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Examination Report

Refraction Certificate Examination

January 2022

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# Introduction

There were 39 candidates for the January 2022 sitting of the Refraction Certificate. The examination consisted of ten objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) stations, covering a range of skills required to assess visual acuity, refractive error, and the prescription of spectacles.

## Examination blueprint

The Refraction Certificate (RCert) is designed to assess the following learning outcomes from the Royal College of Ophthalmologists curriculum for ophthalmic specialist training (OST):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CA2 | Vision |
| CA7 | Motility |
| PM1 | Management plan |
| PM14 | Spectacles |
| PS2 | Refraction |
| PS21 | Hand hygiene |
| C1 | Rapport |
| C2 | Communication |
| C12 | Records |
| BCS6 | Optics |
| BCS14 | Instrument technology |
| AER16 | Time management |

## Examination structure

The examination consists of 10 OSCE stations. Each station contributes 15 marks to the overall total. The stations used for the examination were:

SR1 – SR9: Simulated retinoscopy

Station 10: Lens neutralisation (LN)

# Summary

This sitting of the refraction certificate had ten OSCE stations. The reliability of the examination is below the acceptable level (Cronbach's alpha 0.51, desired level > 0.8).

The Hofstee method of standard setting was used to identify the pass mark for this examination, which was 110.8/150 (73.9 per cent). Eight stations achieved high mean scores, stations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. The station with the lowest mean score was station 8. The pass rate was 92.3 per cent.

# Standard setting

Candidates must be able to accurately assess visual acuity, measure refractive error and recommend an appropriate spectacle correction to pass the RCert. The pass mark is identified using the Hofstee method.

## Hofstee method

After the examination, examiners were asked to review the parameters for the standard setting based upon their judgment of the difficulty of the stations. The following values were used to set the pass mark:

* The maximum credible pass mark for the examination = 75%
* The maximum credible pass rate for the examination = 100%
* The minimum credible pass mark for the examination = 60%
* The minimum credible pass rate for the examination = 0%

The cumulative fail rate as a function of the pass mark and the co-ordinates derived from the four values above were plotted on a graph. The point where a line joining the two coordinates intersects the cumulative function curve is used to identify the pass mark.

The Hofstee pass mark for this examination was 110.8/150 (73.9 per cent).

# Results

1. Results summary

| **Statistic** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Number of candidates | 39 |  |
| Maximum possible mark | 150 |  |
| Mean candidate mark | 126.26 | 84.2% |
| Median candidate mark | 126.00 | 84.0% |
| Standard deviation | 12.17 | 8.1% |
| Highest candidate mark | 145 | 96.7% |
| Lowest candidate mark | 98 | 65.3% |
| Reliability | 0.51 |  |
| Standard error of measurement (SEM) | 8.55 | 5.7% |
| Hofstee pass mark | 110.8/150 | 73.9% |
| Pass Rate | 36/39 | 92.3% |



1. Distribution of marks

The vertical line denotes the point on the mark distribution where the pass mark lies.

1. Station summary

| **Station** | **Category**  | **Mean** | **Median** | **Standard deviation** | **Minimum** | **Maximum** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | SR1 | 13.33 | 14.00 | 2.70 | 3 | 15 |
| 2 | SR2 | 12.72 | 14.00 | 3.15 | 2 | 15 |
| 3 | SR3 | 12.79 | 14.00 | 2.58 | 2 | 15 |
| 4 | SR4 | 13.31 | 14.00 | 2.26 | 7 | 15 |
| 5 | SR5 | 12.64 | 14.00 | 2.39 | 8 | 15 |
| 6 | SR6 | 12.44 | 14.00 | 3.08 | 0 | 15 |
| 7 | SR7 | 12.64 | 14.00 | 2.83 | 4 | 15 |
| 8 | SR8 | 11.51 | 12.00 | 2.70 | 2 | 15 |
| 9 | SR9 | 13.08 | 14.00 | 2.30 | 4 | 15 |
| 10 | LN | 11.79 | 13.00 | 3.98 | 0 | 15 |

The relative weights for each skill in refraction (based upon the number of stations) are shown in table 3 below.

1. Weights for each skill

| **Clinical Skill** | **Number of stations** | **Contribution to total marks** | **Median mark** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Retinoscopy | 9 | 90% | 14 |
| Other | 1 | 10% | 14 |

1. Correlation between stations

|  | **SR1** | **SR2** | **SR3** | **SR4** | **SR5** | **SR6** | **SR7** | **SR8** | **SR9** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SR2 | 0.42 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SR3 | 0.05 | 0.14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SR4 | 0.17 | 0.29 | 0.35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SR5 | 0.19 | -0.16 | 0.20 | 0.15 |  |  |  |  |  |
| SR6 | 0.13 | -0.05 | 0.08 | 0.14 | 0.13 |  |  |  |  |
| SR7 | -0.08 | 0.17 | 0.11 | -0.04 | 0.20 | -0.12 |  |  |  |
| SR8 | -0.24 | 0.01 | -0.07 | 0.13 | 0.20 | -0.11 | 0.31 |  |  |
| SR9 | -0.17 | -0.06 | 0.33 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.26 | 0.00 | 0.05 |  |
| LN | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.54 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 0.10 | -0.13 | -0.01 | 0.00 |

All negative correlations are highted in red. The median correlation between the simulated refraction stations was 0.12. There was moderate correlation between all pairs of simulated refraction stations, except:

* SR1 and SR3,
* SR2 and SR3,
* SR1 and SR4,
* SR1 and SR5,
* SR3 and SR5,
* SR4 and SR5,
* SR1 and SR6,
* SR3 and SR6,
* SR4 and SR6,
* SR5 and SR6,
* SR2 and SR7,
* SR3 and SR7,
* SR5 and SR7,
* SR2 and SR8,
* SR4 and SR8,
* SR5 and SR8,
* SR4 and SR9,
* SR5 and SR9
* SR8 and SR9.

