



● ● ●
PSYCHOMETRIC
SOLUTIONS
GROUP

Examination Report

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

April 2023

Sian Williams, Kiran Sanghara, Lucy Foard

Contents

1 Summary	3
2 Candidates	3
3 The structured vivas	3
3.1 Results	4
3.2 Standard setting for the structured vivas	5
4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)	6
4.1 Results	6
4.2 Standard setting for the OSCEs	8
5 Overall results for the oral examination	9
5.1 Results	9
5.2 Breakdown of oral examination	10
5.3 Comparison to previous examinations	11

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 vivas.

A total of 158 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 39 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 124.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.692 (Viva - adjusted) and 0.811 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 116/158 (73 per cent) and 101/158 (64 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 97/158 (61 per cent).

2 Candidates

A total of 158 candidates sat the examination. Of these, 64/158 (40.5%) were in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST). The largest groups were in training levels OST4 (29/64) and OST5 (22/64).

3 The structured vivas

There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 17 April and Tuesday 18 April. 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 5:** Audit, research and EBM and Health promotion and disease prevention

3.1 Results

Maximum mark (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)	35/60	58.3%
Mean score	42/60	70%
Median score	42/60	70%
Range	22 – 57	36.7% – 95%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted)	0.692	
SEM (rounded)	4.43 (4)	7.4%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	39/60	65.0%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 35/60)	137/158	86.7%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 39/60)	116/158	73.4%

Figure 1: Distribution of viva scores (red line denotes pass mark)

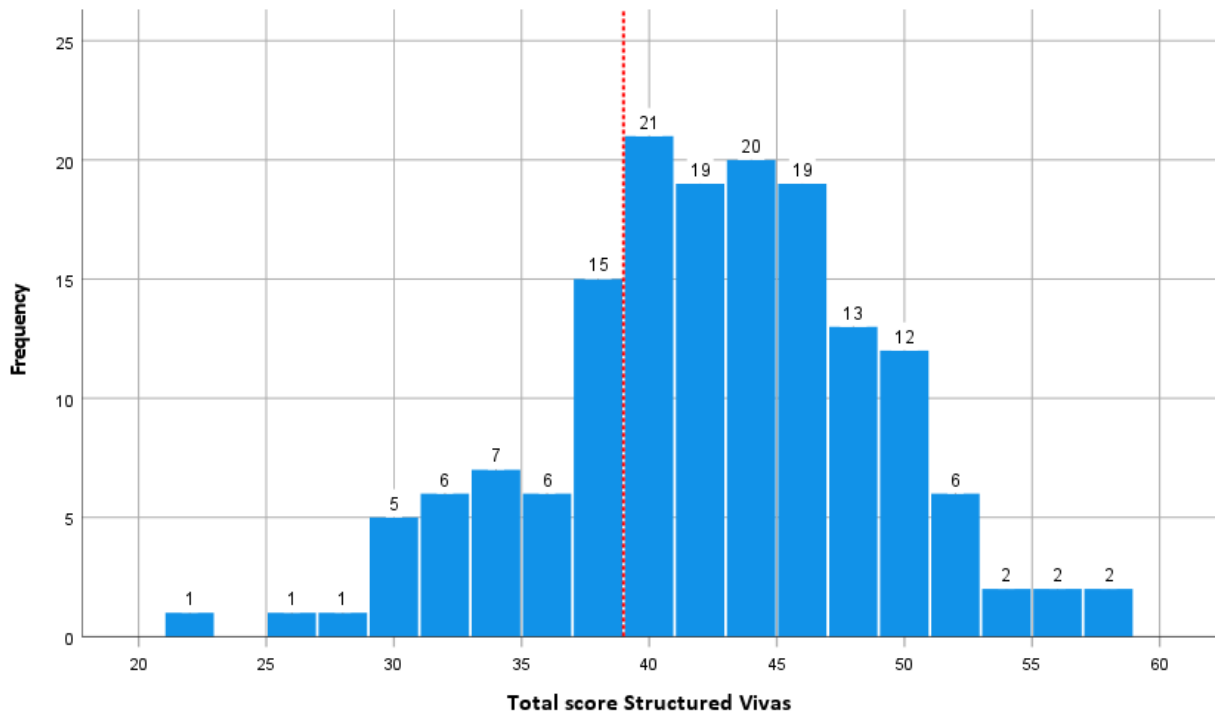


Table 2: Station summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	12	8.3	9.0	3	12
2	PM1	12	8.7	9.0	3	12
3	PM2	12	8.6	9.0	2	12
4	AER	12	8.5	9.0	3	12
5	HPDP/EBM	12	8.0	8.0	1	12

