

Examination Report

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

Singapore January 2025

Kiran Sanghara, Lucy Foard, Sian Williams

Contents

1	Summary.....	3
2	Standard setting.....	3
3	The structured vivas.....	4
3.1	Results	4
3.2	Standard setting for the structured vivas.....	6
4	The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)	7
4.1	Results	7
4.2	Standard setting for the OSCEs	9
5	Overall results for the oral examination	10
5.1	Results	10
5.2	Comparison to previous examinations and deanery analysis.....	11

1 Summary

The Part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination consists of two elements. The Structured viva consists of five stations worth a total of 120 marks, whilst the Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) consists of six stations worth a total of 198 marks. One of the OSCE stations is conducted with the vivas.

A total of 8 candidates sat the Singapore examination in January 2025.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 79/120 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 132/198.

The reliability of the oral examination was 0.585 (Viva) and 0.595 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the Viva and the OSCE were 75% (6/8) and 87.5% (7/8) respectively. The overall pass rate was 87.5% (7/8).

2 Standard setting

The pass marks for each section of the exam are identified using the **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 = 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 for each of the exam elements (Viva; OSCE) can be found under the relevant sections in the report.

One standard error of measurement (+1SEm) is added to each element's raw Hofstee pass mark, in order to generate the final pass mark for that section.

3 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 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, two examiners per station, 24 marks per station): 120

Table 1: Marks for the viva

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Raw Pass mark (using Hofstee method)	75 / 120	62.5%
Mean score	81.2	67.7%
Standard deviation	6.55	5.5%
Median score	80.5	67.1%
Range	71 – 92	59.2% - 76.7%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.585	
SEM (rounded)	4.22 (4)	3.5%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	79 / 120	65.8%
Pass rate	6 / 8	75%

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

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

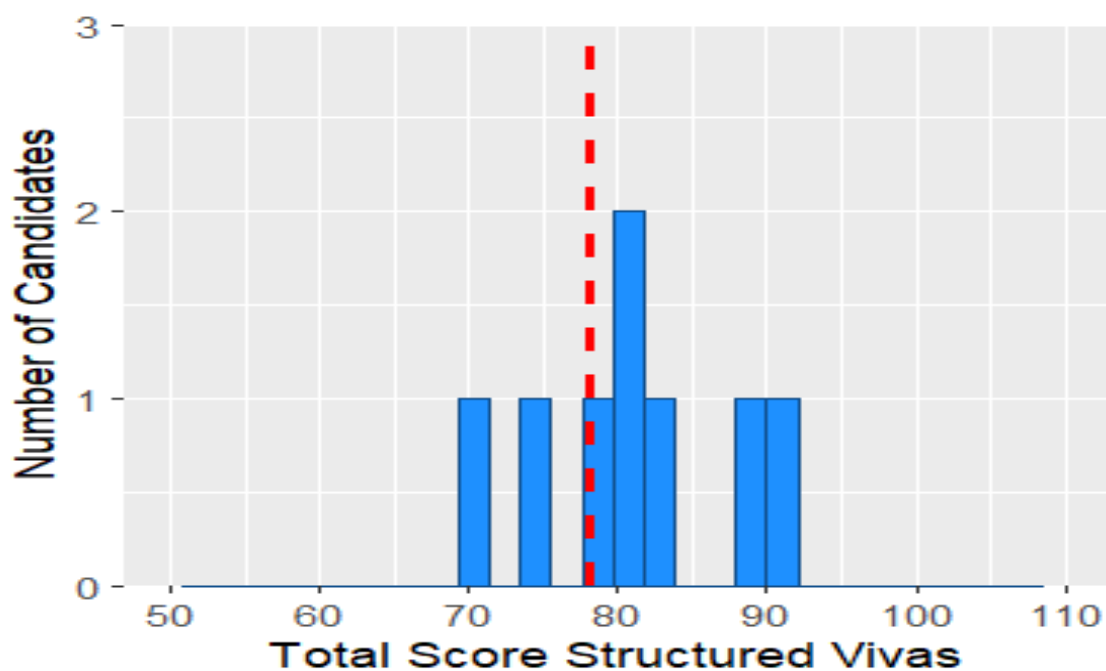


Table 2: Station summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	18.6	19.0	13	21
2	PM1	24	14.9	14.0	12	20
3	PM2	24	16.3	17.0	10	18
4	AER	24	16.8	17.0	11	22
5	HPDP/EBM	24	14.8	14.0	12	19

