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# Examination Report

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

Malaysia, KL – June 2025

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# 1 Summary

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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 20 candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 75/120 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 130/198.

The station-level reliability values of the oral examination components were 0.81 (Viva) and 0.45 (OSCE). The examiner-level reliability values of the oral examination components were 0.90 (Viva) and 0.72 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 60.0% (12/20) and 70.0% (14/20) respectively. The overall pass rate was 65.0% (13/20).

## 2 Standard Setting

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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.

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## 3 The Structured Vivas

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There were five Structured Viva stations, which were held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 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 Hofstee Pass mark	70 / 120	58.3%
Mean score	75.15	62.6%
Standard deviation	16.29	13.6%
Median score	80.00	66.7%
Range	31 - 97	25.8% - 80.8%
Reliability (alpha): Station-level	0.810	
Reliability (alpha): Examiner-level	0.903	
SEM (rounded)	5.07 (5)	4.2% (4.2%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	75 / 120	62.5%
Pass rate* after adjustment (pass mark = 75)	12 / 20	60.0%

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

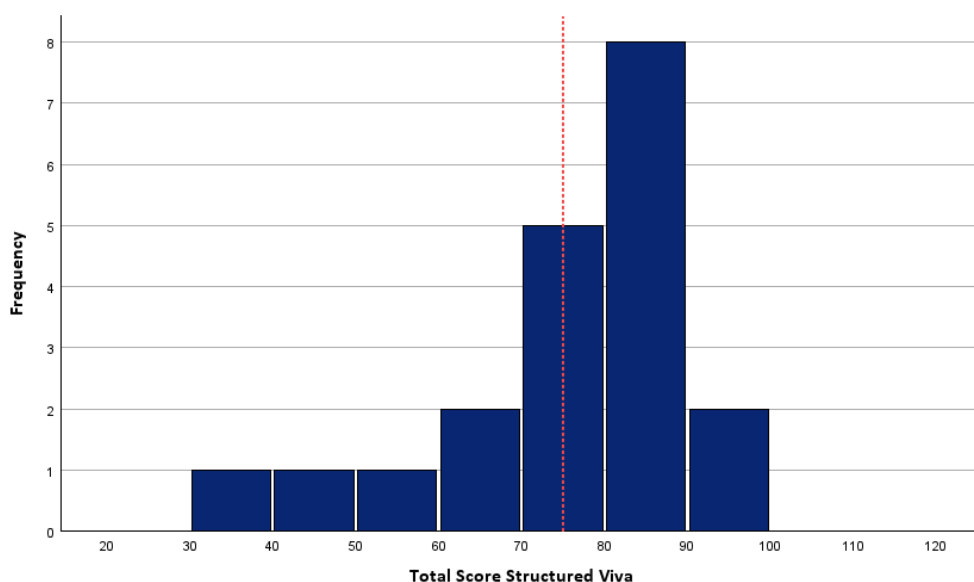


Figure 1: Distribution of Total Structured Viva scores (Red line denotes pass mark)

Table 2: Station summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	18.5	19.0	7	24
2	PM1	24	14.6	14.0	9	22
3	PM2	24	14.1	14.5	5	22
4	AER	24	13.5	13.5	3	21
5	HPDP/EBM	24	14.5	16.5	4	20

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	0.96	0.85	0.82	0.80	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*	0.40	0.70	1.20	1.35	0.70

\*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	0.38				
Station 3	0.74*	0.62*			
Station 4	0.49*	-0.10	0.39		
Station 5	0.56*	0.36	0.57*	0.48*	

\* Statistically significant  $p \leq .05$

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> June 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 6: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Raw Hofstee Pass mark	122 / 198	61.6%
Mean score	131.90	66.6%
Standard deviation	15.01	7.6%
Median score	133.50	67.4%
Range	93 – 156	47.0% - 78.8%
Reliability (alpha): Station-level	0.445	
Reliability (alpha): Examiner-level	0.722	
SEM (rounded)	7.91 (8)	4.0% (4.0%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	130 / 198	65.7%
Pass rate* after adjustment (pass mark = 130)	14 / 20	70.0%

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

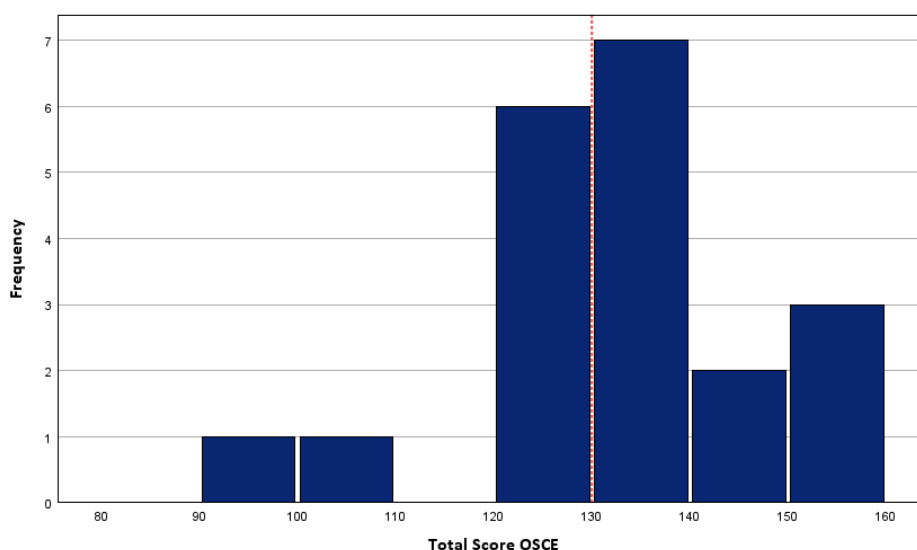


Figure 2: Distribution of Total OSCE scores (Red line denotes pass mark)

Table 7: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	26.8	27.0	18	32
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	23.0	24.0	13	30
3	Posterior segment	36	27.5	30.0	17	34
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	22.2	21.0	9	32
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	21.8	22.5	12	35
6	Communication skills	18	10.8	11.0	4	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	0.76	0.74	0.99	0.88	0.87	0.98

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*	2.05	1.45	0.15	1.45	1.25	0.20

\*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	0.29					
Station 3	0.58*	0.02				
Station 4	0.40	0.17	0.51*			
Station 5	0.03	0.08	0.22	0.22		
Station 6	-0.53*	-0.40	-0.25	-0.06	0.29	

\* Statistically significant  $p \leq .05$

## 5 Overall results for the oral examination

### 5.1 Results

Table 11: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	205 / 318	64.5%
Mean	207.05 / 318	65.1%
Median	209.50 / 318	65.9%
Range	136 - 244	42.8% - 76.7%

To pass the oral examination, candidates had to either:

- i) Pass both the Viva (by scoring  $\geq 75/120$ ) and OSCE (by scoring  $\geq 130/198$ ) *or*
- ii) Pass the OSCE, achieve at least 70/120 in the Viva, and achieve  $\geq 205/318$  (64.5%) overall.

**13 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.**

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	13/20*	65.0%

\*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 and additional analyses

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>June-25 Malaysia (KL)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>33%</b>
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%

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	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
	North of Scotland	16	24	66.7
	North East	1	1	100
	Northwestern	88	135	65.2
	Northern	73	92	79.3
	Northern Ireland	24	30	80
	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	87	63.2
	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	71	122	58.2
N/A	Other / Unknown	113	201	56.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>2269</b>	<b>69.4</b>