Table 3: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.13				
Station 3	0.19*	0.07			
Station 4	0.26*	0.25*	0.18*		
Station 5	0.23*	0.25*	0.07	0.22*	

* Statistically significant $p < .05$

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	103	108	75	90	92	
Number of borderline candidates	30	38	68	41	50	
Number of failed candidates	25	12	15	27	16	
Median borderline candidate mark	7	7	8	7	6	35

4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all. The five clinical stations were held on different days to the Vivas (OSCE Station 6 held with the vivas). The OSCE stations were:

- Station 1:** Anterior Segment
- Station 2:** Glaucoma and Lid
- Station 3:** Posterior Segment
- Station 4:** Strabismus and Orbit
- Station 5:** Neuro-ophthalmology
- Station 6:** Communication Skills (takes place logistically with viva aspect of the exam)

4.1 Results

Table 5: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using borderline candidate method)	114/198	57.6%
Mean score	128.3/198	64.8%
Median score	128.5/198	64.9%
Range	78 – 172	39.4% – 86.9%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.811	
SEM (rounded)	9.64 (10)	4.9%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	124/198	62.6%
Pass rate before adjustment (pass mark 114/198)	118/158	74.7%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 124/198)	101/158	63.9%

Figure 2: Distribution of OSCE scores (red line denotes pass mark)