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	0.55	0.77	1.00	0.87	0.76

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*	1.88	0.88	0	0.75	1.5

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

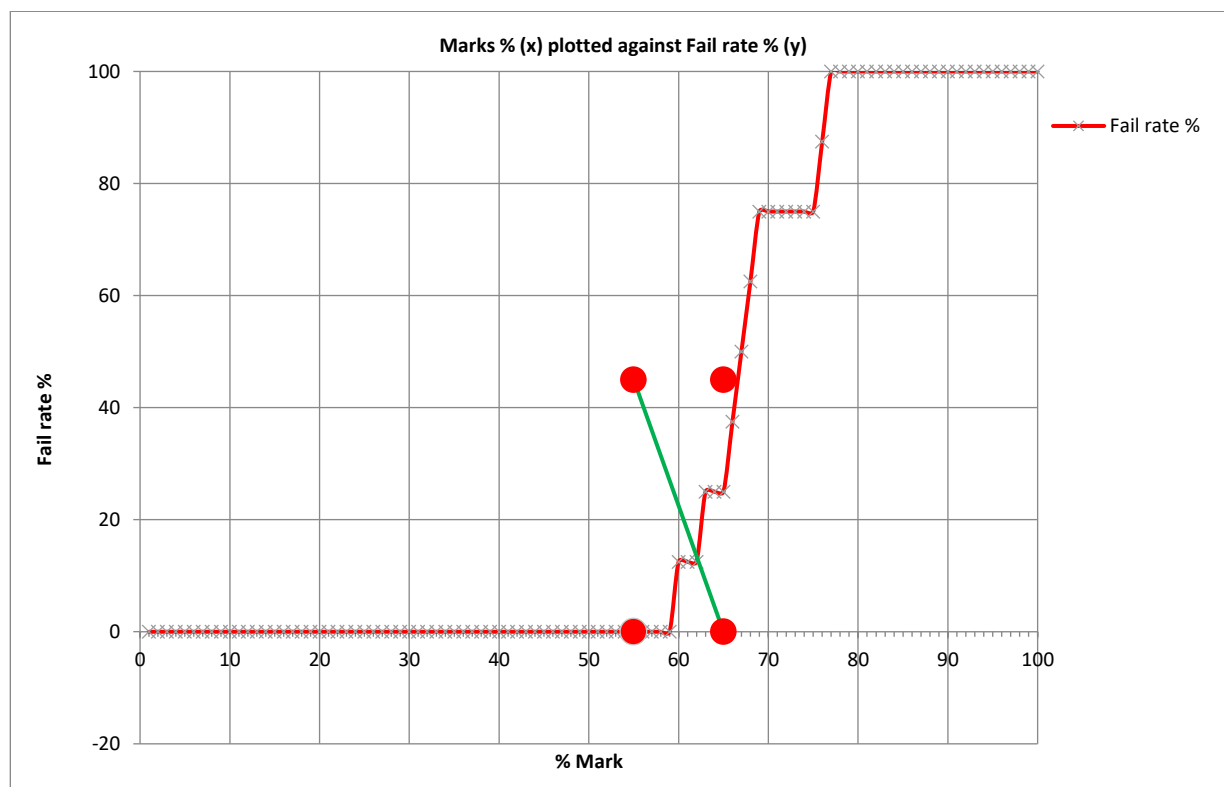
Table 5: Correlation between viva stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4
Station 1				
Station 2	-0.29			
Station 3	0.78	-0.32		
Station 4	0.44	0.43	-0.05	
Station 5	-0.26	0.07	-0.62	0.06

*Statistics should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size

3.2 Standard setting for the structured vivas

Figure 2: Hofstee plot – SV



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
Raw Pass mark (using Hofstee method)	124 / 198	62.6%
Mean score	137.9	69.6%
Standard deviation	13.1	6.6%
Median score	141.5	71.5%
Range	108 – 152	54.5% - 76.8%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.595	
SEM (rounded)	8.32 (8)	4.2%
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	132 / 198	66.7%
Pass rate	7 / 8	87.5%

