



# Examination Report

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

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## 1 Summary

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Since April 2014 the part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (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 86 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the OSCE was 126 and the pass mark for the structured viva was 37.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.364 (viva) and 0.771 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 70/86 (81 per cent) and 66/86 (77 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 64/86 (74 per cent).

## 2 Candidates

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There were 86 candidates for the examination. Of these, 54/86 (63 per cent) were in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST). The largest group (39 per cent) were in training level OST5.

## 3 The structured vivas

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There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 16 November and Tuesday 17 November. 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**

Monday PM	Fourth cranial nerve
Tuesday AM	Sixth cranial nerve
Tuesday PM	Epiphora

**Station 2: Patient management 1**

Monday PM	PDR PRP
Tuesday AM	Paediatric watery eye
Tuesday PM	Vertical diplopia

**Station 3: Patient management 2**

Monday PM	HSV keratitis
Tuesday AM	Microbial keratitis
Tuesday PM	Myopic cataract

**Station 4: Attitudes, ethics and responsibilities**

Monday PM	Social media
Tuesday AM	Needle stick injury
Tuesday PM	Neonatal conjunctivitis

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

Monday PM endophthalmitis  
 Tuesday AM Avastin lucentis  
 Tuesday PM Patient data protection

**Station 5b: Health promotion and disease prevention (5 minutes)**

Monday PM NICE guidance for embolic events  
 Tuesday AM Screening DR  
 Tuesday PM Audit loop

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

Monday PM Optic neuritis  
 Tuesday AM Mother insisting on surgery  
 Tuesday PM Wrong site squint

### 3.1 Results

Maximum mark (5 stations, 5 examiners, 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	41.9/60	69.8%
Median score	42/60	70.0%
Range	30 – 54	50.0% – 90.0%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted)	0.364	
SEM	4.61	7.7%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	37/60	61.7%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 32/60)	83/86	96.5%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 37/60)	70/86	81.4%

