72 | *79* |  |
| *Number of borderline candidates* | *34* | *37* | *26* | *26* | *24* | *20* | *33* | *26* | *27* | *22* |  |
| *Number of failed candidates* | *25* | *22* | *20* | *18* | *7* | *4* | *10* | *10* | *8* | *6* |  |
| *Median borderline candidate mark* | *6.5* | *6* | *7* | *6* | *7* | *6* | *6* | *6* | *7* | *6* | *63.5* |

The pass mark for the structured viva was increased by 1 SEM from 64/120 (53%) to 71/120 (59%).

**4. The OSCE**

**The OSCE**

There were six OSCE stations in all. The five clinical stations were held Wednesday 15 – Friday 17 November2017. The communication OSCE was conducted with the vivas.

The five clinical OSCE stations lasted 20 minutes. The communication OSCE lasted 10 minutes. There were two examiners at each station. In the communication OSCE, one examiner was a trained lay examiner.

Details of the patients who made themselves available for the examination are provided in appendix 4.

**4a) Results**

Candidates examine three patients in stations 1-5. Each patient is worth a maximum of 12 marks (2 examiners x 3 marks x 2 criteria). One patient is examined in station 6 (communication skills). This station is worth 18 marks (2 examiners x 3 marks x 3 criteria)

Maximum mark: 198

Pass mark (using borderline candidate method) 109/198 (55%)

Mean score: 128/198 (65%)

Median score: 130/198 (66%)

Range: 68 – 181 (34% - 91%)

Reliability (Cronbach alpha): 0.8

SEM: 11

Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM) 120/198 (61%)

Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 109/198) 81/107 (76%)

Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 120/198) 74/107 (69%)

**Table 9 Distribution of scores**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Score | Distribution | Total |
| 61-70 | **/** | 1 |
| 71-80 | **////** | 4 |
| 81-90 | **//** | 2 |
| 91-100 | **///// /////** | 10 |
| 101-110 | **///// ///// //** | 12 |
| **111-120** | **///// /** | 6 |
| 121-130 | **///// ///// ///// ///// ////** | 24 |
| 131-140 | **///// ///// ///** | 13 |
| 141-150 | **///// ///// ////** | 14 |
| 151-160 | **///// ////** | 9 |
| 161-170 | **///// ////** | 9 |
| 171-180 | **//** | 2 |
| 181-190 | **/** | 1 |
|  |  |  |
| Total |  | 107 |

**Table 10 Station marks**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Station |  | Maximum  possible | Mean | Median | Min | Max |
| 1 | Anterior segment | 36 | 25 | 27 | 2 | 36 |
| 2 | Glaucoma & lid | 36 | 27 | 29 | 8 | 36 |
| 3 | Posterior segment | 36 | 24 | 24 | 6 | 36 |
| 4 | Strabismus & orbit | 36 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 34 |
| 5 | Neuro-ophthalmology | 36 | 22 | 22 | 6 | 36 |
| 6 | Communication | 18 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 18 |

**Table 11 Correlation between examiner’s marks at each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 | Station 6 |
|  | AS | Glauc/lid | Posterior | Orbit/Strab | Neuro-oph | Comm. |
|  | 0.94 | 0.89 | 0.93 | 0.82 | 0.86 | 0.86 |

**Table 12 Correlation between examiner’s global judgements at each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 | Station 6 |
|  | AS | Glauc/lid | Posterior | Orbit/Strab | Neuro-oph | Comm. |
|  | 0.89 | 0.9 | 0.93 | 0.8 | 0.85 | 0.87 |

**Table 13 Mean absolute difference in examiner’s marks at each station**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 | Station 6 |
|  | AS | Glauc/lid | Posterior | Orbit/Strab | Neuro-oph | Comm. |
|  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 14 Correlation between station scores (combined marks 2 examiners)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 |
|  |  | AS | Glauc/lid | Posterior | Orbit/Strab | Neuro-ophth |
| Station 2 | Glauc/lid | 0.06 |  |  |  |  |
| Station 3 | Posterior | 0.26 | 0.12 |  |  |  |
| Station 4 | Orbit/Strab | 0.15 | 0.29 | 0.17 |  |  |
| Station 5 | Neuro-oph | 0.11 | 0.43 | 0.23 | 0.31 |  |
| Station 6 | Comm | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.29 | 0.11 | 0.32 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**4b) Standard setting for the OSCE**

**Table 16**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Station* | *1 AS* | | *2 Glauc/lid* | | *3 PS* | | *4 Strab* | | *5 Neuro* | | *6 Comm* | |
| *No. of passed candidates* | 62 | 59 | 71 | 71 | 58 | 59 | 45 | 42 | 45 | 39 | 48 | 59 |
| *No. of borderline candidates* | 23 | 31 | 23 | 20 | 30 | 29 | 24 | 35 | 33 | 45 | 34 | 23 |
| *No. of failed candidates* | 22 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 19 | 19 | 38 | 30 | 29 | 23 | 25 | 25 |
| *Median borderline candidate raw score* | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9.5 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 4.5 | 4 |

The pass mark for the OSCE was increased by 1 SEM from 109/198 (55%) to 120/198 (61%).