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

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

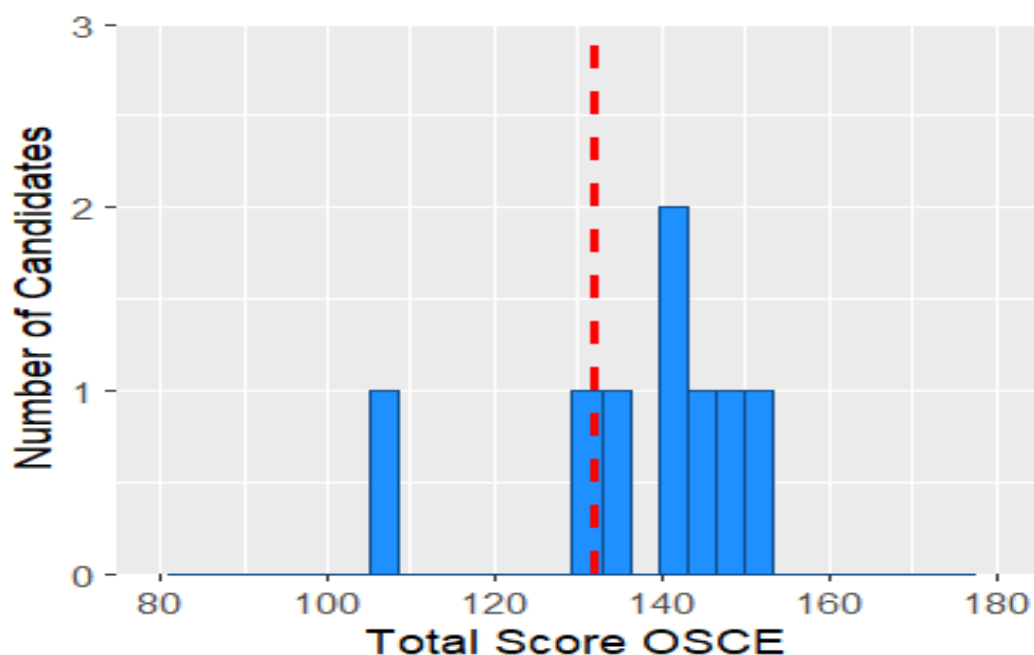


Table 7: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	24.1	24.0	14	32
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	26.6	28.0	18	33
3	Posterior segment	36	29.5	29.5	22	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	22.4	22.0	15	29
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	20.8	20.5	11	31
6	Communication skills	18	14.5	14.0	9	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	0.98	0.78	0.69	0.88	0.83	0.56

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*	0.38	1.4	2.0	1.1	2.3	1.3

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

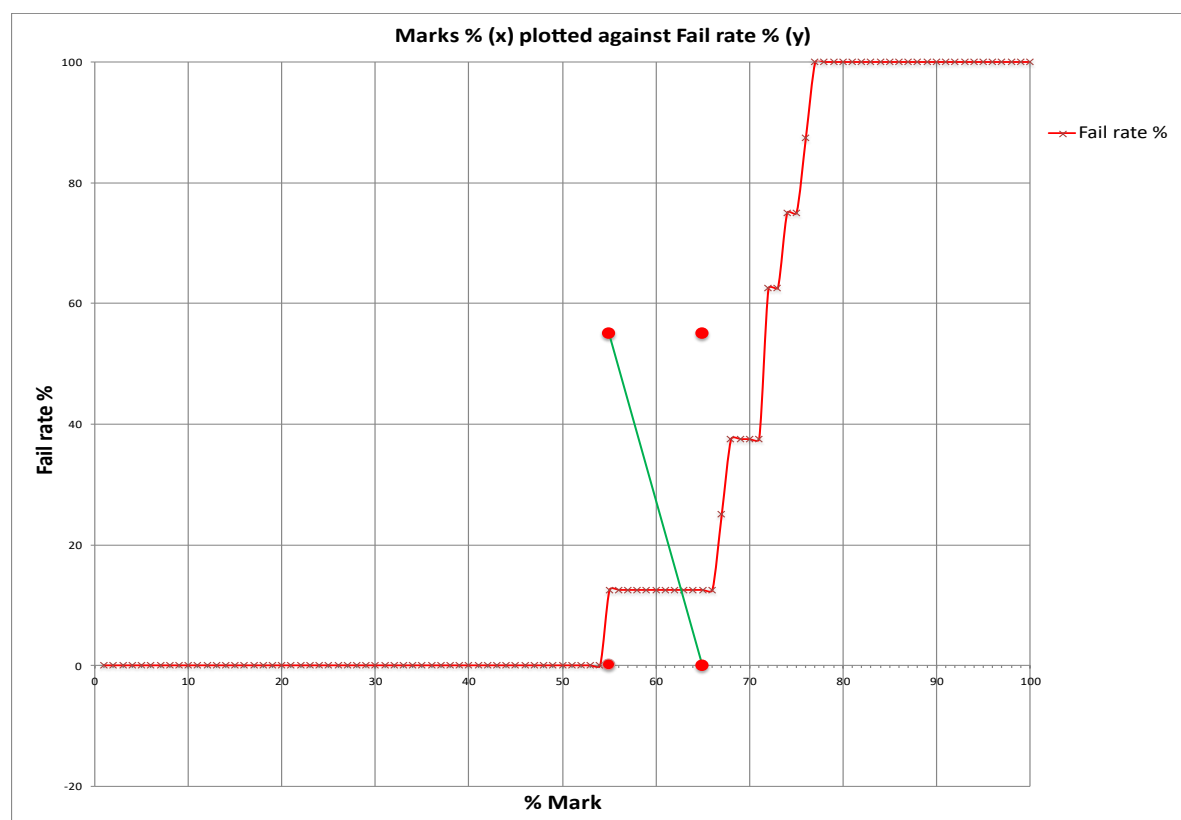
Table 10: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Station 1					
Station 2	0.47				
Station 3	-0.05	-0.68			
Station 4	0.28	0.76	-0.37		
Station 5	0.49	0.45	-0.68	0.13	
Station 6	-0.28	-0.60	0.40	-0.37	0.03