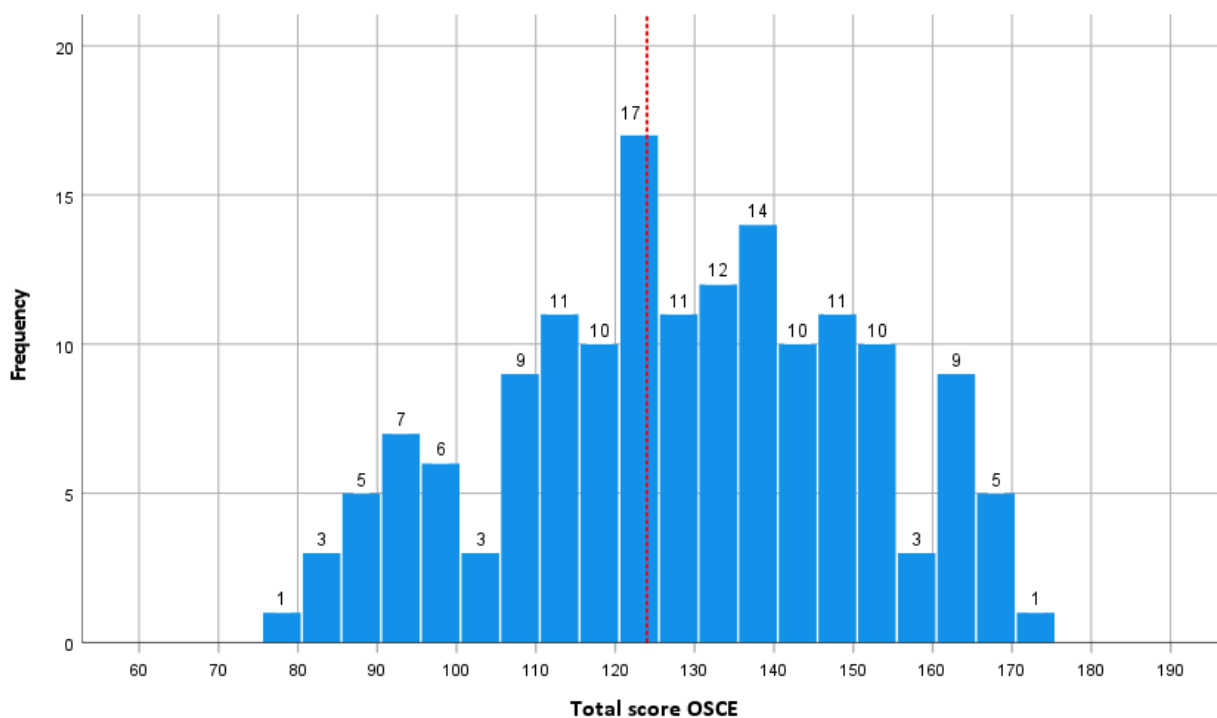


Table 6: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	23.6	24	7	36
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	25.2	25	6	36
3	Posterior segment	36	25.7	26	10	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	22.5	23	2	36
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	18.9	18.5	5	33
6	Communication skills	18	12.3	13	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	0.89	0.86	0.92	0.95	0.87	0.83

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*	1.22	1.32	0.77	1.03	1.39	0.89

*The 'mean absolute difference' is the average difference between Examiner A and Examiner B scores for each station

Table 9: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.04					
Station 3	0.30	0.20				
Station 4	0.20	0.34	0.25			
Station 5	0.26	0.09	0.19	0.33		
Station 6	0.28	0.14	0.09	0.21	0.35	

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	75	76	97	101	97	92	71	74	47	51	88	86	
Number of borderline candidates	61	62	40	42	41	45	49	51	56	51	39	37	
Number of failed candidates	22	20	21	15	20	21	38	33	55	56	31	35	
Median borderline candidate mark	10	11	10	10	11	12	10	10	10	10	5	5	114

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	170/258	65.9%
Median	171/258	66.3%
Range	110 – 229	42.6% - 88.8%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

- i) pass both the viva (39/60 (65%)) and OSCE (124/198 (63% percent)) *or*
- ii) pass the OSCE, achieve 35/60 (58%) in the viva, and achieve $\geq 163/258$ (63 per cent) overall.

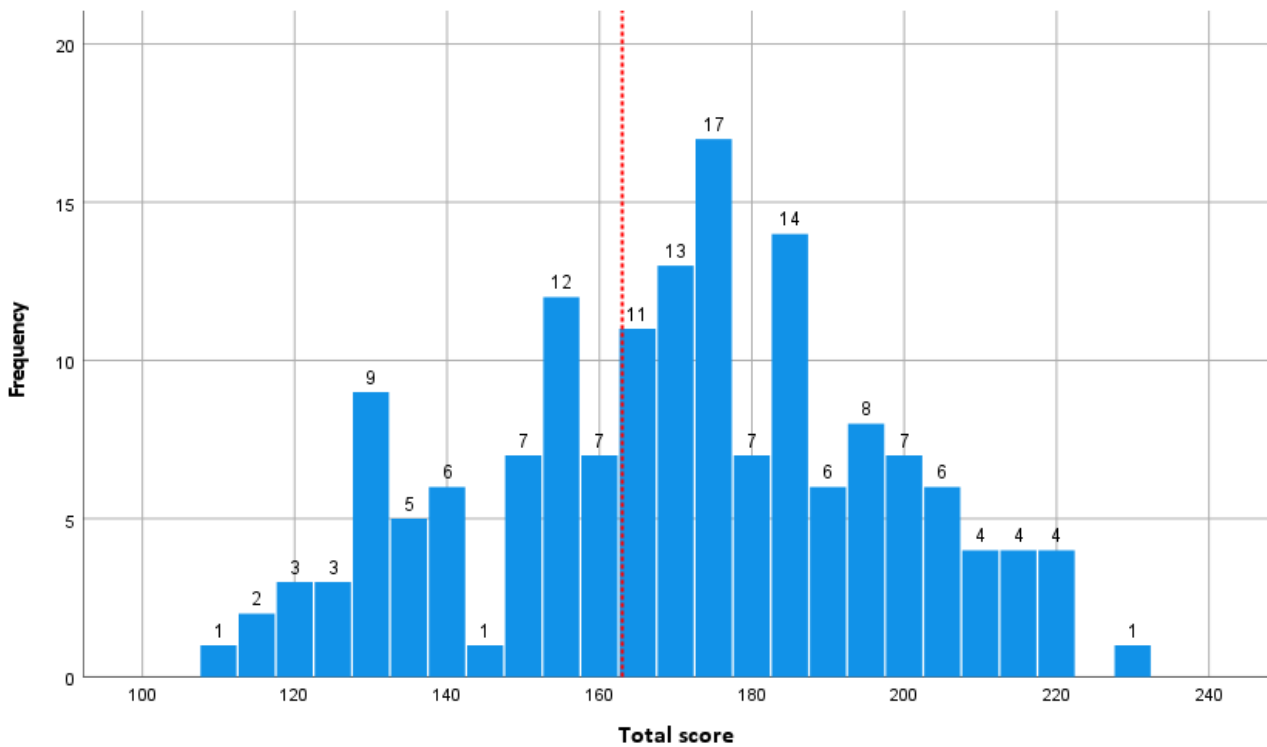
Overall, 97 out of 158 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	97/158	61.4%
Pass rate for candidates in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST)	55/64	85.9%
Pass rate for non-trainees	42/94	44.7%

