Examination Report

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

November 2023 - Cairo

Kiran Sanghara, Lucy Foard, Sian Williams

Contents

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 120 marks. One of the OSCE stations is conducted with the vivas.

A total of 16 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 76 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 131.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.887 (Viva) and 0.721 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 11/16 (68.8 per cent) and 13/16 (81.3 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 12/16 (75 per cent).

2   Standard Setting

2.1   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 minimum credible pass mark for the examination = 55%

- The maximum credible pass rate for the examination = 100%

- The minimum credible pass rate for the examination = 55% (Viva) 45% (OSCE)

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.

3 The structured vivas

There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 29th November 2023. 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, 10 examiners (2 per station), 24 marks per station): 120

Table 1: Marks for the viva

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using Hofstee method)	71.3/120	59.4%
Mean score	80.5/120	67.1%
Median score	81.5/120	67.9%
Range	54-102	45% - 85%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.887	
SEM (rounded)	4.58 (5)	3.82%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	76/120	63.3%
Pass rate	11/16	68.8%

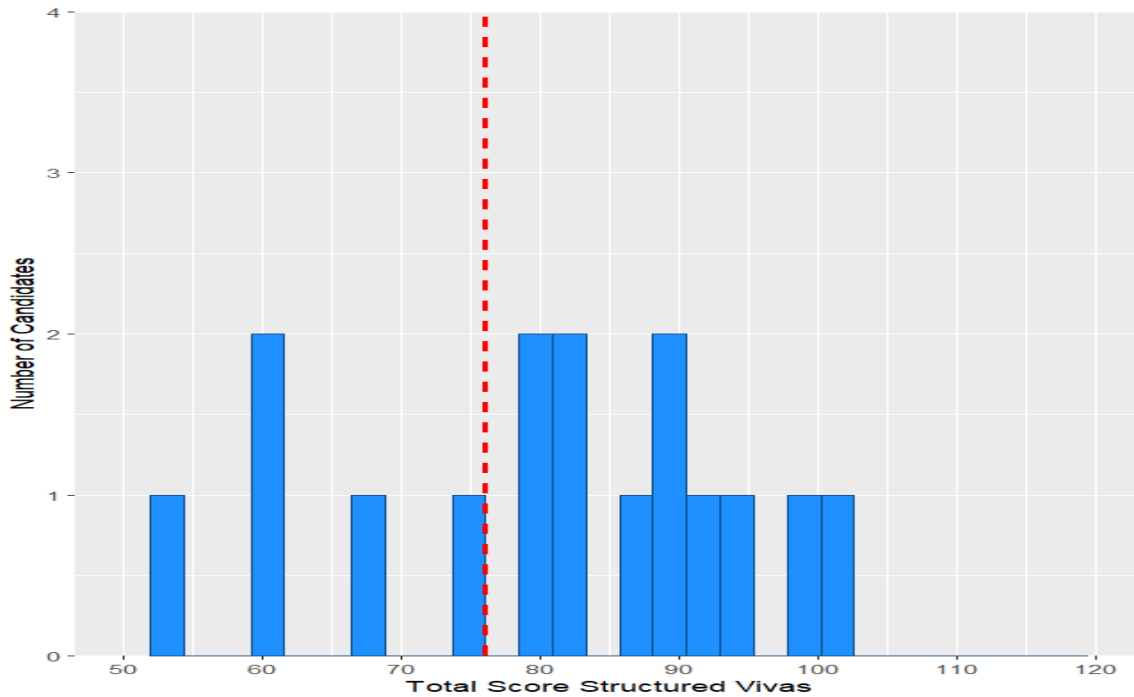*Figure 1: Distribution of viva scores (red line denotes pass mark)*

Table 2: Station Summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	16.3	16.5	8	23
2	PM1	24	21.5	22.5	13	24
3	PM2	24	13.9	14.5	7	20
4	AER	24	15.3	14.5	10	21
5	HPDP/EBM	24	13.6	14	6	22

Table 3: Correlation between examiners' marks at each station

Station	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Category	PI	PM1	PM2	AER	HPDP/EBM
Correlation	0.86	0.83	0.94	0.95	0.91

