



Examination Report

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

November 2021

David Budzynski, Matthew Turner, Ben Smith

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1 Summary

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, whilst the structured viva consists of five stations worth a total of 60 marks. One of the OSCE stations is conducted with the viva.

A total of 119 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 36 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 120.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.647 (viva) and 0.787 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 100/119 (84 per cent) and 90/119 (76 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 87/119 (73 per cent).

2 Candidates

A total of 119 candidates sat the examination. Of these, 78/119 (66 per cent) were in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST). The largest group (42 per cent) were in training level OST 6.

3 The structured vivas

There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 22 November and Tuesday 23 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 viva 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	41.3/60	68.8%
Median score	42/60	70.0%
Range	18 - 54	30.0% - 90.0%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted)	0.647	
SEM	3.86	6.4%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	36/60	60.0%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 32/60)	110/119	92.4%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 36/60)	100/119	84.0%

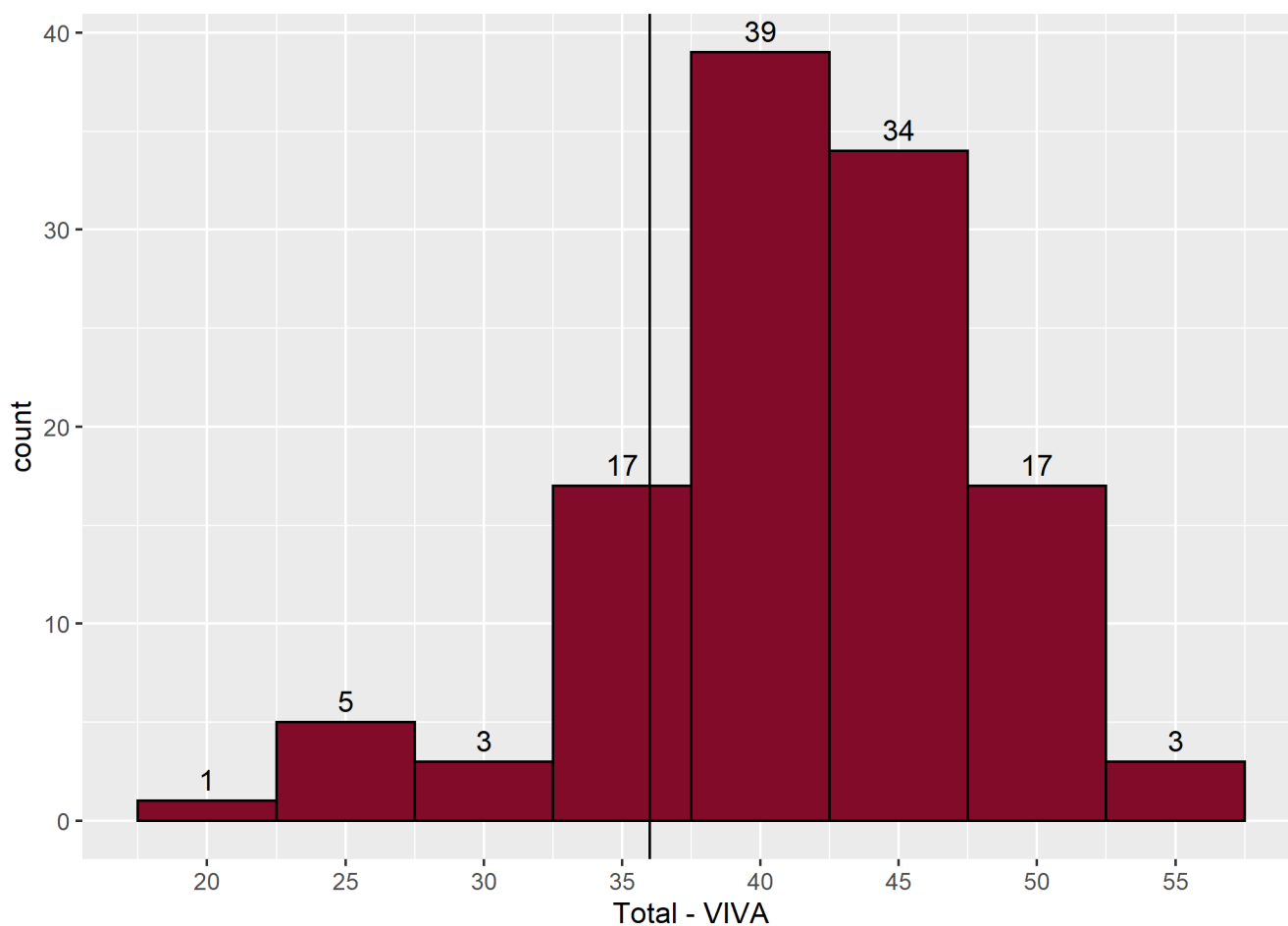


Figure 1: Distribution of viva scores

Table 2: Station summary – viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	12	9.3	10.0	4	12
2	PM1	12	7.9	8.0	1	12
3	PM2	12	8.5	9.0	2	12
4	AER	12	8.0	8.0	3	12
5	HPDP/EBM	12	7.6	8.0	1	12

Table 3: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.22				
Station 3	0.14	0.14			
Station 4	0.12	0.12	0.30		
Station 5	0.11	0.08	0.05	0.27	

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	80	81	88	72	62	
Number of borderline candidates	31	27	23	32	36	
Number of failed candidates	8	11	8	15	21	
Median borderline candidate mark	7	6	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 24 November to Friday 26 November.

4.1 Results

Table 5: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using borderline candidate method)	111/198	56.1%
Mean score	135.1/198	68.2%
Median score	136/198	68.7%
Range	89 - 176	44.9% - 88.9%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.787	
SEM	8.95	4.5%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	120/198	60.6%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 111/198)	104/119	87.4%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 120/198)	90/119	75.6%

