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# Examination Report

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

Dundee November 2023

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# 1 Summary

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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 99 candidates sat the Dundee examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 37 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 117.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.755 (Viva – adjusted) and 0.777 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 85/99 (85.9%) and 70/99 (70.7%) respectively. The overall pass rate was 70/99 (70.7%).

## 2 Candidates

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A total of 99 candidates sat the examination.

## 3 The structured vivas

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There were five structured vivas, which were held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 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)	34/60	56.7%
Mean score	44.8/60	74.7%
Median score	45/60	75.0%
Range	25 - 60	41.7-100%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha adjusted)	0.755	
SEM (rounded)	3.32 (3)	5.5% (5%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	37/60	61.7%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 37/60)	85 out of 99	85.9%

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

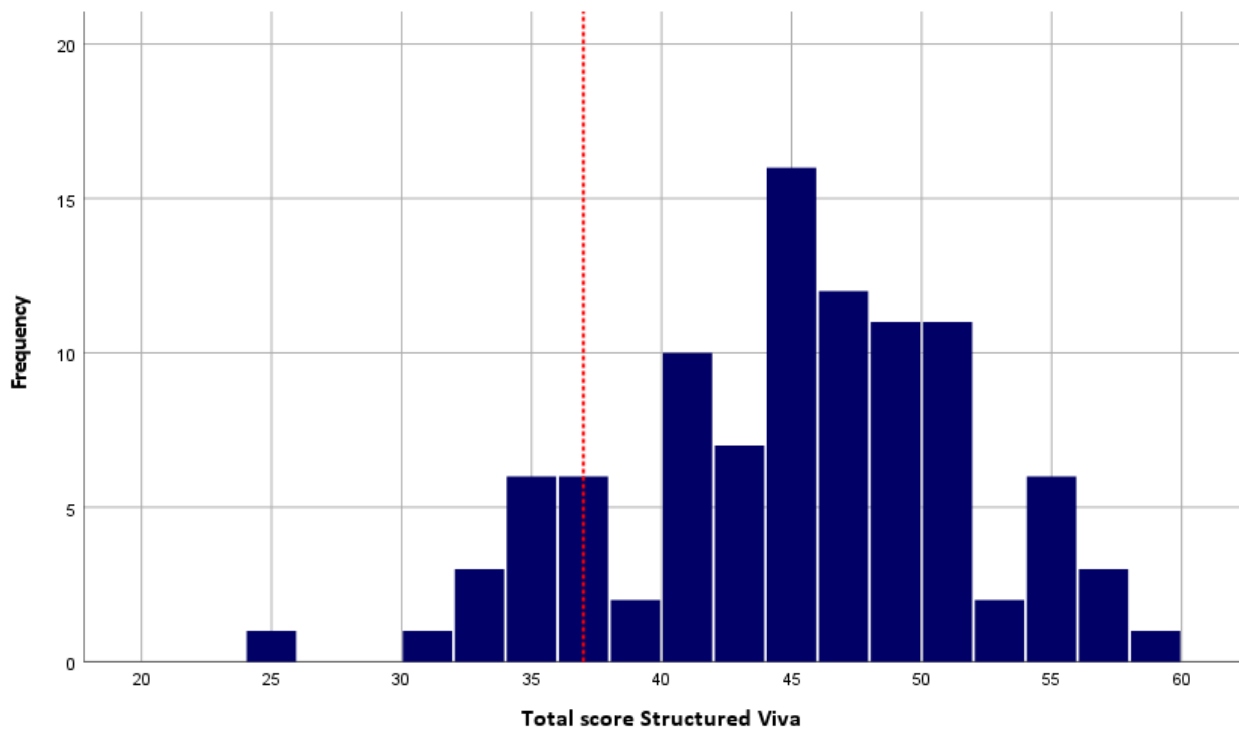


Table 2: Station summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	12	9.1	9.0	4	12
2	PM1	12	9.4	10.0	3	12
3	PM2	12	8.6	9.0	2	12
4	AER	12	8.4	8.0	3	12
5	HPDP/EBM	12	9.4	10.0	5	12

Table 3: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.19				
Station 3	0.35*	0.39*			
Station 4	0.17	0.01	0.21*		
Station 5	0.24*	0.37*	0.23*	0.24*	

\* 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	70	75	67	70	76	
Number of borderline candidates	23	14	21	17	16	
Number of failed candidates	6	10	11	12	7	
Median borderline candidate mark	7	7	7	6	7	34

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## 4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

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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)	108/198	54.5%
Mean score	125.6/198	63.4%
Median score	126/198	63.6%
Range	85-174	42.9-87.9%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.777	
SEM (rounded)	8.90 (9)	4.5% (4.5%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	117/198	59.1%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark 117/198)	70/99	70.75%

\*Please note that the *Final* pass rate is presented, that includes any adjustments. All other analysis is based on original, unadjusted data.