Table 4: Mean absolute difference in examiners' marks at each station

Station	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Category	PI	PM1	PM2	AER	HPDP/EBM
Mean absolute difference*	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5

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

Table 5: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.50				
Station 3	0.61	0.43			
Station 4	0.52	0.44	0.24		
Station 5	0.35	0.23	0.38	0.37	

3.2   Standard setting for the structured vivas

Figure 2: Hofstee plot – Vivas
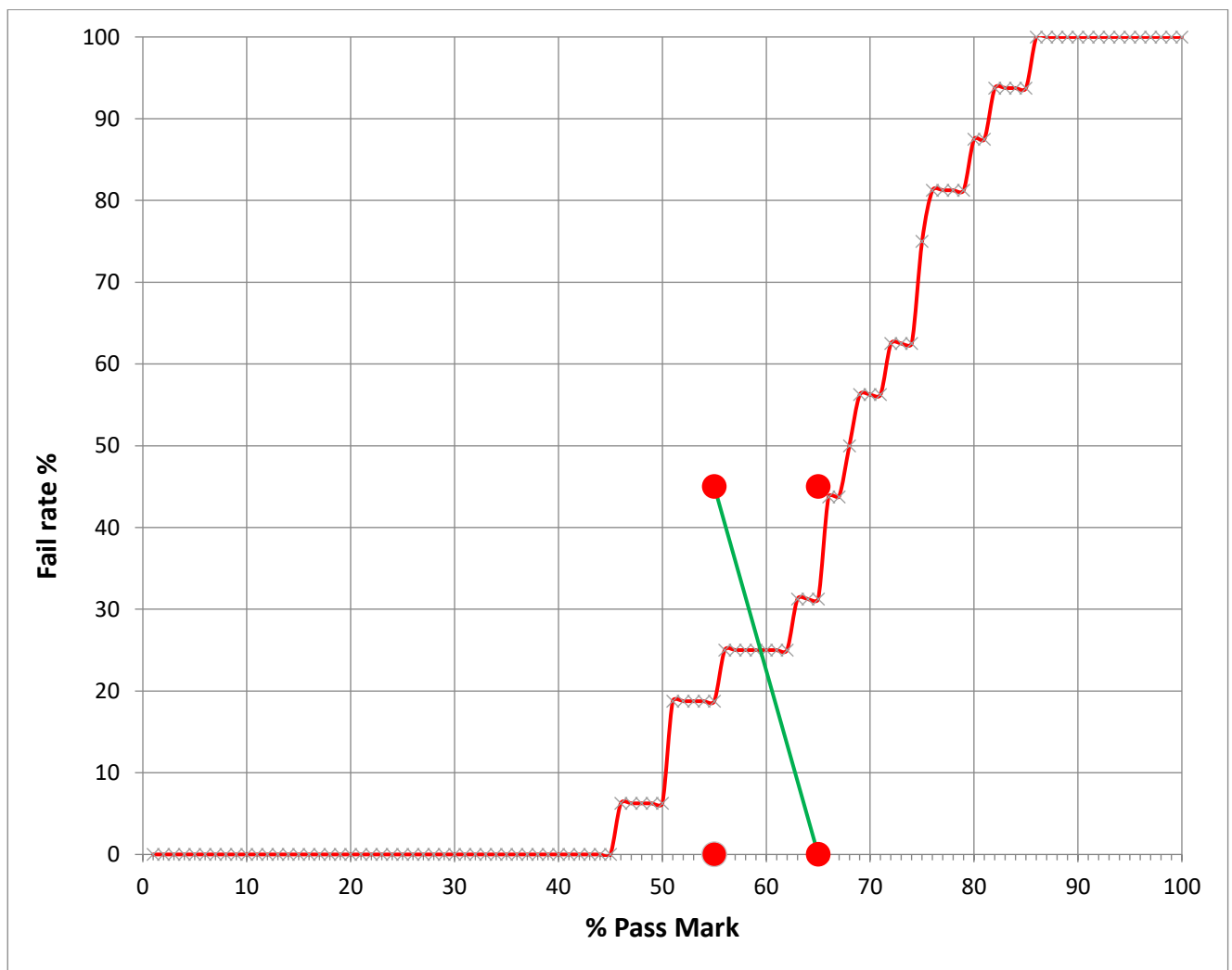
4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

