



# Examination Report

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

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David Budzynski, Matthew Turner, Ben Smith

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## 1 Summary

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The part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination consists of two elements. 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 46 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 35 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 119.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.821 (viva) and 0.844 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 37/46 (80 per cent) and 33/46 (72 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 32/46 (70 per cent).

## 2 Candidates

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A total of 46 candidates sat the examination. Of these, 18/46 (39%) were in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST). The largest group (33 per cent) were in training level OST3.

## 3 The structured vivas

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There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 1 March and Tuesday 2 March. 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:

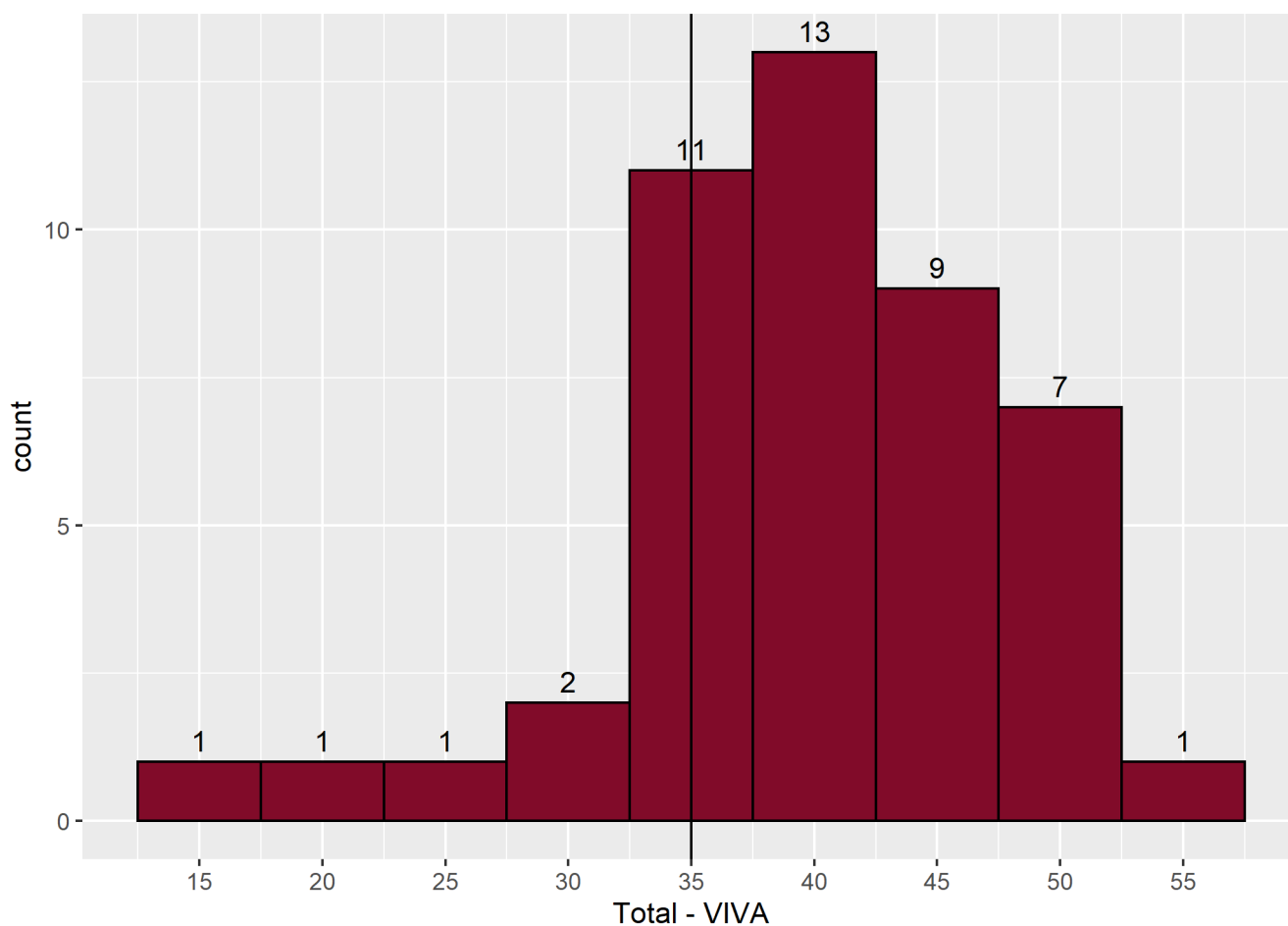
- Station 1: Patient investigations and data interpretation**
- Station 2: Patient management 1**
- Station 3: Patient management 2**
- Station 4: Attitudes, ethics and responsibilities.**
- Station 5a: Audit, research and EBM (5 minutes)**
- Station 5b: Health promotion and disease prevention (5 minutes)**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

