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PSYCHOMETRIC
SOLUTIONS
GROUP

Examination Report

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

Athens

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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 11 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 74 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 126.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.893 (Viva) and 0.702 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 6/11 (54.5 per cent) and 6/11 (54.5 per cent) respectively. The overall pass rate was 5/11 (45.5 percent).

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%

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 2nd October 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)	69.2/120	57.7%
Mean score	77.5/120	64.6%
Median score	74/120	61.7%
Range	50-103	41.7% - 85.8%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.893	
SEM (rounded)	5.47 (5)	4.56%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	74/120	61.7%
Pass rate	6/11	54.5%

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

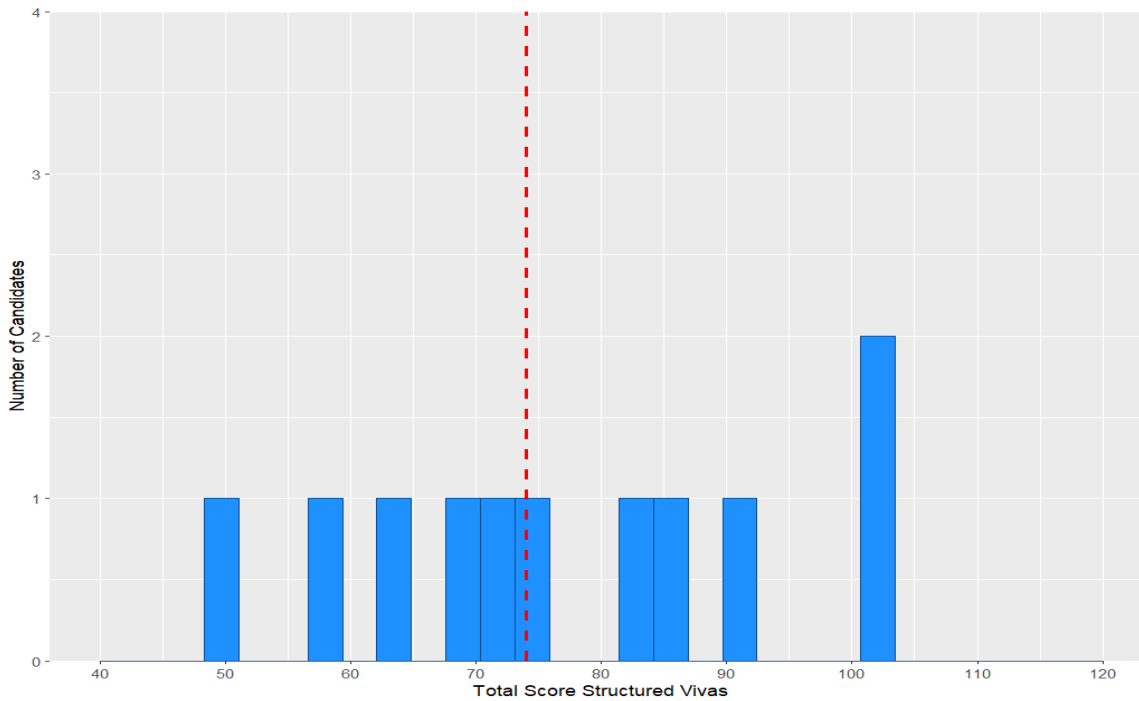


Table 2: Station Summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	15.0	14	6	21
2	PM1	24	15.6	18	9	22
3	PM2	24	18.1	18	14	24
4	AER	24	14.2	14	8	20
5	HPDP/EBM	24	14.6	17	2	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	0.77	0.92	0.82	0.77	0.95

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*	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.8