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 6: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using Hofstee method)	122/198	61.6%
Mean score	145.2/198	73.3%
Median score	147.5/198	74.5%
Range	108-167	54.5% – 84.3%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.721	
SEM (rounded)	8.55 (9)	4.3%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	131/198	66.2%
Pass rate	13/16	81.3%

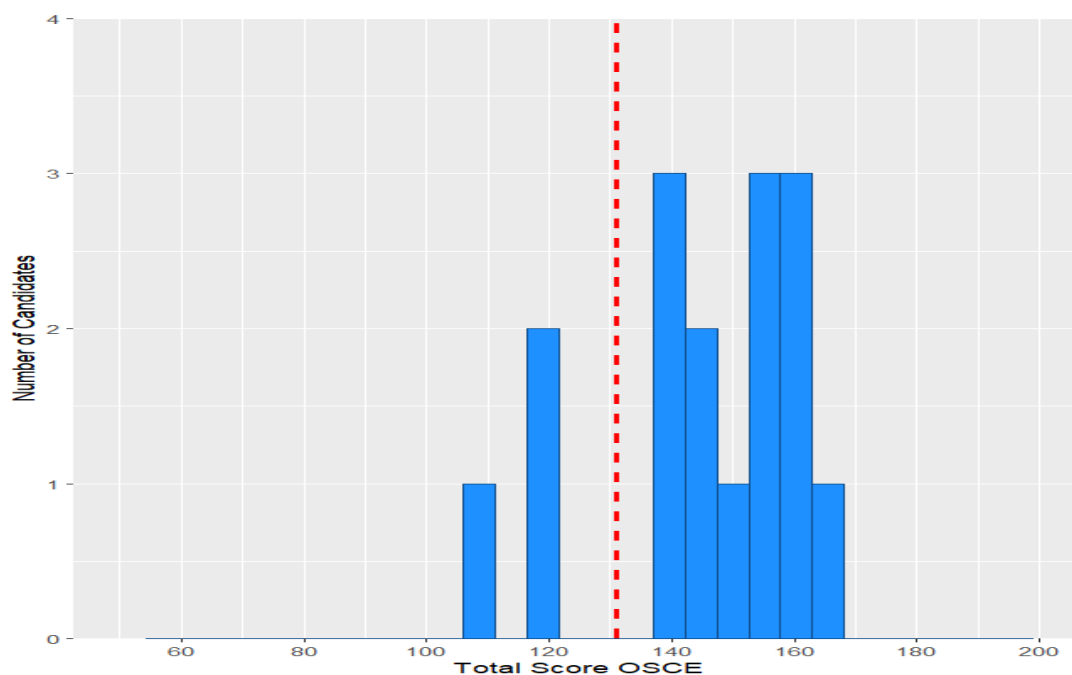*Figure 3:* *Distribution of OSCE scores (red line denotes pass mark)*

Table 7: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	26.6	27.0	18	35
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	25.4	25.0	17	33
3	Posterior segment	36	27.9	28.0	15	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	26.4	28.0	14	36
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	25.9	29.0	10	33
6	Communication skills	18	12.9	12.5	8	18

Table 8: 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	0.91	0.96	0.96	0.91	0.88	0.57

Table 9: 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*	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.3

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

Table 10: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.23					
Station 3	0.56	0.64				
Station 4	-0.02	-0.11	-0.27			
Station 5	0.08	0.39	0.24	-0.05		
Station 6	-0.14	0.01	0.19	0.1	-0.19	

