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Examination Report

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

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# Summary

A total of 19 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the OSCE was 128 and the pass mark for the structured viva was 38.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.6 (viva) and 0.9 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 11/19 (58%) and 14/19 (74%) respectively. The overall pass rate was 12/19 (63%).

# 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 = 65%
* The maximum credible pass rate for the examination = 100%
* The minimum credible pass mark for the examination = 55%
* The minimum credible pass rate for the examination = 45% (OSCE), 55% (VIVA)

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.

Plots visualising this process for each part of the examination are shown in the relevant sections below.

# The structured vivas

There were five structured vivas. 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 evidence-based medicine EBM (five minutes)** |
| **Station 5b:**  | **Health promotion and disease prevention (5 minutes)** |
| **Station 6:**  | **Communication skills (part of OSCE)** |

## Results

Maximum mark (five stations, five examiners, 12 marks per station): 60

1. Marks for the viva

| **Statistic** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pass mark (using Hofstee) | 38/60 | 63.3% |
| Mean score | 38.7/60 | 64.5% |
| Median score | 40/60 | 66.7% |
| Range | 28 – 49 | 46.7% – 81.7% |
| Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted) | 0.8 |  |
| SEM | 3.33 | 5.6% |
| Pass rate (pass mark 38/60) | 11/19 | 57.9% |



1. Distribution of viva scores
2. Station summary – viva

| **Station** | **Category** | **Maximum possible** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Min** | **Max** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | PI | 12 | 8.6 | 8.0 | 5 | 11 |
| 2 | PM1 | 12 | 8.7 | 8.0 | 6 | 12 |
| 3 | PM2 | 12 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 2 | 11 |
| 4 | AER | 12 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 4 | 11 |
| 5 | HPDP/EBM | 12 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 2 | 11 |

1. Correlation between viva stations

|  | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Station 1** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 2** | 0.03 |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 3** | 0.68 | 0.09 |  |  |  |
| **Station 4** | 0.22 | 0.38 | -0.13 |  |  |
| **Station 5** | 0.35 | 0.20 | 0.48 | 0.26 |  |



1. Hofstee plot – viva

# The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all. The communication OSCE was conducted with the vivas.

## Results

1. Marks for the OSCE

| **Statistic** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pass mark (using Hofstee) | 128/198 | 64.6% |
| Mean score | 135.1/198 | 68.2% |
| Median score | 139/198 | 70.2% |
| Range | 94 – 186 | 47.5% – 93.9% |
| Reliability (Cronbach's alpha) | 0.9 |  |
| SEM | 7.09 | 3.6% |
| Pass rate (pass mark 128/198) | 14/19 | 73.7% |



1. Distribution of OSCE scores
2. Station Summary – OSCE

| **Station** | **Category** | **Maximum Possible** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Min** | **Max** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Anterior segment | 36 | 24.1 | 24.0 | 15 | 34 |
| 2 | Glaucoma and lid | 36 | 28.8 | 29.0 | 21 | 36 |
| 3 | Posterior segment | 36 | 26.3 | 26.0 | 14 | 36 |
| 4 | Strabismus and orbit | 36 | 19.1 | 18.0 | 9 | 33 |
| 5 | Neuro-ophthalmology | 36 | 24.4 | 26.0 | 13 | 31 |
| 6 | Communication skills | 18 | 12.3 | 14.0 | 3 | 18 |

1. 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 | 0.84 | 0.85 | 0.92 | 0.97 | 0.78 | 0.80 |

1. 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 | 1.58 | 1.05 | 0.74 | 0.53 | 1.68 | 0.89 |

1. Correlation between OSCE stations

|  | **Station 1** | **Station 2** | **Station 3** | **Station 4** | **Station 5** | **Station 6** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Station 1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 2** | 0.60 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 3** | 0.31 | 0.17 |  |  |  |  |
| **Station 4** | 0.53 | 0.56 | 0.18 |  |  |  |
| **Station 5** | 0.34 | 0.64 | 0.33 | 0.57 |  |  |
| **Station 6** | 0.67 | 0.36 | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.44 |  |



1. Hofstee plot – OSCE

# Overall results for the oral examination

## Results

1. Overall results summary

| **Statistics** | **Value** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pass Mark | 166/258 | 64.3% |
| Mean | 174/258 | 67.4% |
| Median | 174/258 | 67.4% |
| Range | 126 – 235 | 48.8% – 91.1% |

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either pass both the viva (38/60 (63 per cent)) and OSCE (128/198 (65 per cent)) or pass the OSCE, achieve 35/60 (58 per cent) in the viva and achieve 166/258 (64 per cent) overall.

Overall, 12 out of 19 candidates passed the examination.

The correlation between structured viva and OSCE was 0.66.



1. Distribution of total scores