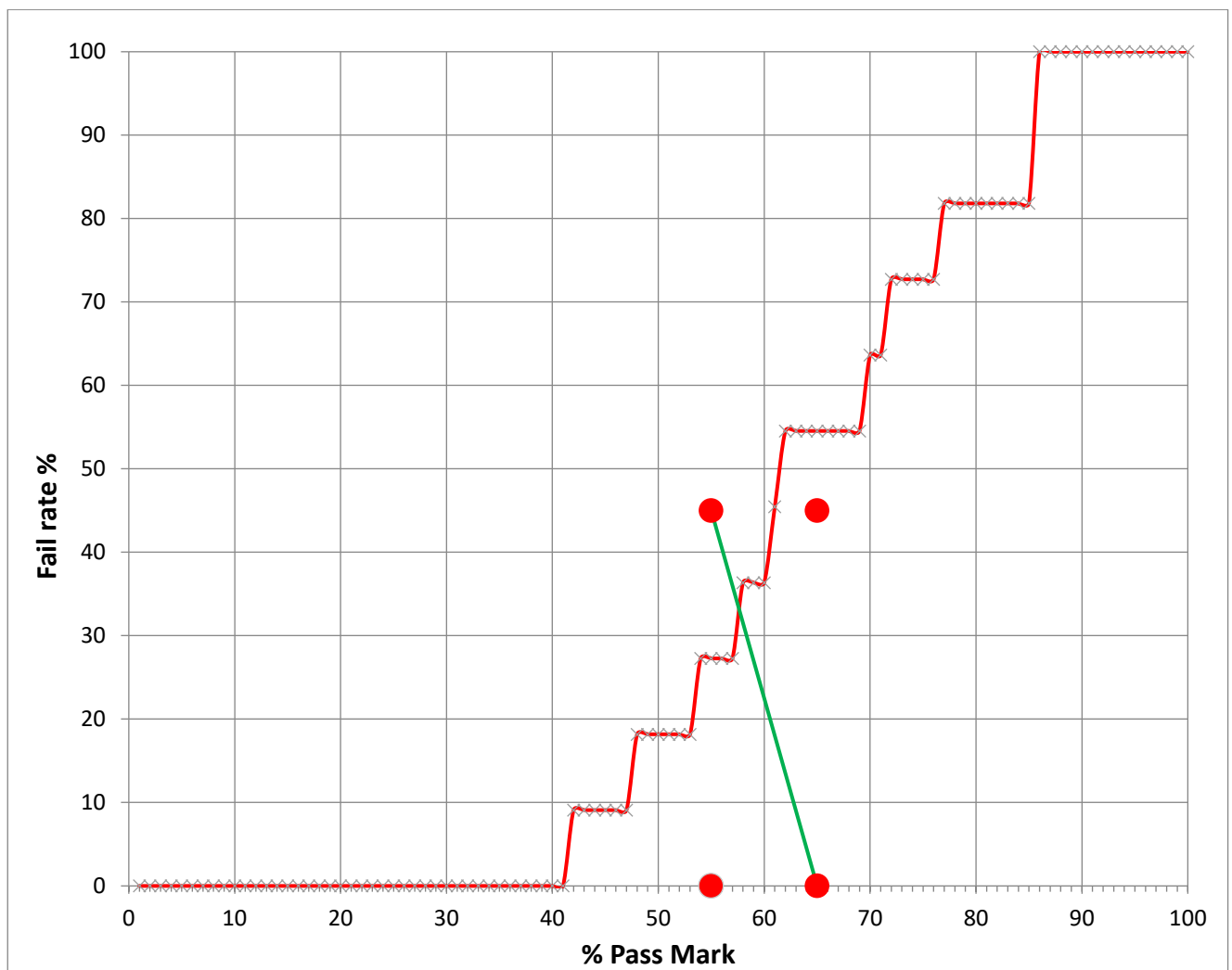
*The 'mean absolute difference' is the average difference between Examiner A and Examiner B scores for each station

Table 5: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.68				
Station 3	0.75	0.55			
Station 4	0.24	0.51	0.23		
Station 5	0.07	0.57	0.18	0.76	