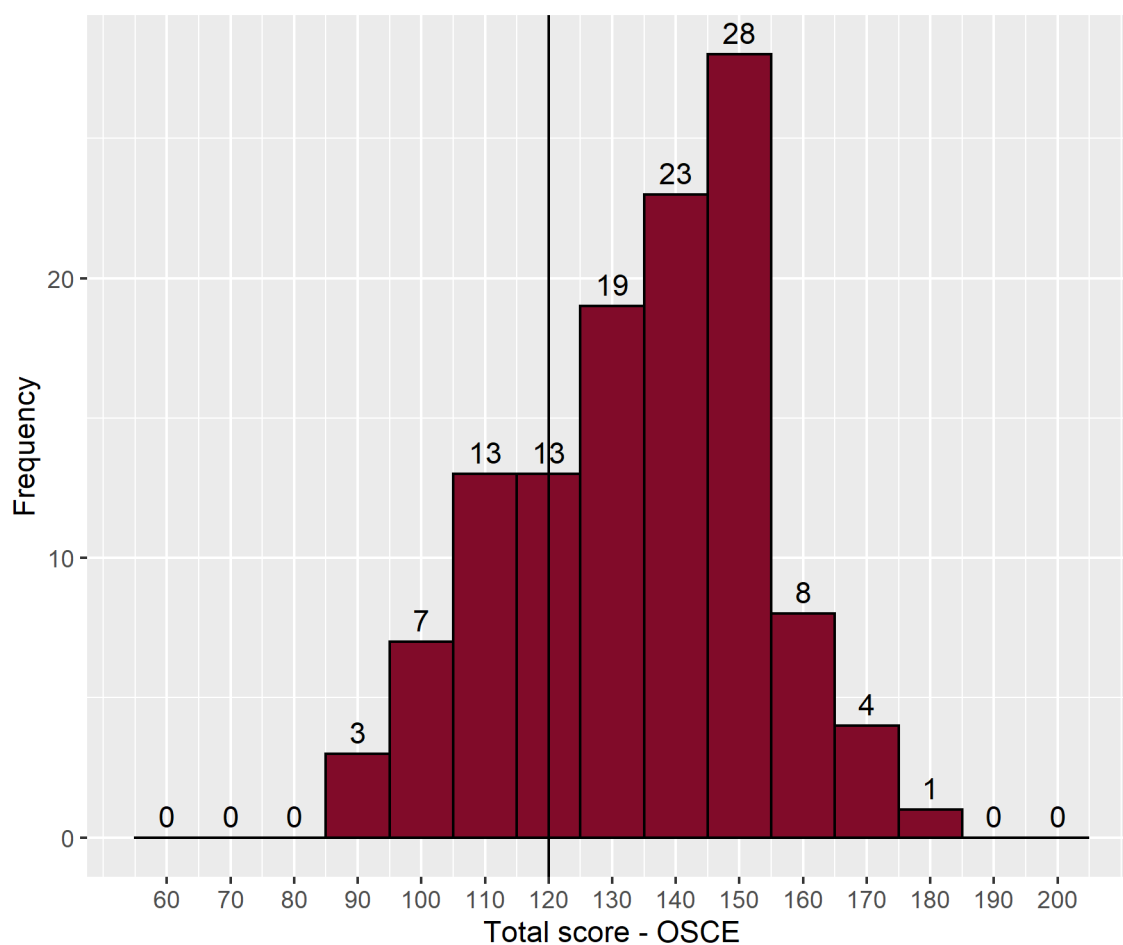


Figure 2: Distribution of OSCE scores

Table 6: Station Summary – OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	23.7	24.0	0	36
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	27.4	28.0	14	36
3	Posterior segment	36	25.7	26.0	11	35
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	22.5	22.0	7	33
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	24.9	25.0	11	36
6	Communication skills	18	10.8	11.0	2	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	0.93	0.88	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.86

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	0.92	1.15	1.14	1.08	1.24	0.80

Table 9: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.33					
Station 3	0.17	-0.04				
Station 4	0.20	0.24	0.21			
Station 5	0.10	0.05	0.35	0.14		
Station 6	0.12	0.24	0.30	0.15	0.20	

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	62	64	97	91	77	78	56	57	62	76	57	65	
Number of borderline candidates	38	35	20	24	30	25	42	40	39	29	42	32	
Number of failed candidates	19	20	2	4	12	16	21	22	18	14	20	22	
Median borderline candidate mark	10	10	10.5	10.5	10	11	10	10	11	10	4	4	111

5 Overall results for the oral examination

5.1 Results

Table 11: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	156/258	60.5%
Mean	176/258	68.2%
Median	181/258	70.2%
Range	124 - 222	48.1% - 86.0%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either pass both the viva (36/60 (60 per cent)) and OSCE (120/198 (61 per cent)) or pass the OSCE, achieve 32/60 (53 per cent) in the viva and achieve 156/258 (60 per cent) overall.

Overall, 87 out of 119 candidates passed the examination.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	87/119	73.1%
Pass rate for candidates in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST)	66/78	84.6%
Pass rate for non-trainees	21/41	51.2%

The correlation between the structured viva and the OSCE was 0.43.

