Examination Report

July 2017 Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination

Summary

The written paper of the 18th sitting of the part 2 FRCOphth examination was held on 3 July 2017.

This is the seventh of the de-coupled part 2 written papers where the pass mark is elevated by +1 SEM.

The candidates

113 candidates presented themselves for the examination. 61/113 (54%) were in OST, with the majority in ST4 and ST5.

MCQ paper statistics:

Mean score:	114/177	(64%)
Median score:	113/177	(64%)
Standard deviation:	13	(8%)
Candidates:	113	
KR20: (measurement of reliability)	0.8	
Standard error of measurement (SEM):	5.68	
Range of marks:	75 -144 (42% - 81%)	
Pass mark derived from Standard Setting:	105.65/177	(60%)
(Pass rate without addition of SEM	*80/113*	*(71%)*
Pass mark + 1 SEM	**111/177**	**(63%)**
Pass rate:	**67/113**	**(59%)**
Pass rate in OST	**44/61**	**(72%)**

Table 2   Distribution of marks

Score	Distribution	Total
66-70		0
71-75	/	1
76-80		0
81-85	/	1
86-90	//	2
91-95	///// ///	8
96-100	///// //	7
101-105	///// ///// ////	14
106-110	///// ///// / ///	13
111-115	///// ///// ///// /	16
116-120	///// ///// //	12
121-125	///// ///// ///// /	16
126-130	///// ///// //	12
131-135	///// //	7
136-140	//	2
141-145	//	2
146-150		0
151-155		0
Total		113

Standard setting for MCQ paper (Ebel method)

Table 4   Classification of the questions

	Difficult	Moderate	Easy	TOTAL
Essential	3	20	40	63
Important	8	30	49	87
Supplementary	3	13	11	27
Total	14	63	100	177

Table 5   Expected percentage correct by borderline candidates

	Difficult	Moderate	Easy
Essential	0.6	0.7	0.8
Important	0.5	0.55	0.6
Supplementary	0.25	0.3	0.3

Table 6   Weighted score

	Difficult	Moderate	Easy	
Essential	1.8	14	32	47.8
Important	4	16.5	29.4	49.9
Supplementary	0.75	3.9	3.3	7.95
Total	6.55	34.4	64.7	105.65

MCQ pass mark (Ebel + 1 SEM):   111/177 (63%)

Breakdown of Written Results

Table 7   Breakdown of written results by training

	Failed	Passed	Total
In OST	17 (28%)	44 (72%)	61
Not in OST	29 (56%)	23 (44%)	52
Total	46 (41%)	67 (59%)	113

Table 8   Breakdown of written results by stage of training

	Failed	Passed	Total
ST1	0	0	0
ST2	0	1 (100%)	1
ST3	1 (11%)	8 (89%)	9
ST4	6 (21%)	22 (79%)	28
ST5	9 (47%)	10 (53%)	19
ST6	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2
ST7	0	2 (100%)	2
			61

Table 9   Breakdown of results by deanery

	Failed	Passed	Total
East Midlands	0	0	0
East of England	1	1	2
East of Scotland	0	1	1
KSS	1	1	2
London	2	14	16
Mersey	2	4	6
North of Scotland	0	0	0
North Western	0	3	3
Northern	1	2	3
N Ireland	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	0
Peninsula	1	1	2
Severn	0	1	1
South East of Scotland	1	1	2
Wales	2	1	3
Wessex	1	3	4
West Midlands	3	4	7
West of Scotland	2	2	3
Yorkshire	1	5	6
TOTAL	17	44	61

Table 10   Breakdown of results by number of attempts

Attempt	Failed	Passed	Total
1 (first)	28	56	84
2	15	3	18
3	2	5	7
4	1	3	4
Any re-attempt	18	11	113

Table 11   Comparison with the written papers from previous examinations

Examination	Candidates	Pass mark	Pass rate	Pass rate in OST
September 2008	7	63%	86%	NA
February 2009	15	59%	53%	NA
September 2009	16	61%	38%	NA
February 2010	21	65%	48%	NA
September 2010	26	65%	58%	75%
February 2011	46	65%	46%	50%
September 2011	77	59%	68%	71%
February 2012	104	58%	65%	68%
September 2012	95	57%	81%	84%
February 2013*	109	61%	85%	89%
September 2013	103	59%	93%	97%
February 2014	117	58%	90%	94%
September 2014**	136	63%	70%	71%
December 2014**	106	65%	47%	54%
June 2015**	118	65%	48%	53%
November 2015**	145	64%	41%	46%
June 2016**	171	64%	70%	79%
December 2016**	143	64%	77%	83%
July 2017**	113	63%	59%	72%

*The written papers changed from MCQ and EMQ papers (90 questions on each) to a 180-question MCQ paper at this sitting
** The pass mark is now set at Ebel + 1 SEM