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)	117.6/198	59.4%
Mean score	128.3/198	64.8%
Median score	124/198	62.6%
Range	107-160	54% – 80.8%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.702	
SEM (rounded)	8.52 (9)	4.3%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	126/198	63.6%
Pass rate	6/11	54.5%

**Please note that the Final pass rate presented reflects any adjustments to candidates scores. All other analyses are based on original, unadjusted data.*

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

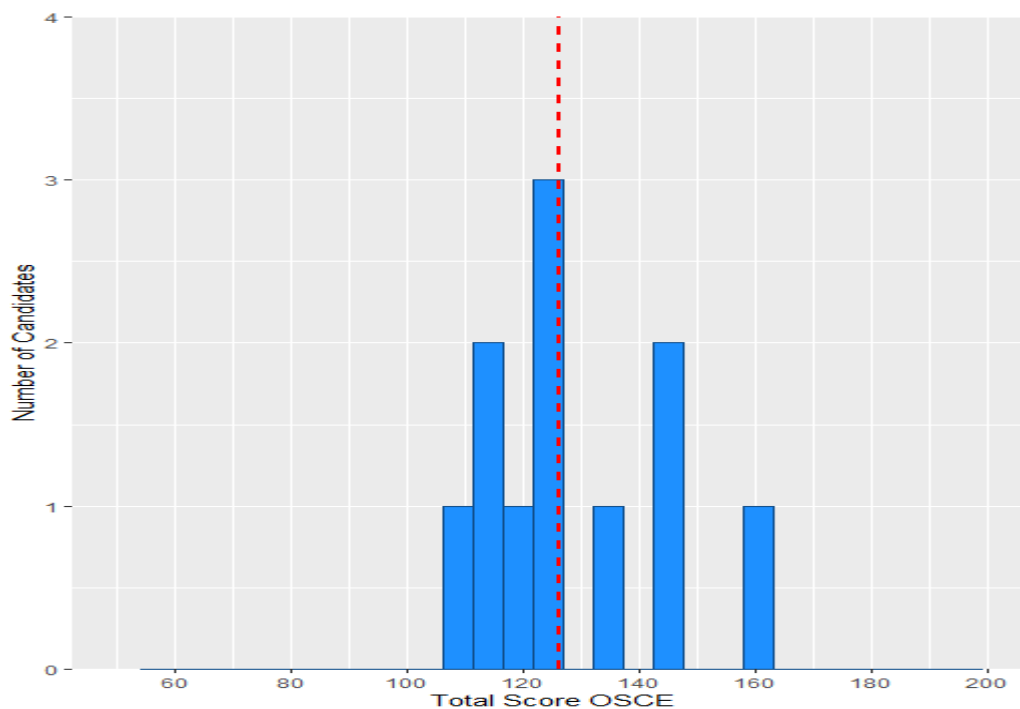


Table 7: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	26.5	27.0	19	33
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	25.5	26.0	15	33
3	Posterior segment	36	19.8	18.0	9	31
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	19.1	19.0	8	32
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	24.7	24.0	19	32
6	Communication skills	18	12.7	12.0	10	17

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	0.88	0.87	0.89	0.87	0.81	0.66

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*	1	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.9