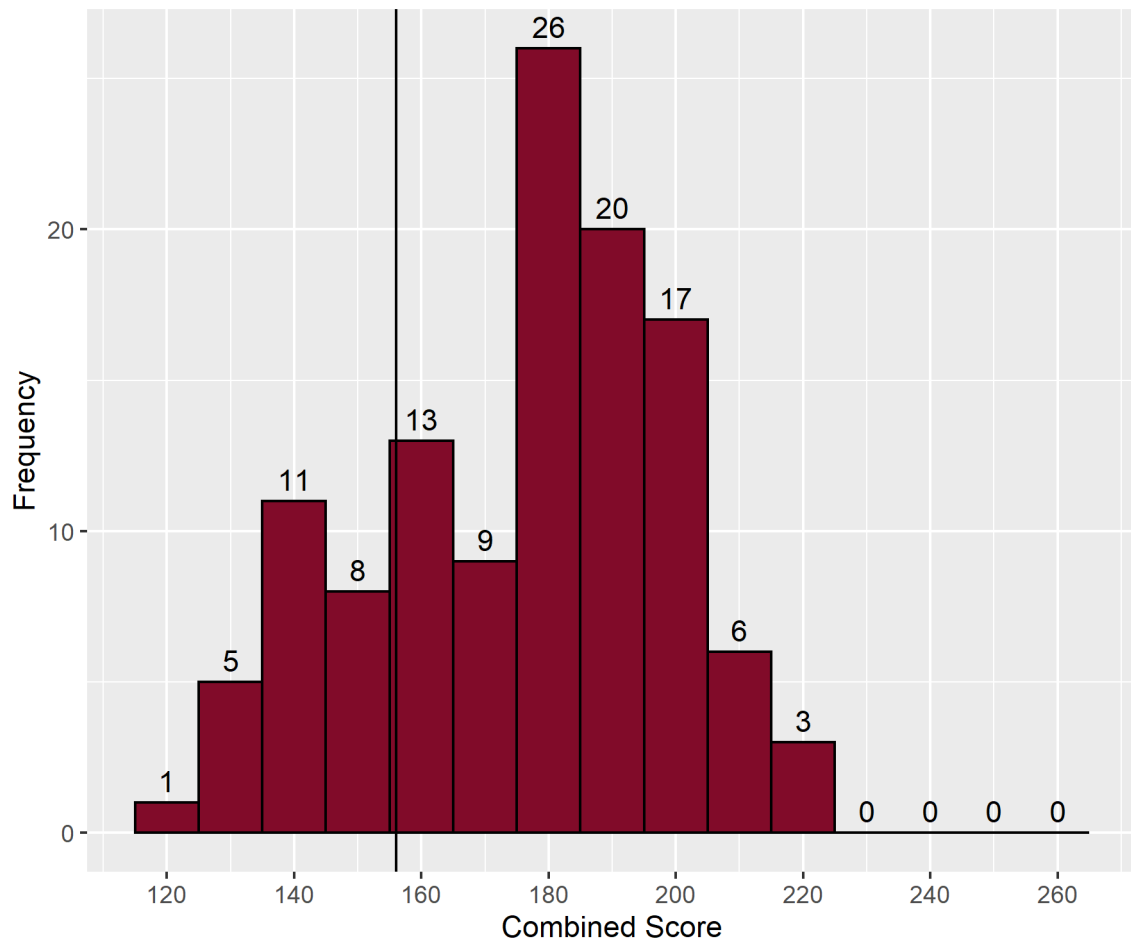


Figure 3: Distribution of total scores

5.2 Breakdown of oral examination

Table 13: Breakdown of results by training

Training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
In OST	12	66	84.6	78
Not in OST	20	21	51.2	41
Total	32	87	73.1	119

Table 14: Breakdown of results by level of training

Level of training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
OST 3	1	3	75.0	4
OST 4	0	12	100.0	12
OST 5	2	17	89.5	19
OST 6	7	26	78.8	33
OST 7	2	8	80.0	10
Total	12	66	84.6	78

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%
Mar 2021	46	58%	0.8	60%	0.8	70%	94%
Apr 2021	74	62%	0.7	64%	0.8	77%	84%
Nov 2021	119	60%	0.6	61%	0.8	73%	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	54	74	73.0
	East of England	54	93	58.1
	East of Scotland	12	13	92.3
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	277	364	76.1
	Mersey	58	79	73.4
	North of Scotland	10	18	55.6
	North Western	59	97	60.8
	Northern	49	67	73.1
	Northern Ireland	16	20	80.0
	Oxford	46	54	85.2
	Peninsula (South West)	25	43	58.1
	Severn	33	44	75.0
	Severn Institute	7	7	100.0
	South East of Scotland	23	28	82.1
	Wales	39	61	63.9
	Wessex	34	57	59.6
	West Midlands	79	122	64.8
	West of Scotland	38	58	65.5
Yorkshire	82	126	65.1	
Overseas	Eire	1	2	50.0
	Europe and Overseas	14	37	37.8
Total		1,010	1,464	69.0