### 3.1 Results

Maximum mark (5 five stations, one examiner per station, 12 marks per station): 60

*Table 1: Marks for the viva*

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using borderline candidate method)	32/60	53.3%
Mean score	40/60	66.7%
Median score	40/60	66.7%
Range	14 - 53	23.3% - 88.3%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted)	0.821	
SEM	3.42	5.7%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	35/60	58.3%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 32/60)	41/46	89.1%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 35/60)	37/46	80.4%



*Figure 1: Distribution of the viva Scores*

Table 2: Station summary - viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	12	7.3	8.0	0	11
2	PM1	12	8.5	8.5	3	12
3	PM2	12	7.4	8.0	2	12
4	AER	12	8.8	9.0	3	12
5	HPDP/EBM	12	8.0	8.0	2	12

Table 3: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.26				
Station 3	0.54	0.25			
Station 4	0.32	0.02	0.22		
Station 5	0.46	0.26	0.49	0.24	

## 3.2 Standard setting for the structured vivas

Table 4: Viva standard setting

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Total
Number of passed candidates	21	30	21	40	33	
Number of borderline candidates	18	14	12	5	9	
Number of failed candidates	7	2	13	1	4	
Median borderline candidate mark	7	7	7	5	6	32

## 4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all. The five clinical stations were held from Wednesday 3 March to Thursday 4 March. The communication OSCE was conducted with the vivas.

### 4.1 Results

Table 5: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using borderline candidate method)	110.5/198	55.8%
Mean score	133.1/198	67.2%
Median score	131/198	66.2%
Range	84 - 168	42.4% - 84.8%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.844	
SEM	8.38	4.2%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	119/198	60.1%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 110.5/198)	39/46	84.8%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 119/198)	33/46	71.7%