*Statistics should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size

4.2 Standard setting for the OSCEs

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	211 / 318	66.3%
Mean	219.1 / 318	68.9%
Median	217 / 318	68.2%
Range	189 – 244	59.4% - 76.7%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

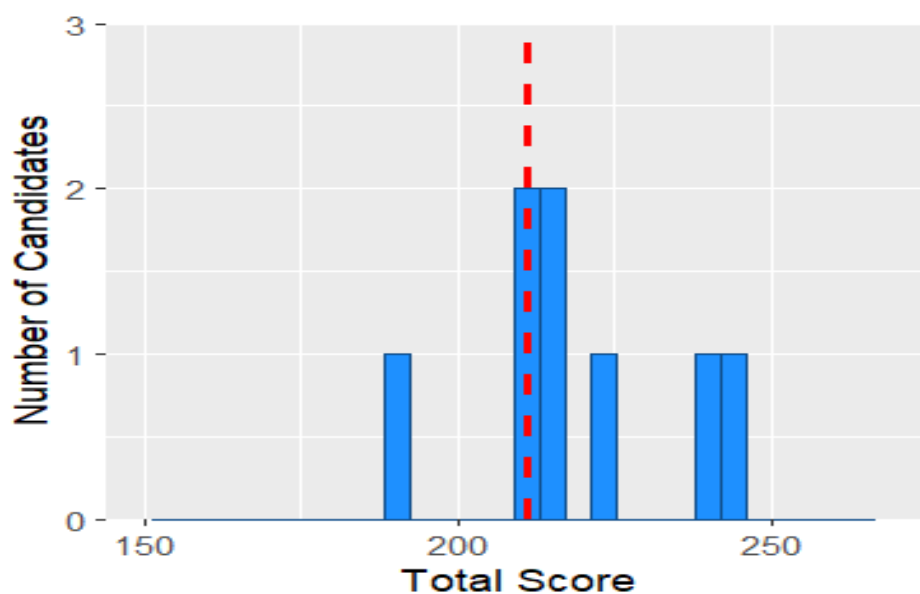
- i) pass both the viva (79/120 (65.8%)) and OSCE (132/198 (66.7%)) *or*
- ii) pass the OSCE, achieve at least 75/120 (62.5%) in the viva, and achieve $\geq 211/318$ (66.3%) overall.

Overall, 7 of the 8 candidates sitting passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	7 / 8	87.5%

Figure 5: Distribution of total scores (red line denotes overall pass mark)



5.2 Comparison to previous examinations and demographic analysis

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
Jan-25 Singapore	8	66%	0.6	67%	0.6	87.5%	n/a
Nov-24 Cairo	11	64%	0.9	64%	0.9	72.7%	n/a
Nov-24 Manchester	123	61%	0.8	61%	0.8	68%	74%
Oct-24 Athens	3	63%	-	64%	-	67%	n/a
April-24 London	143	63%	0.8	63%	0.8	75%	87%
Feb-24 Pakistan	2	63%	-	64%	-	100%	n/a
Jan-24 Singapore	14	67%	0.8	65%	0.5	71%	n/a
Nov-23 Cairo	16	63%	0.9	66%	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)

Location	Deanery	Number of passes	Number of candidates	Pass rate (%)
UK	East Midlands	68	94	72.3
	East of England	85	140	60.7
	East of Scotland	14	15	93.3
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey & Sussex)	362	473	76.5
	Mersey	73	99	73.7
	North of Scotland	14	22	63.6
	North East	1	1	100.0
	Northwestern	86	133	64.7
	Northern	72	91	79.1
	Northern Ireland	23	29	79.3
	Thames Valley (was Oxford)	57	68	83.8
	Peninsula (Southwest)	31	51	60.8
	Severn	53	68	77.9
	South East of Scotland	31	37	83.8
	Wales	53	84	63.1
	Wessex	47	78	60.3
	West Midlands	109	165	66.1
	West of Scotland	51	73	69.9
	Yorkshire and Humber	103	160	64.4
OS	Eire	4	5	80.0
	Europe and Overseas	64	113	56.6
	Other / Unknown	75	119	63.0
	Total	1476	2118	69.7