**5. Overall results for the oral examination**

**5a. Results**

Pass mark 191/318 (60%)

Mean 211/318 (66%)

Median 211/318 (66%)

Range 131 - 292 (41% - 92%)

To pass the oral examination candidates must achieve 197/318 overall, 71/120 in the viva and 120/198 in the OSCE.

75 candidates achieved 191/318, but only 69 met all three requirements in order to pass the examination overall.

Pass rate for the oral examination 69/107 (64%)

Pass rate overall for candidates in OST 52/63 (83%)

Pass rate overall for non-trainees 17/44 (39%)

Correlation between structured viva and OSCE = 0.39

**Table 17 Distribution of scores**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Score | Distribution | Total |
| 121-130 |  | 0 |
| 131-140 | **///** | 3 |
| 141-150 | **/** | 1 |
| 151-160 | **/** | 1 |
| 161-170 | **////** | 4 |
| 171-180 | **///// ///// ///// //** | 17 |
| 181-190 | **///// /** | 6 |
| 191-200 | **///// //** | 7 |
| 201-210 | **///// ///// ///** | 13 |
| 211-220 | **///// /////** | 10 |
| 221-230 | **///// ///// ////** | 14 |
| 231-240 | **///// /////** | 10 |
| 241-250 | **///// /** | 6 |
| 251-260 | **///// ///** | 8 |
| 261-270 | **////** | 4 |
| 271-280 | **//** | 2 |
| 281-290 |  | 0 |
| 291-300 | **/** | 1 |
| 300-310 |  | 0 |
| Total |  | **107** |

**5b) Breakdown of Oral Examination**

**Table 18 Breakdown of results by training**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Failed | Passed (%) | Total |
| In OST | 11 | 52 (83%) | 63 |
| Not in OST | 27 | 17 (39%) | 44 |
| Total | 38 | 69 | 107 |

Candidates in OST performed better than those in non-training posts.

**Table 19 Breakdown of results by deanery**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Failed | Passed | Total |
| East Midlands | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| East of England | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| East of Scotland | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| KSS | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| London | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| Mersey | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| North of Scotland | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Western | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Northern | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Northern Ireland | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Oxford | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peninsula | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Severn | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| South East of Scotland | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wales | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Wessex | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| West Midlands | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| West of Scotland | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Yorkshire | 1 | 1 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total | 11 | 52 | 63 |

**Table 20 Breakdown of results by level of training**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Failed | Passed | Total |
| ST3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ST4 | 0 | 6 (100%) | 6 |
| ST5 | 3 | 16 (84%) | 19 |
| ST6 | 5 | 20 (80%) | 25 |
| ST7 | 3 | 10 (77%) | 13 |
| Total | 11 | 52 | 63 |

**Table 21 Breakdown of results by number of previous attempts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Attempts | Failed | Passed (%) | Total |
| 1 (First) | 24 | 51 (68%) | 75 |
| 2 | 11 | 11 (50%) | 22 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 (75%) | 8 |
| 4\* | 1 | 1 (50%) | 2 |
| 5\* | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Any resit | 14 | 18 (56%) | 32 |

\*All attempts prior to August 2014 have been disregarded. All candidates allowed 4 attempts from September 2014.

**5d) Table 22 Comparison to previous examinations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | April 13 | Nov 13 | April 14 | Nov 14 | April 15 | Nov 15 | April 16 | Nov 16 | Apr 17 | Nov 17 |
| Candidates | 109 | 103 | 104 | 79 | 77 | 72 | 61 | 107 | 105 | 107 |
| MCQ pass mark | 61% | 59% | 58% | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* |
| Reliability | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Viva pass mark | 60% | 58% | 57% | 63% | 60% | 61% | 63% | 60% | 61% | 59% |
| Reliability | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| OSCE pass mark | 63% | 61% | 61% | 62% | 60% | 62% | 63% | 63% | 63% | 61% |
| Reliability | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Written pass rate | 85% | 93% | 90% | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* | NA\* |
| Oral pass rate | 57% | 58% | 58% | 63% | 62% | 69% | 56% | 71% | 66% | 64% |
| Overall pass rate | 48% | 53% | 51% | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Oral pass rate in OST | 56% | 64% | 65% | 70% | 80% | 86% | 69% | 84% | 82% | 83% |

\* The MCQ examination is now de-coupled from the oral examination

**Table 23 Cumulative results by deanery (September 2010 to date)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Deanery | Number of passes | Number of candidates | Pass rate % |
| East of Scotland | 9 | 10 | 90 |
| Oxford | 28 | 32 | 88 |
| Northern Ireland | 14 | 18 | 78 |
| Severn | 22 | 29 | 76 |
| Northern | 27 | 36 | 75 |
| London KSS | 150 | 205 | 73 |
| East Midlands | 27 | 37 | 73 |
| South East of Scotland | 13 | 18 | 72 |
| Mersey | 29 | 41 | 71 |
| North of Scotland | 7 | 11 | 64 |
| Wales | 23 | 38 | 61 |
| West Midlands | 39 | 65 | 60 |
| Peninsula | 14 | 24 | 58 |
| West of Scotland | 18 | 32 | 56 |
| Yorkshire | 42 | 75 | 56 |
| North Western | 33 | 59 | 56 |
| East of England | 24 | 46 | 52 |
| Wessex | 13 | 26 | 50 |
|  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 532 | 802 | 66 |