



Examination Report

**Part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of
Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) written
examination**

December 2025

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1 Summary

The written paper of this sitting of the Part 2 Fellowship in Ophthalmology (FRCOphth) examination was held in December 2025.

The reliability of this exam was 0.835. There were three questions removed from the exam paper, with 177 questions remaining.

As per the established process, the standard for the exam was set by adding 1 standard error of measurement to the raw pass mark established by the Ebel method, resulting in a rounded pass mark of 113 out of 177.

The pass rate for the examination was 81.0%.

2 The candidates

205 candidates sat and completed the examination.

3 The written paper

The written part of the part 2 FRCOphth examination consists of a multiple-choice question paper, which is administered in two parts. Candidates must pass the written paper to be allowed to sit the clinical part of the examination.

As part of the quality management of the College's assessment process, the written papers are reviewed by the senior examiner after marking, but before the results are known. The Part 2 FRCOphth subcommittee reviews all of the questions with a low item discrimination and/or facility.

This exam diet, three questions were removed from the examination papers as a result of this review.

Table 1: *The MCQ paper blueprint*

Topic	Sub-topic	Number of Questions
Basic Science	Anatomy and physiology	2
	Genetics	3
	Optics and laser	2
	Pathology and microbiology	2
	Sub-total	9
Clinical Ophthalmology	Cataract and lens	8
	Cornea and external eye	20
	Glaucoma	10
	Medicine	9
	Neurology and pupils	16
	Oculoplastics and orbit	11
	Paediatrics	8
	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	1
	Retina	23
	Strabismus and motility	7
	Trauma	4
	Uveitis and Oncology	11
	Sub-total	128
Investigations	Neuro-imaging	3
	Ophthalmic	8
	Orthoptics	3
	Sub-total	14
Miscellaneous	Economics	1
	Ethics and driving	3
	Guidelines and standards	4
	Nutrition	1
	Research and EBM	3
	Statistics and epidemiology	3
	Sub-total	15
Pharmacology and Therapeutics	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	11
	Sub-total	11
Grand Total		177

4 Results

Table 2: *MCQ statistics*

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Mean score:	124.19 / 177	70.2%
Median score:	124.00 / 177	70.1%
Standard deviation:	13.38	7.6%
Candidates:	205	
Reliability:	0.835	
Standard error of measurement (SEM):	5.43	3.1%
Range of marks:	85 – 154	48.0% - 87.0%
Pass mark derived from standard setting:	107.7 / 177	60.8%
Pass mark + 1 SEM (rounded):	113 / 177	63.8%
Pass rate:	166 / 205	81.0%