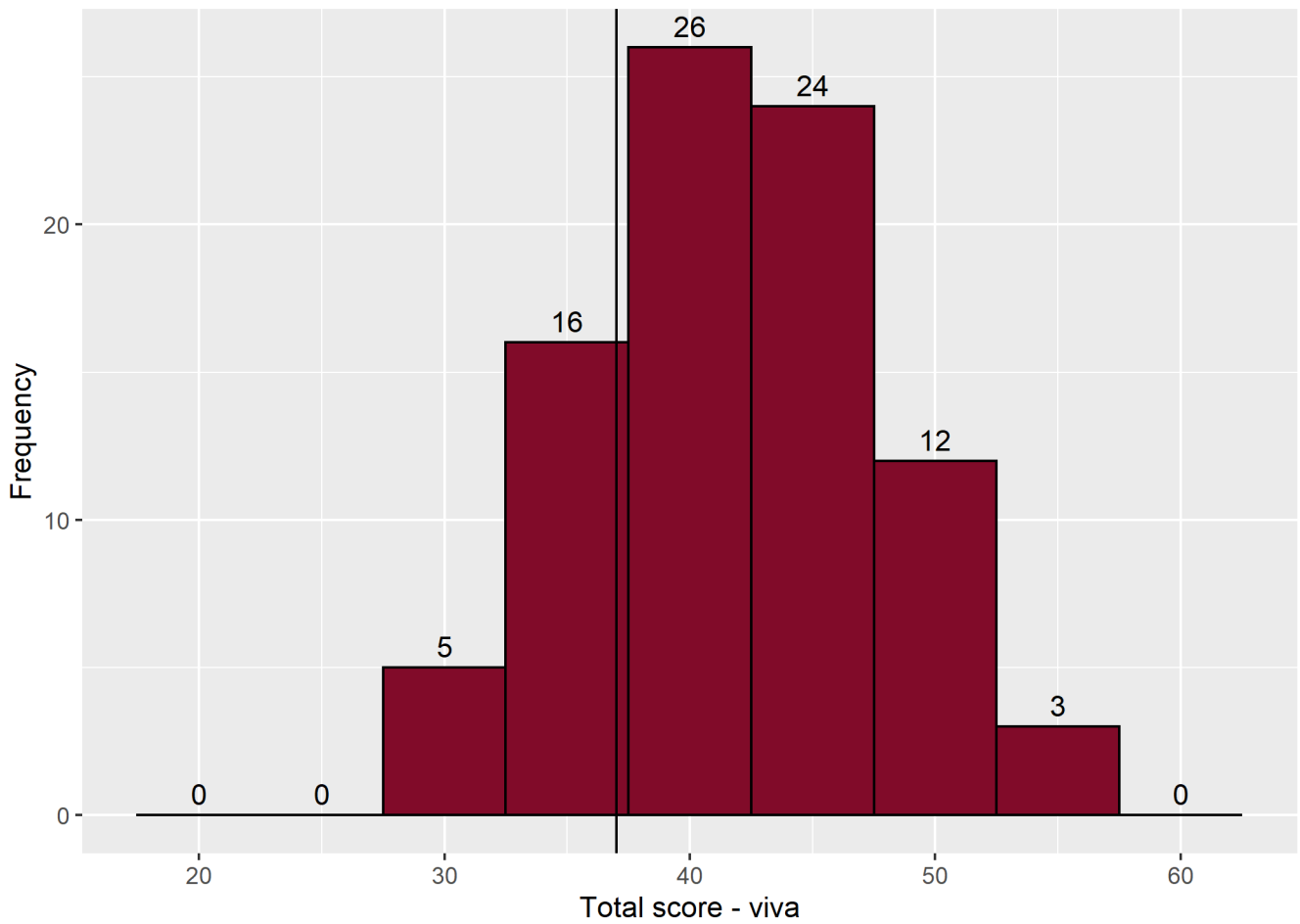


Figure 1: Distribution of the viva Scores

Table 2: Station summary - viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	12	8.0	8.0	3	12
2	PM1	12	8.7	9.0	4	12
3	PM2	12	7.8	8.0	2	12
4	AER	12	8.3	8.5	2	12
5	HPDP/EBM	12	9.1	10.0	2	12

Table 3: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.32				
Station 3	0.30	0.30			
Station 4	-0.17	0.03	-0.26		
Station 5	-0.04	0.11	-0.09	0.11	

## 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	54	57	50	55	62	
Number of borderline candidates	22	24	24	24	16	
Number of failed candidates	10	5	12	7	8	
Median borderline candidate mark	6	7	6	6	7	32

## 4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all. The five clinical stations were held from Wednesday 18 November to Thursday 19 November. 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)	115.5/198	58.3%
Mean score	138/198	69.7%
Median score	140/198	70.7%
Range	83 - 185	41.9% - 93.4%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.771	
SEM	9.65	4.9%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	126/198	63.6%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 115.5/198)	75/86	87.2%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 126/198)	66/86	76.7%