4.2 Standard setting for the OSCE

Figure 4: Hofstee plot – OSCE
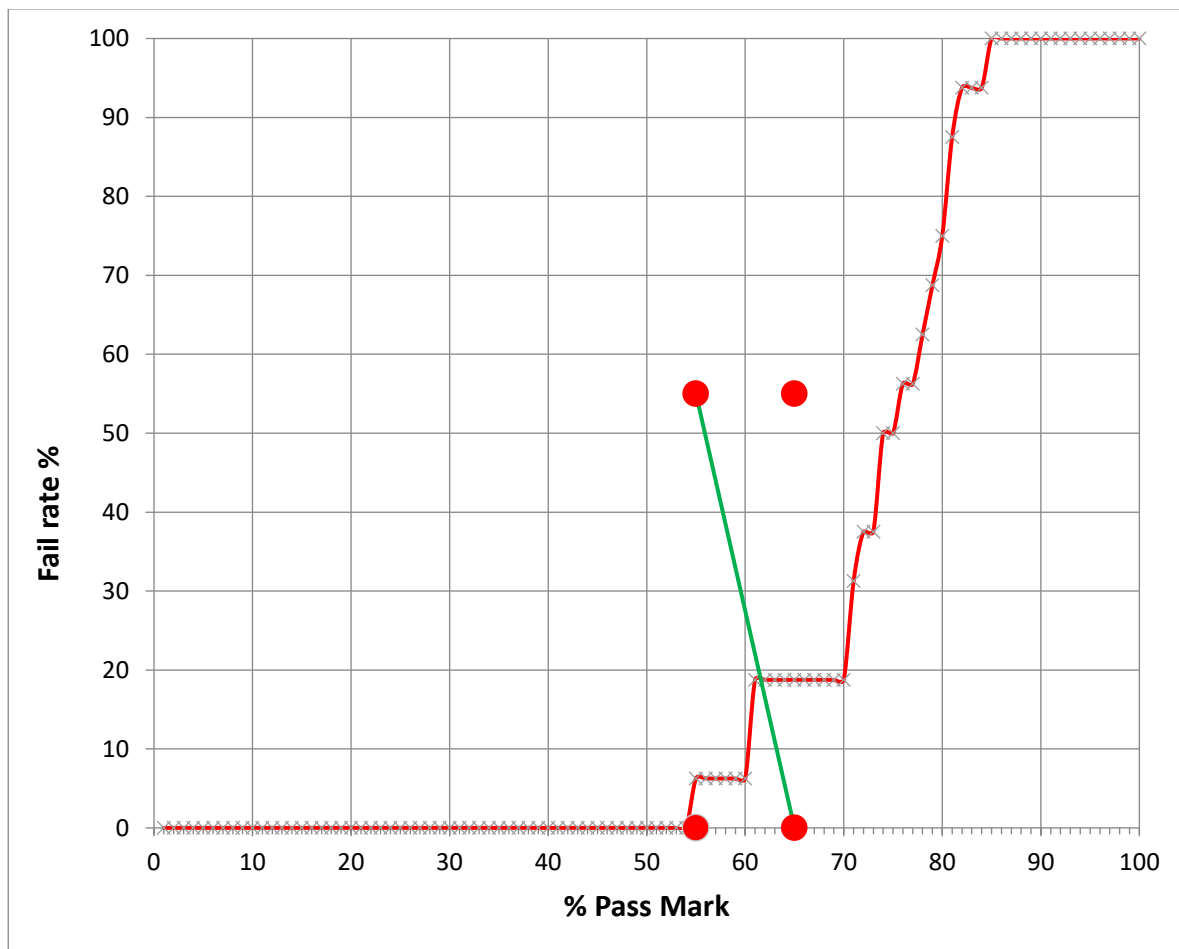
5 Overall results for the oral examination

5.1 Results

Table 11: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	207/318	65.1%
Mean	225.7/318	71%
Median	229.5/318	72.2%
Range	169 – 265	53.1% - 82.3%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

i) pass both the viva (76/120 (63.3%)) and OSCE (131/198 (66.2%)) *or*

ii) pass the OSCE, achieve 71.3/120 (59.4%) in the viva, and achieve ≥207/318 (65.1% overall.