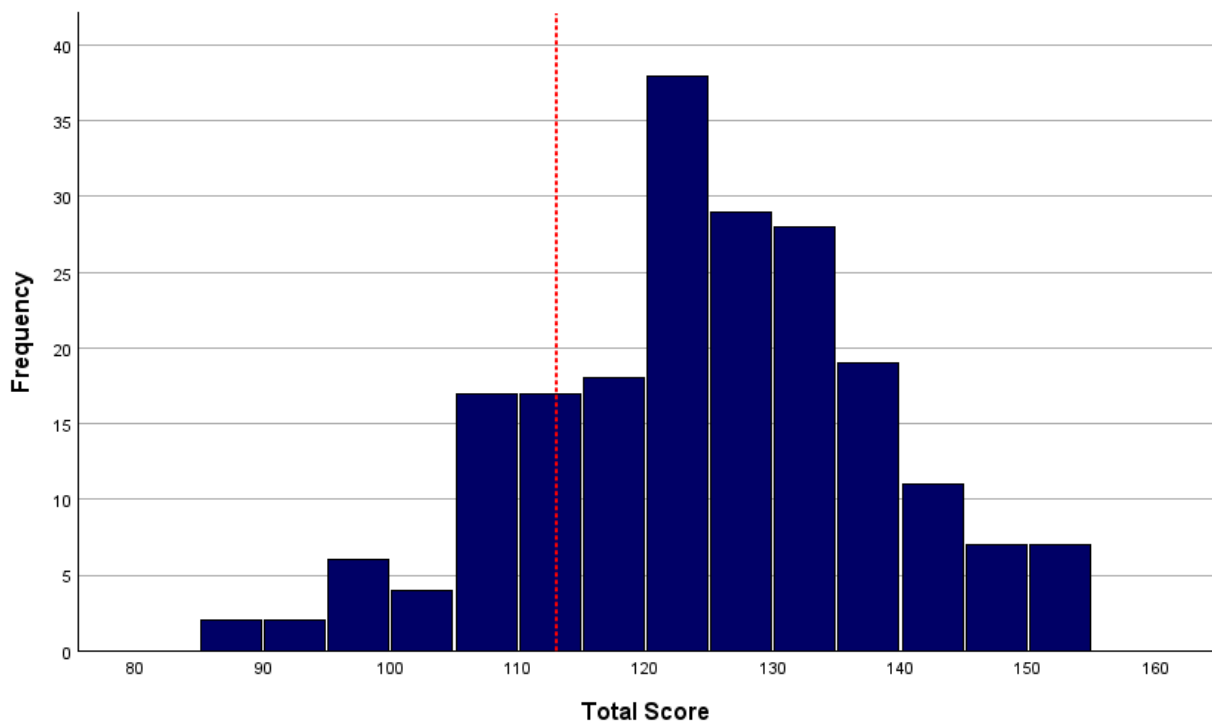


Figure 1: *Distribution of scores (red dotted line denotes pass mark)*

4.1 Analysis of questions

Item analysis data allows identification of easy, moderate, and difficult questions (Facility values), and those which are good, poor, or negative discriminators (Point Biserial values). Optimally, the majority of questions should be of moderate difficulty, and satisfactory or good discriminators.

Table 3: *Discrimination against facility value*

	Facility Value				
		Low (<25% correct)	Moderate (≥25% - <75% correct)	High (≥75% correct)	Total
Discrimination	Negative	1	9	2	12
	Poor (0-0.19)	0	46	53	99
	Satisfactory/Good (≥0.20)	1	27	38	66
	Total	2	82	93	177

4.2 Standard setting for multiple choice questions (MCQ) paper (Ebel method)

Table 4: *Classification of the questions*

	Difficult	Moderate	Easy	Total
Essential	5	23	47	75
Important	10	31	36	77
Supplementary	3	9	13	25
Total	18	63	96	177

Table 5: *Expected percentage correct by borderline candidates*

	Difficult	Moderate	Easy
Essential	0.6	0.7	0.8
Important	0.5	0.55	0.6
Supplementary	0.25	0.3	0.3

Table 6: *Weighted score*

	Difficult	Moderate	Easy	Total
Essential	3.00	16.10	37.60	56.70
Important	5.00	17.05	21.60	43.65
Supplementary	0.75	2.70	3.90	7.35
Total	8.75	35.85	63.10	107.7

SEM:	5.43
MCQ pass mark (Ebel + 1 SEM):	113 (rounded from 113.13)

4.3 Comparison to previous years and by Deanery

Table 7: *Comparison with the written papers from previous examinations*

Examination	Candidates	Pass mark	Pass rate	Pass rate in OST
Dec 2025**	205	63.8%	81.0%	100%
June 2025**	216	62.9%	72.2%	84.4%
Dec 2024**	169	65.5%	79.3%	81.8%
June 2024**	174	63.6%	74.7%	~
Dec 2023**	202	65.6%	64.9%	~
June 2023**	180	65.2%	60.6%	~
Dec 2022**	167	63.0%	66.0%	75.0%
Jun 2022**	216	62.0%	81.0%	87.0%
Dec 2021**	203	65.0%	72.0%	84.0%
Jul 2021**	151	66.0%	70.0%	78.0%
Dec 2020**	202	65.0%	45.0%	52.0%
Dec 2019**	128	62.0%	70.0%	84.0%
Jul 2019**	121	66.0%	64.0%	68.0%
Dec 2018**	127	65.0%	58.0%	59.0%
Jul 2018**	90	65.0%	61.0%	77.0%
Dec 2017**	121	62.0%	64.0%	66.0%
Jul 2017**	113	63.0%	59.0%	72.0%
Dec 2016**	143	64.0%	77.0%	83.0%
Jun 2016**	171	64.0%	70.0%	79.0%
Nov 2015**	145	64.0%	41.0%	46.0%
Jun 2015**	118	65.0%	48.0%	53.0%
Dec 2014**	106	65.0%	47.0%	54.0%
Sep 2014**	136	63.0%	70.0%	71.0%
Feb 2014	117	58.0%	90.0%	94.0%
Sept 2013	103	59.0%	93.0%	97.0%
Feb 2013*	109	61.0%	85.0%	89.0%
Sept 2012	95	57.0%	81.0%	84.0%
Feb 2012	104	58.0%	65.0%	68.0%
Sept 2011	77	59.0%	68.0%	71.0%
Feb 2011	46	65.0%	46.0%	50.0%
Sept 2010	26	65.0%	58.0%	75.0%
Feb 2010	21	65.0%	48.0%	~
Sept 2009	16	61.0%	38.0%	~
Feb 2009	15	59.0%	53.0%	~