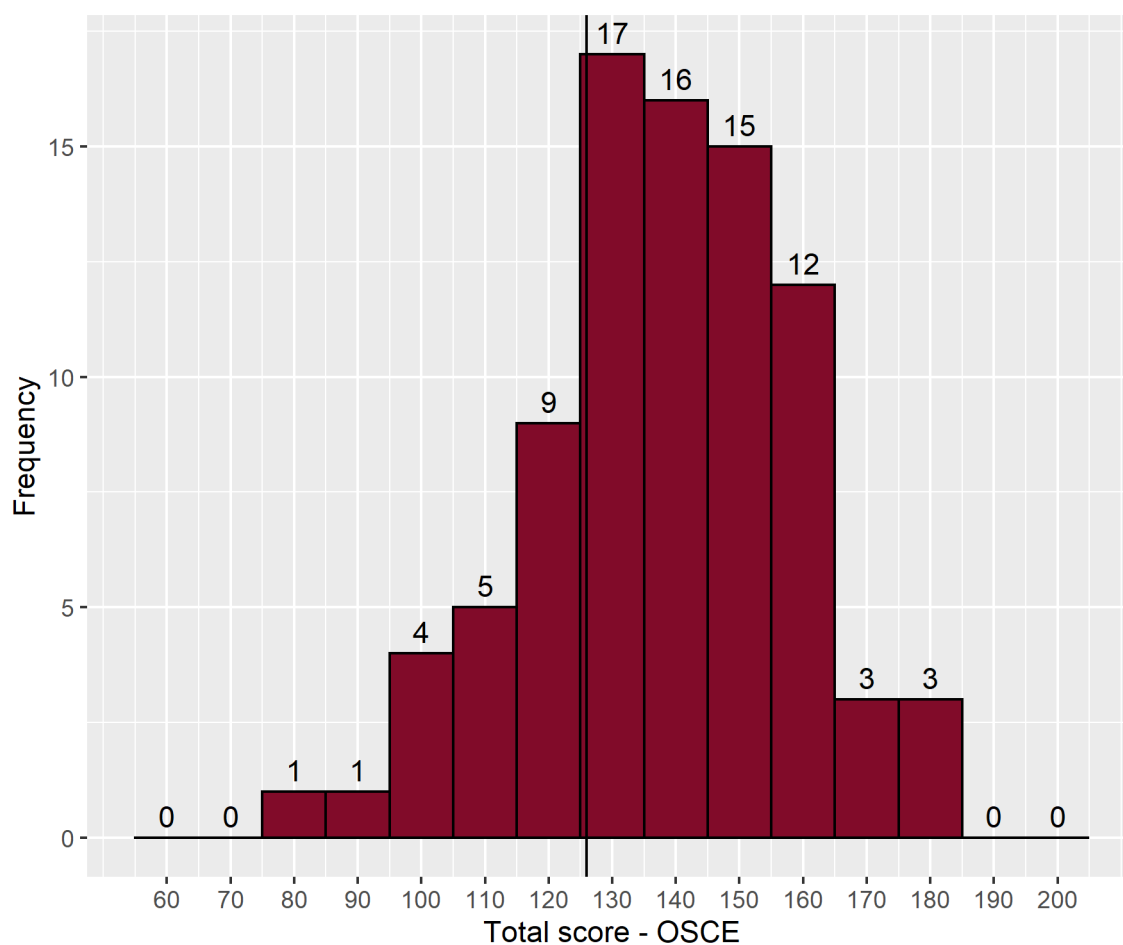


Figure 2: Distribution of OSCE scores

Table 6: Station Summary - OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	24.7	25.5	7	36
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	27.3	28.0	15	36
3	Posterior segment	36	24.7	27.0	8	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	24.0	24.0	10	36
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	24.9	25.0	12	36
6	Communication skills	18	12.4	12.0	4	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	0.87	0.81	0.88	0.83	0.89	0.82

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	1.29	1.20	1.35	1.51	1.20	0.94

Table 9: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.34					
Station 3	0.30	0.00				
Station 4	0.11	0.07	0.22			
Station 5	0.30	0.32	0.18	0.39		
Station 6	0.04	0.24	-0.03	-0.12	0.07	



## 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	42	49	56	63	52	51	55	50	41	46	58	57	
Number of borderline candidates	31	23	26	17	17	22	20	25	38	27	11	15	
Number of failed candidates	13	14	4	6	17	13	11	11	7	13	17	14	
Median borderline candidate mark	11	11	11	11	11	10.5	9	10	11	12	4	4	115.5

## 5 Overall results for the oral examination

### 5.1 Results

Table 11: Overall Results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	163/258	63.2%
Mean	180/258	69.8%
Median	181/258	70.2%
Range	117 - 223	45.3% - 86.4%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either pass both the viva (37/60 (62 per cent)) and OSCE (126/198 (64 per cent)) or pass the OSCE, achieve 32/60 (53 per cent) in the viva and achieve 163/258 (63 per cent) overall.

Overall, 64 out of 86 candidates passed the examination.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	64/86	74.4%
Pass rate for candidates in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST)	46/54	85.2%
Pass rate for non-trainees	18/32	56.2%

The correlation between the structured viva and the OSCE was 0.29.