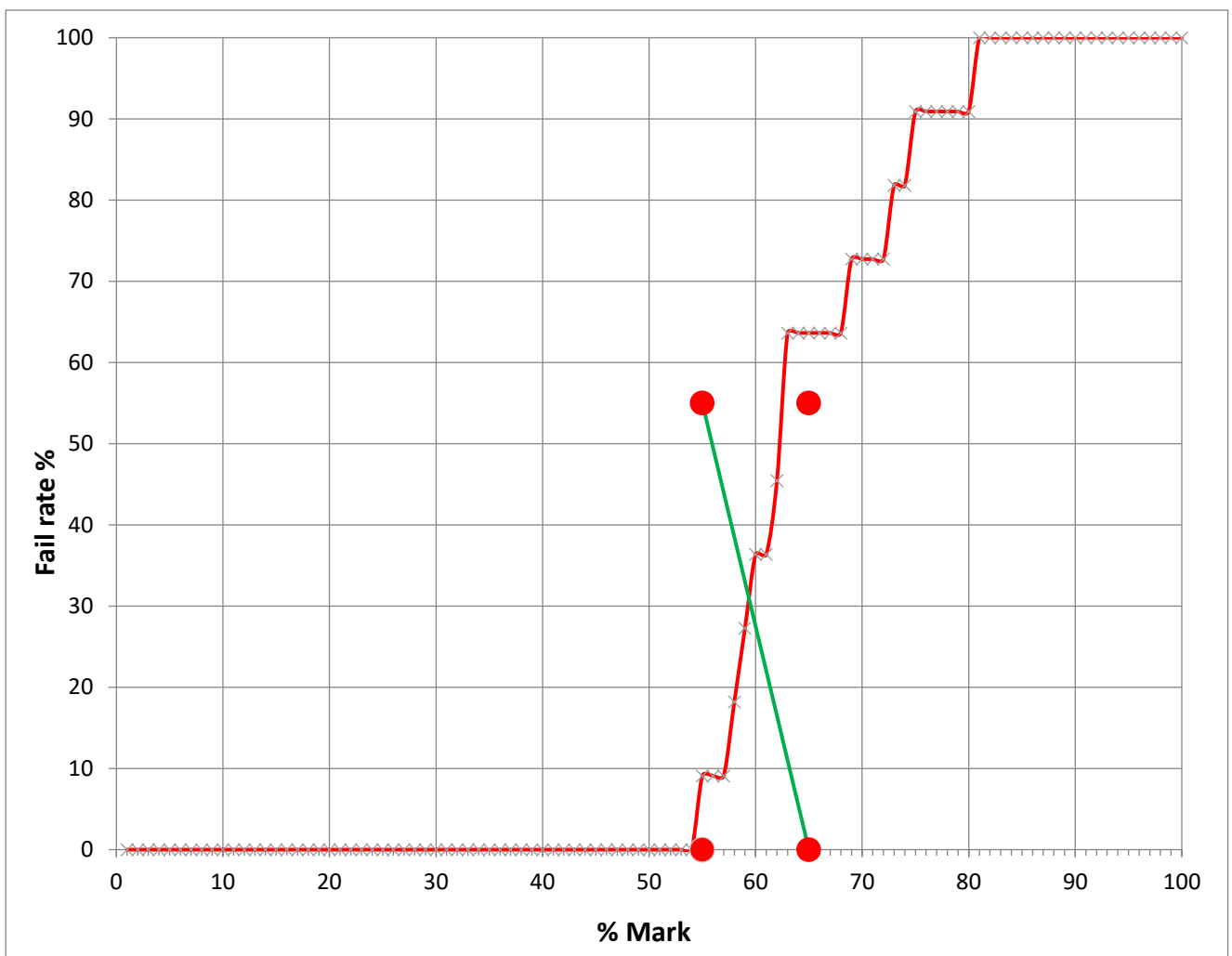
*The 'mean absolute difference' is the average difference between Examiner A and Examiner B scores for each station

Table 10: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.25					
Station 3	0.55	0.3				
Station 4	-0.24	-0.26	0.2			
Station 5	0.35	0.38	0.55	-0.04		
Station 6	-0.32	-0.29	-0.02	-0.15	-0.12	

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	200/318	62.9%
Mean	205.8/318	64.7%
Median	204/318	64.2%
Range	164 – 263	51.6% - 82.7%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