The correlation between the structured viva and the OSCE was 0.56.

Figure 3: Distribution of total scores (red line denotes overall pass mark)



5.2 Breakdown of oral examination

Table 13: Breakdown of results by training

Training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
In OST	9	55	85.9	64
Not in OST	52	42	44.7	94
Total	61	97	61.4	158

Table 14: Breakdown of results by level of training

Level of training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
OST2	0	2	100%	2
OST3	0	4	100%	4
OST4	3	26	89.7%	29
OST5	3	19	86.4%	22
OST6	1	2	66.7%	3
OST7	2	2	50.0%	4
Total	9	55	85.9%	64

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
Apr-23	158	65%	0.7	63%	0.8	61%	86%
Nov-22	120	64%	0.8	60%	0.8	62%	n/a
Apr-22	114	62%	0.7	63%	0.8	68%	91%
Nov-21	119	60%	0.6	61%	0.8	73%	85%
Apr-21	74	62%	0.7	64%	0.8	77%	84%
Mar-21	46	58%	0.8	60%	0.8	70%	94%
Nov-20	86	62%	0.4	64%	0.8	74%	85%
Nov-19	85	67%	0.7	60%	0.8	71%	80%
Apr-19	84	63%	0.6	64%	0.9	64%	79%
Nov-18	106	58%	0.8	64%	0.8	58%	74%
Apr-18	74	62%	0.8	60%	0.8	70%	80%
Apr-17	105	61%	0.8	63%	0.8	66%	82%
Nov-16	107	60%	0.8	63%	0.8	71%	84%
Apr-16	61	63%	0.8	63%	0.9	56%	69%
Nov-15	72	61%	0.8	62%	0.8	69%	86%
Apr-15	77	60%	0.9	60%	0.9	62%	80%
Nov-14	79	63%	0.8	62%	0.7	63%	70%
Apr-14	104	57%	0.8	61%	0.8	58%	65%
Apr-13	109	60%	0.8	63%	0.8	57%	56%
Nov-12	103	58%	0.9	61%	0.8	58%	64%

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

Table 16: Cumulative results by deanery (September 2010 to date; not including Nov 22 data)

Country	Deanery	Number of passes	Number of candidates	Pass rate (%)
UK	East Midlands	58	79	73.4
	East of England	72	118	61.0
	East of Scotland	13	14	92.9
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	319	418	76.3
	Mersey	65	88	73.9
	North of Scotland	10	18	55.6
	Northwestern	72	117	61.5
	Northern	61	79	77.2
	Northern Ireland	18	23	78.3
	Oxford	50	59	84.7
	Peninsula (Southwest)	26	46	56.5
	Severn	47	61	77.0
	Southeast of Scotland	26	31	83.9
	Wales	47	76	61.8
	Wessex	40	67	59.7
	West Midlands	85	136	62.5
	West of Scotland	42	62	67.7
Yorkshire	91	138	65.9	
OS	Eire	2	3	66.7
	Europe and Overseas	19	48	39.6
		1163	1681	69.2