

Examination Report

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

Crete – May 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 3 candidates sat the examination. As such, a reduced report follows, to ensure anonymisation of individuals' scores.

The pass mark for the Structured Viva was 77, and the pass mark for the OSCE was 128.

Two of the candidates passed the Viva and the OSCE. The final overall exam pass rate was 66.7%.

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)

Due to the small number of candidates (< 10) the Examination Board applied a cut score that represents the midpoint in credible pass mark judgements (i.e. 60% for OSCE and 60% for SV).

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 1st May 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	72/120	60%
Mean score	85/120	70.8%
SEM* (rounded)	5.1(5)	4.3%
Final adjusted, rounded pass mark (+1 SEM*)	77/120	64.2%
Pass rate	2/3	66.7%

*Due to the small number of candidates (< 10) the Examination Board applied a historical average SEM

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 2nd May 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

Table 2: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark	119/198	60%
Mean score	135/198	68.2%
SEM* (rounded)	8.7 (9)	4.4%
Final pass mark (+1 SEM*)	128/198	64.6%
Final Pass rate	2/3	66.7%

*Due to the small number of candidates (< 10) the Examination Board applied the historical average SEM

5 Overall results for the oral examination

5.1 Results

Table 3: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	205/318	64.5%
Mean	220/318	69.2%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

- i) Pass both the Viva (by scoring $\geq 77/120$) and OSCE (by scoring $\geq 128/198$) *or*
- ii) Pass the OSCE, achieve at least 72/120 in the Viva, and achieve $\geq 205/318$ (64.5%) overall.

Two candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 4: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	2/3*	66.7%

*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
May-25 Crete	3	64%	-	65%	-	67%	n/a
April-25 Cardiff	117	62%	0.8	61%	0.9	67.5%	93%
Feb-25 Dubai	11	65%	0.8	67%	-	45.5%	n/a
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%
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	69	95	72.6
	East of England	94	150	62.7
	East of Scotland	14	15	93.3
	London and KSS	380	491	77.4
	Mersey	74	100	74.0
	North of Scotland	16	24	66.7
	North East	1	1	100.0
	Northwestern	88	135	65.2
	Northern	73	92	79.3
	Northern Ireland	24	30	80.0
	Thames Valley (was Oxford)	61	72	84.7
	Peninsula (Southwest)	31	51	60.8
	Severn	55	70	78.6
	South East of Scotland	31	37	83.8
	Wales	55	86	64.0
	Wessex	49	80	61.3
	West Midlands	113	169	66.9
	West of Scotland	54	76	71.1
	Yorkshire and Humber	109	170	64.1
OS	Eire	5	6	83.3
	Europe and Overseas	69	119	58.0
N/A	Other / Unknown	102	185	55.1
TOTAL	Total	1562	2249	69.5