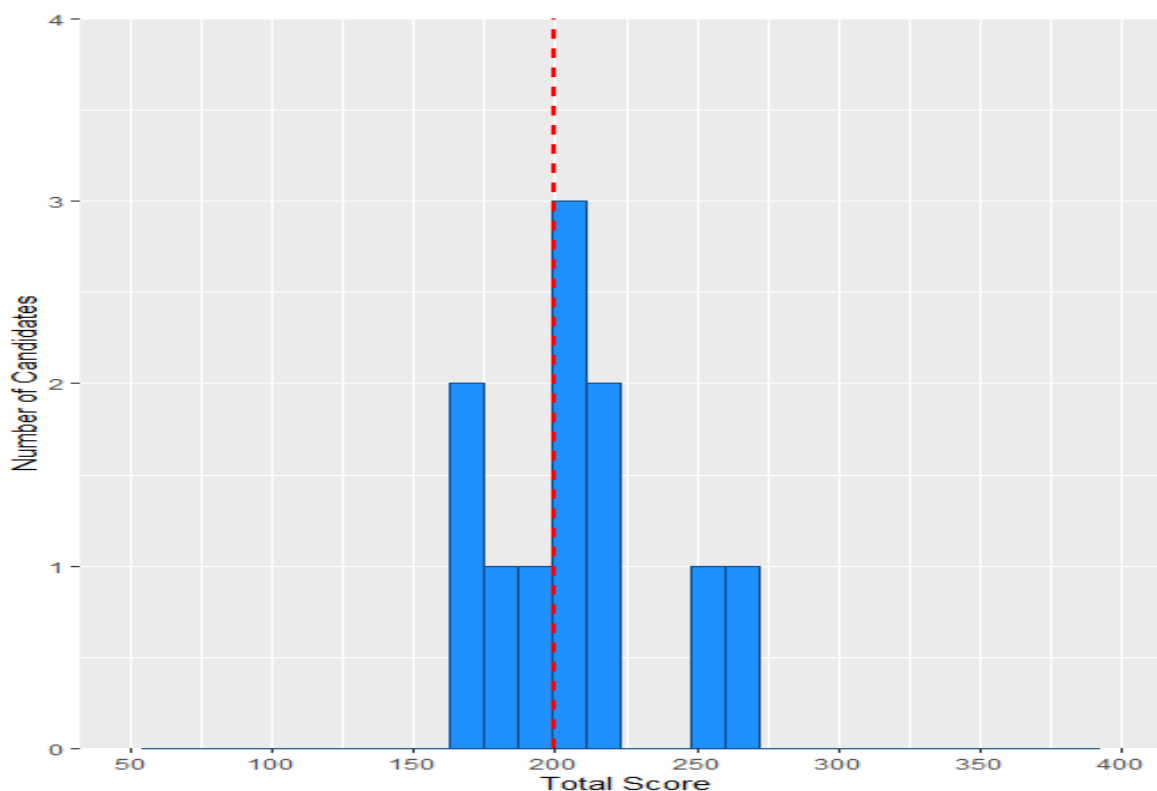
- i) pass both the viva (74/120 (61.7%)) and OSCE (126/198 (63.6% percent)) or
- ii) pass the OSCE, achieve 69/120 in the viva, and achieve $\geq 200/318$ (62.9 per cent) overall.

Overall, 5 out of 11 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	5/11	45.5%

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



5.2 Comparison to previous examinations

Table 17: Comparison to previous examinations

Date	Candidates	Viva pass mark	Viva reliability	OSCE pass mark	OSCE reliability	Oral pass rate	Oral pass rate in OST
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 18: 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	80	73.8
	East of England	74	121	62.0
	East of Scotland	13	14	92.9
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	322	422	76.3
	Mersey	65	89	73.0
	North of Scotland	10	18	55.6
	Northwestern	74	119	62.2
	Northern	62	80	77.5
	Northern Ireland	18	23	78.3
	Oxford	50	60	83.3
	Peninsula (Southwest)	26	46	56.5
	Severn	48	63	77.4
	Southeast of Scotland	26	31	83.9
	Wales	47	76	61.8
	Wessex	41	68	60.3
	West Midlands	86	137	62.8
	West of Scotland	42	62	67.7
	Yorkshire	93	141	66.0
OS	Eire	2	3	66.7
	Europe and Overseas	22	55	40.0
		1179	1708	69.0