Examination Report

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

Mumbai – January 2025

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1   Summary

The part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination has 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 5 candidates sat the examination. As such, a reduced report follows, to ensure anonymisation of individuals' scores.

The pass mark for the Structured Viva was 71 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 117.

All five of the candidates passed the Viva and the OSCE. The final overall exam pass rate was 100%.

2   Standard Setting

The pass marks for each section of the exam are identified using the Hofstee method:

2.1   Hofstee method

In this method, examiners are asked to review the parameters for the standard setting based upon their judgment of the difficulty of the stations. The following values were derived and 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 are 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.

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 Viva stations, which were held on 30th January 2025. The communication skills OSCE station was conducted as one of the viva stations, making six stations in all that ran on the day. The OSCE communication 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
Raw Pass mark (using Hofstee method)	67.3/120	56.1%
Mean score	73/120	60.8%
SEM (rounded)	4.4 (4)	3.7%
Final adjusted, rounded pass mark (+1 SEM)	71/120	59.2%
Pass rate	3/5	60.0%

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 was held with the Vivas). All were held on 31st January 2025. 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

Maximum mark (six stations, 12 examiners (2 per station), 36 marks per station (comms station 18 marks per station)): 198

Table 2: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using Hofstee method)*	108.9/198	55%
Mean score	153.4/198	77.5%
SEM (rounded)	7.7.(8)	3.9%
Final pass mark (+1 SEM)	117/198	59.1%
Final Pass rate	5/5	100%

*The exam board decided that the pass mark should be based on the minimum Hofstee pass mark for this assessment on this occasion

5   Overall results for the oral examination

5.1   Results

Table 3:   Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	188/318	59.1%
Mean	226/318	71.1%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

i) Pass both the Viva (by scoring ≥71/120) <u>and</u> OSCE (by scoring ≥ 117/198) *or*

ii) Pass the OSCE, achieve at least 67/120 in the Viva, and achieve ≥188/318 (59.1%) overall.

All five candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 4:   Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	5/5*	100%

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

5.2   Comparison to previous examinations

Table 5: 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 Mumbai	**5**	**59%**	**-**	**59%**	**-**	**100**	n/a
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 6: 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	69	118	58.5
	Other / Unknown	75	119	63.0
	Total	*1476*	*2118*	*69.7*