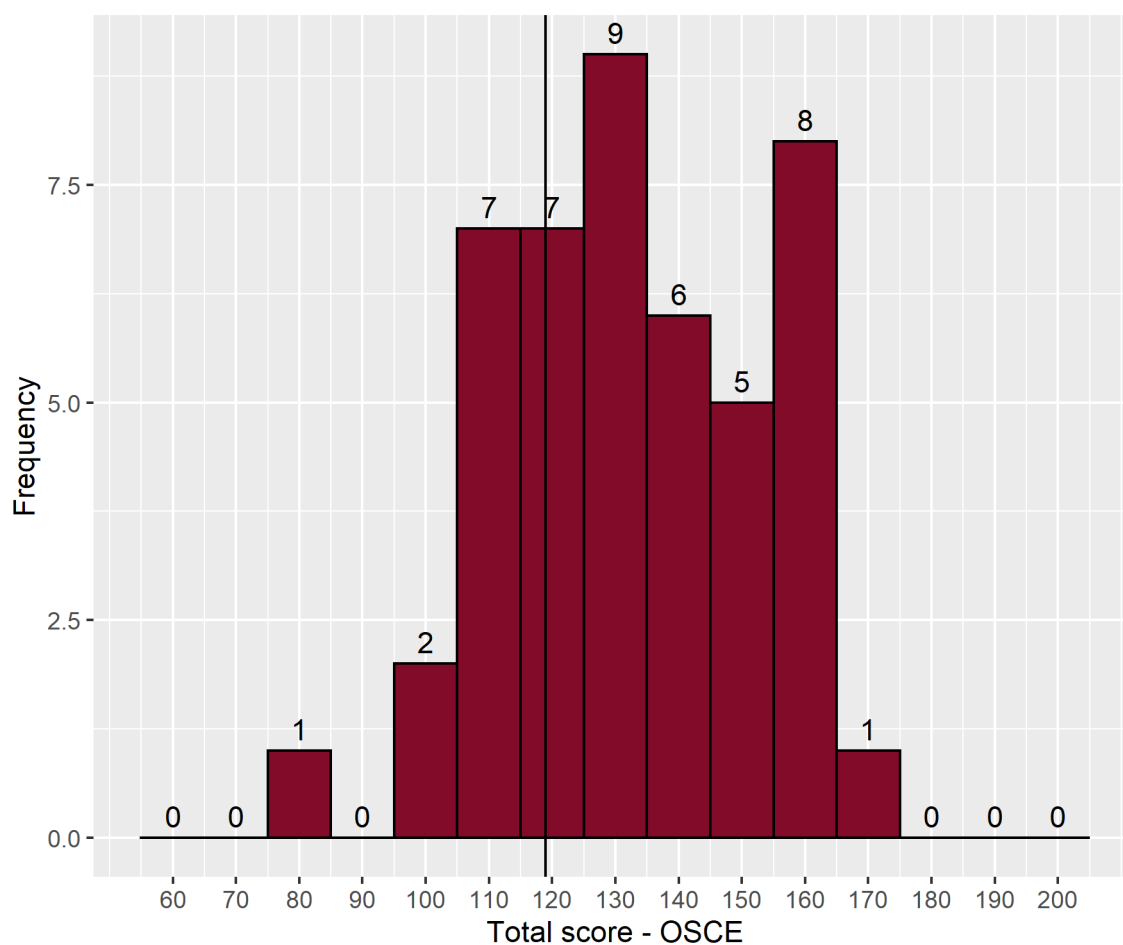


Figure 2: Distribution of OSCE scores

*Table 6: Station Summary - OSCE*

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	24.5	23.5	16	35
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	28.2	30.0	15	36
3	Posterior segment	36	24.0	25.0	9	35
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	22.9	22.5	11	36
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	21.4	22.0	12	32
6	Communication skills	18	12.0	12.0	5	18

*Table 7: 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	0.82	0.91	0.90	0.94	0.85	0.88

*Table 8: 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	1.39	0.74	1.26	0.89	1.22	0.67

*Table 9: Correlation between OSCE stations*

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.38					
Station 3	0.28	0.22				
Station 4	0.15	0.21	0.30			
Station 5	0.42	0.40	0.30	0.13		
Station 6	0.38	0.25	0.23	0.35	0.22	

## 4.2 Standard setting for the OSCEs

Table 10: OSCE standard setting

	Station 1		Station 2		Station 3		Station 4		Station 5		Station 6		Total
Number of passed candidates	26	21	34	35	28	28	22	25	17	13	25	28	
Number of borderline candidates	17	21	9	9	10	12	15	13	13	20	16	13	
Number of failed candidates	3	4	3	2	8	6	9	8	16	13	5	5	
Median borderline candidate mark	10	10	11	10	10	10.5	10	10	10	10.5	4.5	4	110.5

## 5 Overall results for the oral examination

### 5.1 Results

Table 11: Overall Results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	154/258	59.7%
Mean	173/258	67.1%
Median	174/258	67.4%
Range	98 - 215	38.0% - 83.3%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either pass both the viva (35/60 (58 per cent)) and OSCE (119/198 (60 per cent)) or pass the OSCE, achieve 32/60 (53 per cent) in the viva and achieve 154/258 (60%) overall.

Overall, 32 out of 46 candidates passed the examination.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	32/46	69.6%
Pass rate for candidates in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST)	17/18	94.4%
Pass rate for non-trainees	15/28	53.6%

The correlation between the structured viva and the OSCE was 0.61.