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

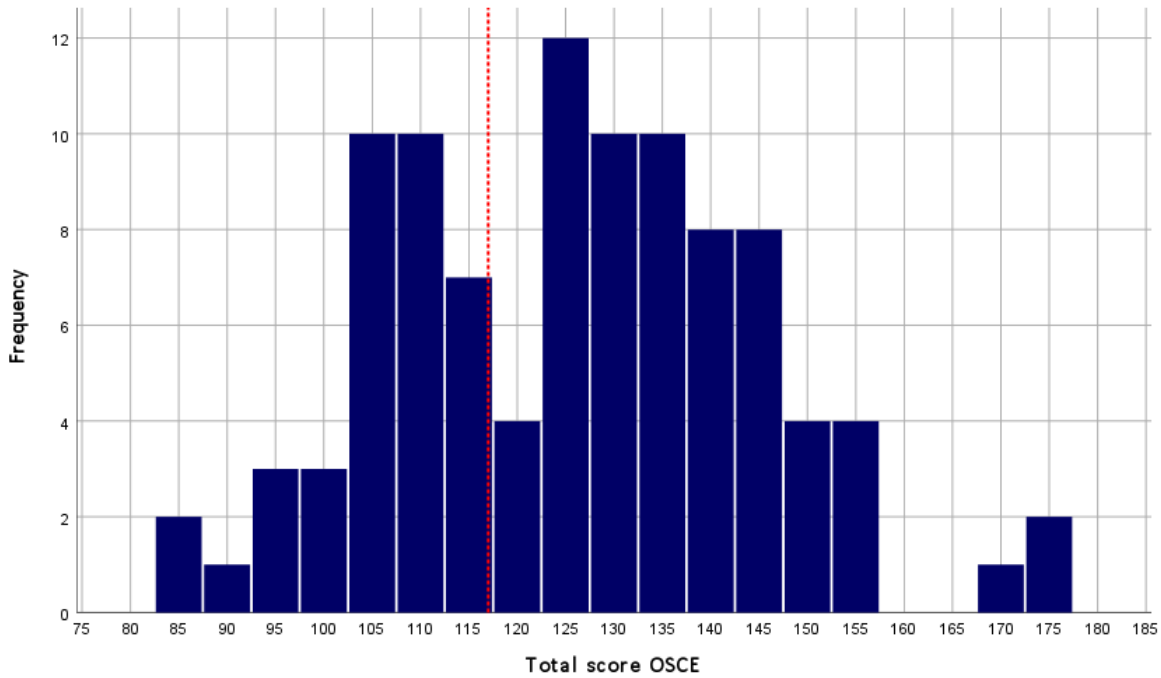


Table 6: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	21.8	21.0	10	36
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	24.0	23.0	9	36
3	Posterior segment	36	24.4	24.0	14	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	21.7	22.0	2	32
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	22.1	23.0	8	34
6	Communication skills	18	11.6	12.0	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	0.92	0.92	0.87	0.83	0.86	0.65

**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	0.93	1.21	1.21	1.41	1.45

\*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	-0.01					
Station 3	0.26	0.17				
Station 4	0.21	0.15	0.21			
Station 5	0.27	0.20	0.18	0.30		
Station 6	0.19	0.03	0.20	0.08	0.14	

## 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	54	49	54	56	60	56	44	42	46	50	54	53	
Number of borderline candidates	27	30	33	31	32	35	36	45	34	32	28	28	
Number of failed candidates	18	20	12	12	7	8	19	12	19	17	17	18	
Median borderline candidate mark	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	4	108



## 5 Overall results for the oral examination

### 5.1 Results

Table 11: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	154/258	59.7%
Mean	170/258	65.9%
Median	173/258	67.1%
Range	119-230	46.1-89.1%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

- i) pass both the viva (37/60 (61.7%)) and OSCE (117/198 (59.1%)) *or*
- ii) pass the OSCE, achieve 34/60 (56.7%) in the viva, and achieve  $\geq 154/258$  (59.7%) overall.

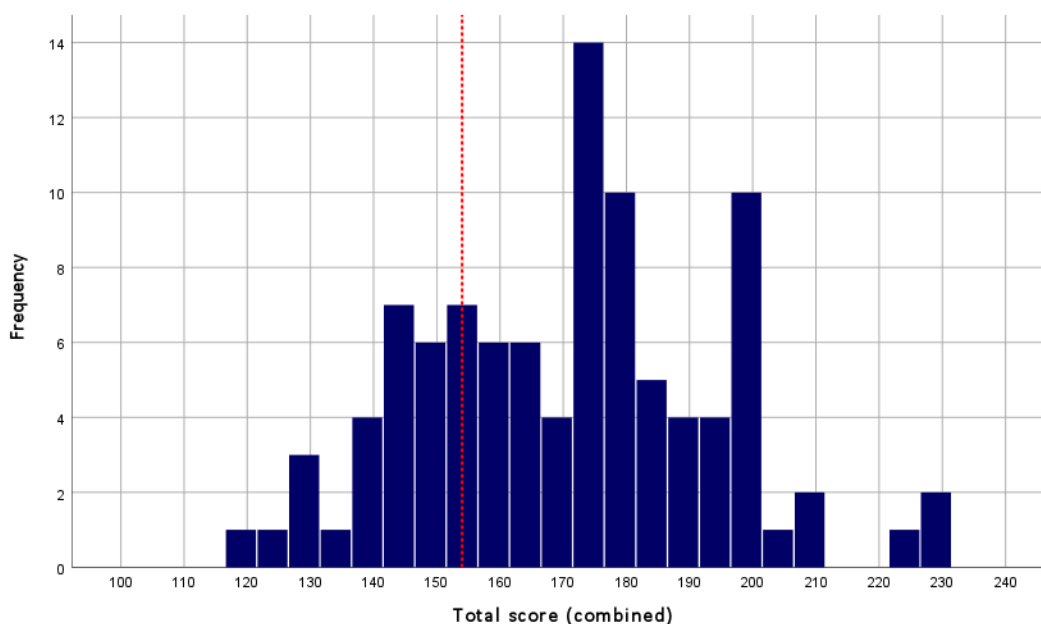
Overall, 70 out of 99 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	70/99	70.7%

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 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
<b>Nov-23 - Dundee</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>n/a</b>
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	436	76.8
	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	29	67	43.3
		1245	1798	69.2