Overall, 12 out of 16 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	12/16	75%

Figure 5: Distribution of total scores (red line denotes overall pass mark)
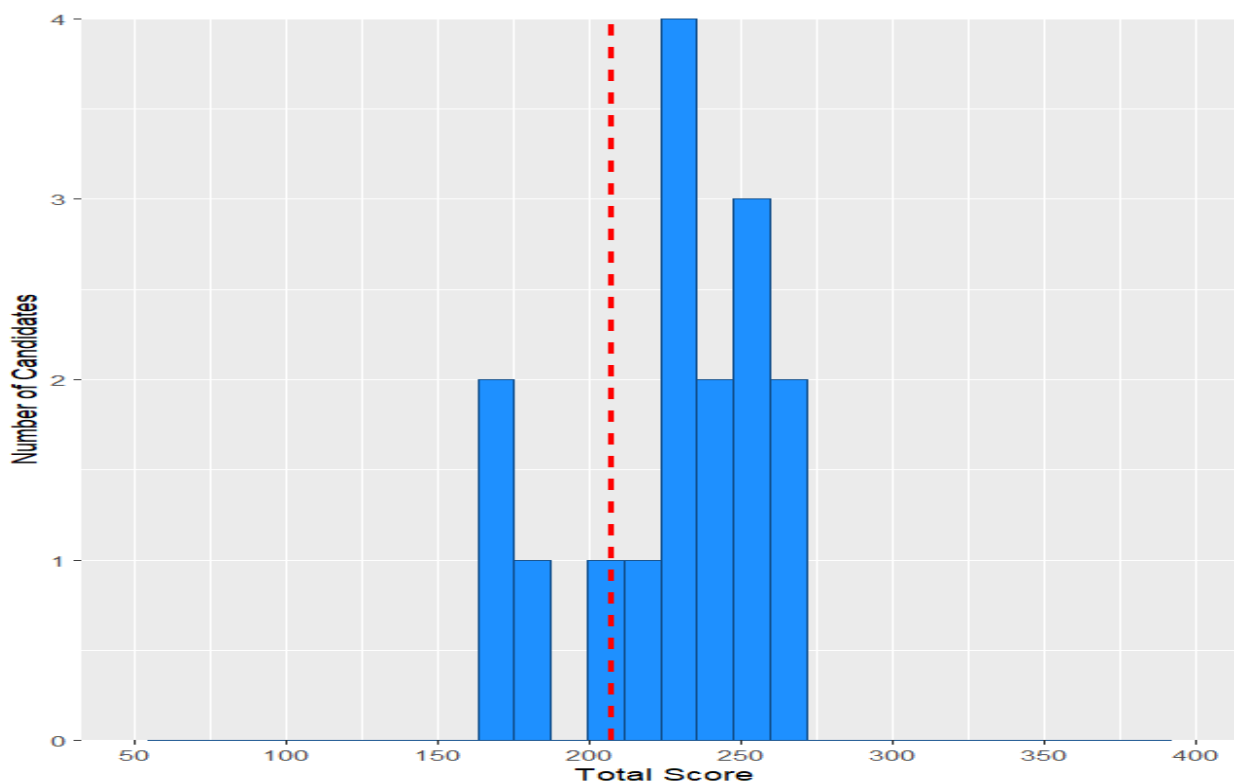
5.2   Comparison to previous examinations

Table 13: 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-23 - Cairo	**16**	**76**	**0.9**	**131**	**0.7**	**75%**	**n/a**
Nov-23 - Dundee	99	62%	0.8	59%	0.8	71%	n/a
Oct-23 – New Delhi	8	59%	0.9	60%	0.8	50%	n/a
Oct-23 - Athens	11	62%	0.9	64%	0.7	46%	n/a
Jul -23	20	64%	0.8	65%	0.9	65%	n/a
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 14: 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	61	84	72.6
	East of England	77	127	60.6
	East of Scotland	14	15	93.3
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	335	437	76.7
	Mersey	68	93	73.1
	North of Scotland	12	20	60.0
	Northwestern	79	125	63.2
	Northern	67	85	78.8
	Northern Ireland	18	24	75.0
	Oxford	53	63	84.1
	Peninsula (Southwest)	28	48	58.3
	Severn	48	63	76.2
	Southeast of Scotland	28	34	82.4
	Wales	51	81	63.0
	Wessex	43	71	60.6
	West Midlands	94	149	63.1
	West of Scotland	44	65	67.7
	Yorkshire	94	145	64.8
OS	Eire	2	3	66.7
	Europe and Overseas	41	82	50.0
		1257	1814	69.3