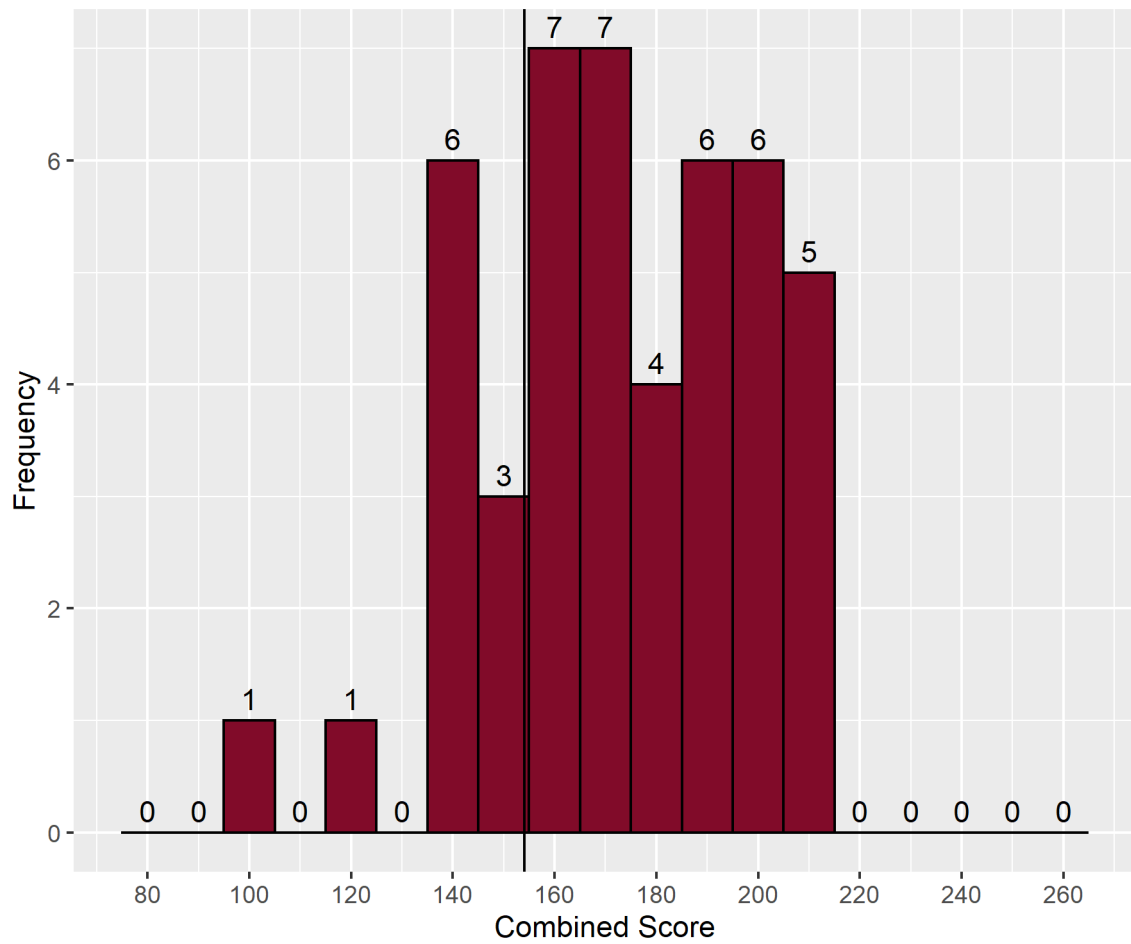


Figure 3: Distribution of total scores

## 5.2 Breakdown of oral examination

Table 13: Breakdown of results by training

Training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
In OST	1	17	94.4	18
Not in OST	13	15	53.6	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>46</b>

Table 14: Breakdown of results by level of training

Level of training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
OST1	0	1	100.0	1
OST2	0	3	100.0	3
OST3	0	6	100.0	6
OST4	0	4	100.0	4
OST5	0	1	100.0	1
OST6	1	2	66.7	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>18</b>

### 5.3 Comparison to previous examinations

Table 15: 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%
Nov 2019	85	67%	0.7	60%	0.8	71%	80%
Nov2020	86	62%	0.4	64%	0.8	74%	85%
Mar2021	46	58%	0.8	60%	0.8	70%	94%

The MCQ examination has been de-coupled from the oral examination since April 2014

Table 16: Cumulative results by deanery (September 2010 to date)

Country	Deanery	Number of passes	Number of candidates	Pass rate (%)
UK	East Midlands	52	71	73.2
	East of England	45	77	58.4
	East of Scotland	11	12	91.7
	Kent, Surrey and Sussex	2	4	50.0
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	237	310	76.5
	Mersey	51	71	71.8
	North of Scotland	9	15	60.0
	North Western	49	85	57.6
	Northern	36	52	69.2
	Northern Ireland	16	20	80.0
	Oxford	41	48	85.4
	Peninsula (South West)	22	40	55.0
	Severn	33	44	75.0
	Severn Institute	1	1	100.0
	South East of Scotland	20	25	80.0
	Wales	34	55	61.8
	Wessex	26	47	55.3
	West Midlands	69	109	63.3
	West of Scotland	32	52	61.5
Yorkshire	75	118	63.6	
Overseas	Eire	1	2	50.0
	Europe and Overseas	13	33	39.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>875</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>67.8</b>