 The best correlation was between SR1 and SR2 (0.42). The poorest correlation between any station was -0.24.

1. Correlation between each station and the total score

| **Station** | **SR1** | **SR2** | **SR3** | **SR4** | **SR5** | **SR6** | **SR7** | **SR8** | **SR9** | **LN** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Correlation with total score | 0.36 | 0.46 | 0.63 | 0.58 | 0.46 | 0.37 | 0.31 | 0.27 | 0.31 | 0.57 |

# Comparison to previous examinations

1. Comparison to previous years' exams

| **Date** | **Candidates** | **Pass mark** | **Pass rate** | **Pass rate in OST** | **Per cent of candidates in OST** | **Reliability** | **SEM** | **Hofstee pass mark** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nov 2010   | 53 | 74% | 42% | 44% | 68% | 0.6 | 7 (7%) | 71% |
| Apr 2011   | 57 | 71% | 35% | 47% | 63% | 0.6 | 6 (6%) | 67% |
| Jul 2011   | 41 | 67% | 66% | 72% | 71% | 0.4 | 6 (6%) | 71% |
| Nov 2011   | 69 | 65% | 71% | 75% | 70% | 0.6 | 8 (8%) | 68% |
| Mar 2012   | 54 | 73% | 54% | 66% | 57% | 0.6 | 8 (8%) | 72% |
| Jul 2012   | 44 | 71% | 59% | 67% | 64% | 0.5 | 9 (9%) | 71% |
| Dec 2012\* | 71 | 69% | 75% | 77% | 55% | 0.6 | 11 (6%) | 72% |
| Apr 2013   | 64 | 74% | 61% | 64% | 64% | 0.8 | 11 (6%) | 74% |
| Jul 2013   | 42 | 72% | 74% | 90% | 48% | 0.7 | 10 (6%) | 74% |
| Dec 2013   | 75 | 72% | 67% | 76% | 65% | 0.7 | 10 (6%) | 71% |
| Apr 2014   | 56 | 73% | 84% | 89% | 66% | 0.6 | 9.5 (5%) | 75% |
| Jul 2014   | 34 | 74% | 62% | 55% | 65% | 0.4 | 11 (6%) | 74% |
| Dec 2014\* | 63 | 71% | 68% | 77% | 68% | 0.6 | 12 (7%) | 71% |
| Apr 2015\* | 57 | 77% | 65% | 73% | 65% | 0.4 | 11 (7%) | 77% |
| Jun 2015\* | 33 | 69% | 58% | n/a^ | n/a^ | 0.73 | 10 (6%) | 69% |
| Jul 2015\* | 31 | 66% | 58% | 55% | 65% | 0.65 | 9.4 (5%) | 66% |
| Jan 2016\* | 70 | 70% | 60% | 60% | 81% | 0.8 | 10 (6%) | 70% |
| Mar 2016\* | 57 | 77% | 81% | 83% | 70% | 0.9 | 7.7 (4%) | 77% |
| Jun 2016\* | 23 | 70% | 57% | n/a^ | n/a^ | 0.7 | 11 (6%) | 70% |
| Jul 2016\* | 64 | 70% | 64% | 67% | 67% | 0.6 | 12 (7%) | 70% |
| Jan 2017\* | 62 | 72% | 63% | 64% | 90% | 0.6 | 10 (6%) | 72% |
| Apr 2017\* | 63 | 73% | 67% | 69% | 62% | 0.7 | 11 (6%) | 73% |
| Jul 2017\* | 62 | 72% | 61% | 68% | 60% | 0.7 | 12 (6%) | 72% |
| Dec 2017\* | 63 | 71% | 56% | 59% | 65% | 0.72 | 11 (6%) | 71% |
| Apr 2018\* | 60 | 75% | 68% | 73% | 75% | 0.55 | 10 (6%) | 75% |
| Jun 2018\* | 39 | 75% | 74% | n/a^ | n/a^ | 0.69 | 10 (5%) | 75% |
| Jul 2018\* | 64 | 75% | 67% | 77% | 55% | 0.74 | 11 (6%) | 75% |
| Dec 2018\* | 68 | 72% | 54% | 70% | 63% | 0.7 | 11 (6%) | 72% |
| Apr 2019\* | 87 | 72% | 59% | 68% | 51% | 0.54 | 12 (6%) | 72% |
| Jun 2019\* | 40 | 70% | 57% | n/a | n/a | 0.73 | 11 (7%) | 70% |
| Jun 2019\* | 52 | 74% | 67% | n/a^ | n/a^ | 0.76 | 9 (6%) | 74% |
| Dec 2020\* | 141 | 70% | 57% | 72% | 56% | 0.81 | 11 (8%) | 70% |
| May 2021\* | 171 | 71% | 57% | 58% | 42% | 0.83 | 10 (7%) | 71% |
| Dec 2021\* | 131 | 72% | 79% | 80% | 31% | 0.78 | 10 (6%) | 72% |
| Jan 2021\* | 39 | 74% | 92% | n/a | n/a | 0.51 | 9 (6%) | 74% |
| \* Hofstee pass mark used for these examinations ^ Examination held in Kuching, Malaysia |