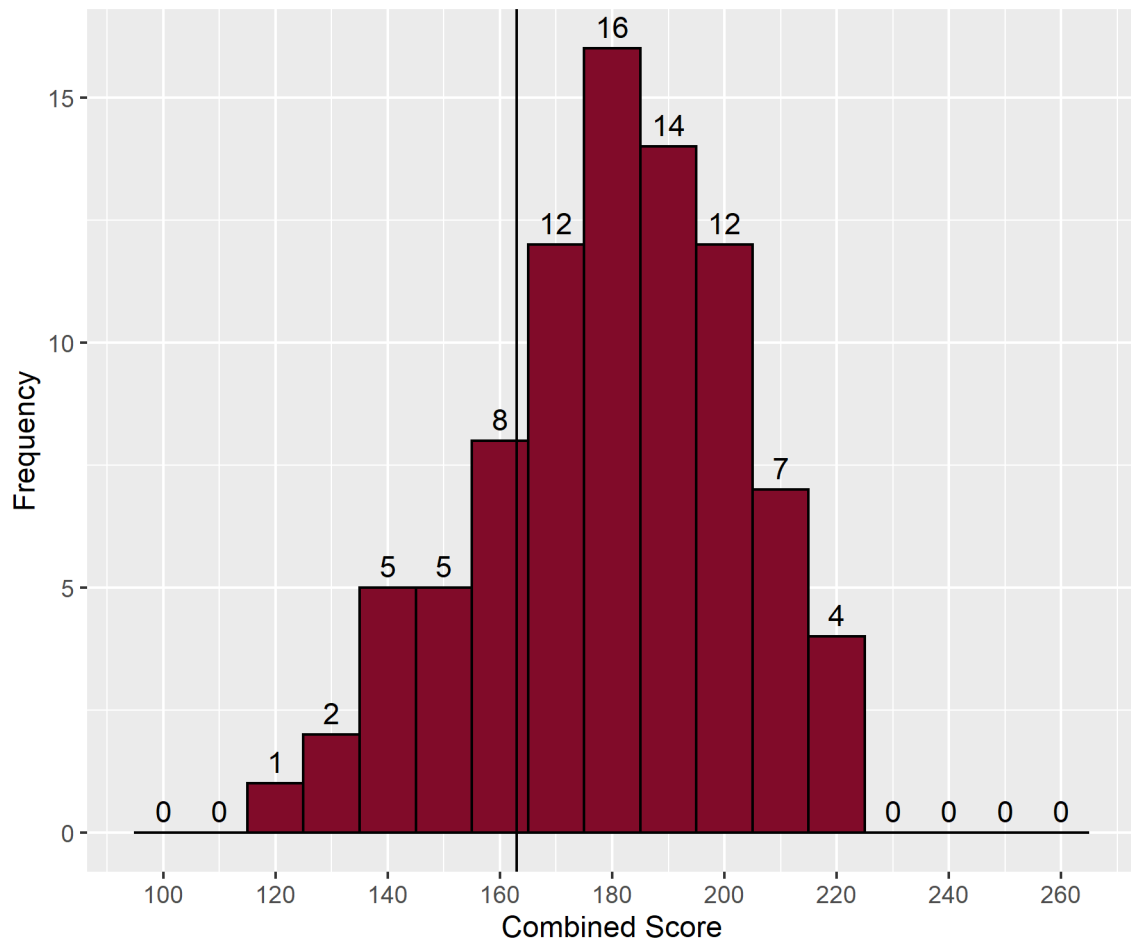


Figure 3: Distribution of total scores

## 5.2 Breakdown of oral examination

Table 13: Breakdown of results by training

Training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
In OST	8	46	85.2	54
Not in OST	14	18	56.2	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>86</b>

Table 14: Breakdown of results by level of training

Level of training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
OST3	0	3	100.0	3
OST4	1	9	90.0	10
OST5	1	20	95.2	21
OST6	6	13	68.4	19
OST7	0	1	100.0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>54</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%
Nov 2020	86	62%	0.4	64%	0.8	74%	85%

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	49	68	72.1
	East of England	41	71	57.7
	East of Scotland	11	12	91.7
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	233	303	76.9
	Mersey	49	69	71.0
	North of Scotland	9	15	60.0
	North Western	45	80	56.2
	Northern	35	51	68.6
	Northern Ireland	16	20	80.0
	Oxford	41	48	85.4
	Peninsula (South West)	22	40	55.0
	Severn	33	44	75.0
	South East of Scotland	19	24	79.2
	Wales	30	51	58.8
	Wessex	26	47	55.3
	West Midlands	65	104	62.5
	West of Scotland	32	52	61.5
	Yorkshire	74	116	63.8
Overseas	Eire	1	2	50.0
	Europe and Overseas	12	30	40.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>843</b>	<b>1247</b>	<b>67.6</b>