* The written papers changed from MCQ and EMQ papers (90 questions on each) to a 180-question MCQ paper at this sitting
 ** The pass mark is now set at Ebel + 1 SEM
 ~ Data not available

Table 8: *Quality of questions compared to previous years*

Exam	Facility			Discrimination		
	Low	Moderate	High	Negative	Poor	Satisfactory / Good
Dec 2025	1.1%	46.3%	52.5%	6.8%	55.9%	37.3%
June 2025	6.9%	44.6%	48.6%	8.0%	61.1%	30.9%
Dec 2024	5.1%	43.5%	51.4%	11.9%	54.2%	33.9%
June 2024	5.1%	49.4%	45.5%	4.0%	59.1%	36.9%
Dec 2023	4.4%	53.3%	42.2%	3.9%	55.0%	41.1%
June 2023	4.5%	56.7%	38.8%	4.5%	50.6%	44.9%
Dec 2022	7.3%	53.9%	38.8%	7.9%	51.7%	39.9%
Jun 2022	3.4%	55.1%	41.5%	11.9%	60.2%	27.8%
Dec 2021	5.1%	47.2%	47.8%	9.6%	56.2%	34.3%
Jul 2021	6.1%	48.3%	45.6%	8.9%	54.4%	36.7%
Dec 2020	7.8%	52.0%	40.2%	10.6%	58.1%	31.3%
Dec 2019	6.2%	51.7%	42.0%	11.9%	58.5%	29.5%
Jul 2019	1.7%	55.2%	43.1%	12.6%	58.6%	28.7%
Dec 2018	5.1%	50.3%	44.6%	10.2%	57.1%	32.8%
Jul 2018	2.2%	53.9%	43.8%	9.6%	50.0%	40.4%
Dec 2017	4.5%	56.2%	39.3%	8.4%	50.6%	41.0%
Jul 2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nov 2016	4.0%	54.2%	41.8%	6.2%	54.2%	39.5%
Jun 2016	3.9%	50.0%	46.1%	6.7%	56.1%	37.2%
Nov 2015	3.9%	59.6%	36.5%	9.6%	57.3%	33.1%
Jun 2015	5.0%	54.2%	40.8%	9.5%	42.5%	48.0%
Sep 2014	2.8%	59.8%	37.4%	5.6%	59.8%	34.6%
Feb 2014	3.9%	54.4%	41.7%	8.9%	56.7%	34.4%
Sep 2013	3.9%	46.6%	49.4%	6.7%	55.1%	38.2%
Feb 2013	4.4%	53.3%	42.2%	8.3%	53.3%	38.3%

Table 9: **Breakdown of Results by Deanery**

Deanery	Fail	Pass	Total	Pass rate (%)
East Midlands	0	2	2	100
East of England	0	6	6	100
Kent, Surrey and Sussex	0	5	5	100
London	1	14	15	93.3
Mersey	1	8	9	88.9
North Western	0	6	6	100
Northern	0	6	6	100
Oxford	1	3	4	75.0
Scotland East	0	1	1	100
Scotland South East	0	3	3	100
Scotland West	2	2	4	50.0
Severn	1	2	3	66.7
South West Peninsulas Institute	0	2	2	100
South Yorkshire & South Humberside	0	3	3	100
Wales	2	3	5	60.0
Wessex	0	2	2	100
West Midlands	0	5	5	100
Yorkshire	0	1	1	100
Eire	0	1	1	100
Europe and Overseas	5	24	29	82.8
Not Applicable	21	58	79	73.4
Unknown	5	9	14	64.3
TOTAL	39	166	205	81.0