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PSYCHOMETRIC
SOLUTIONS
GROUP

Examination Report

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

Cairo - November 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 twelve candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 74/120 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 129/198.

The station-level reliability values of the oral examination components were 0.665 (Viva) and 0.802 (OSCE). The examiner-level reliability values of the oral examination components were 0.829 (Viva) and 0.898 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 66.7% (8/12) and 83.3% (10/12) respectively. The overall pass rate was 66.7% (8/12).

2 Standard Setting

The pass marks for each component 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 component's raw Hofstee pass mark, in order to generate the final pass mark for that component.

3 The Structured Vivas

There were five Structured Viva stations, which were held on the 25th November 2025. The communication skills OSCE station was conducted as one of the viva stations, making six stations in all which ran on the same 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	69.1 / 120	57.6%
Mean score	77.08	64.2%
Standard deviation	12.55	10.5%
Median score	80.5	67.1%
Range	54 - 99	45.0% - 82.5%
Reliability (alpha): Station-level	0.665	
Reliability (alpha): Examiner-level	0.829	
SEM (rounded)	5.19 (5)	4.3% (4.2%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	74 / 120	61.7%
Pass rate	8 / 12	66.7%

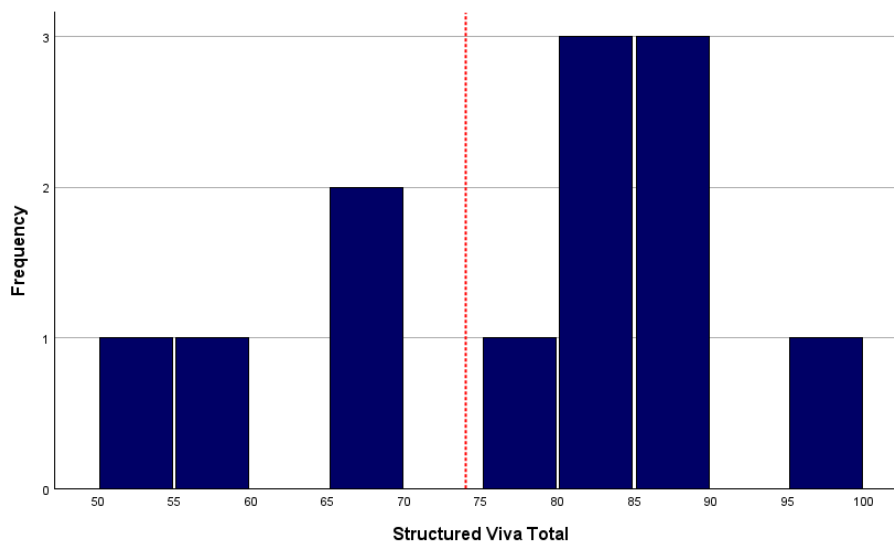


Figure 1: Distribution of Total Structured Viva scores (Red line denotes pass mark)

Table 2: Station summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	14.2	15.0	5	21
2	PM1	24	17.5	18.0	14	22
3	PM2	24	14.6	15.5	8	18
4	AER	24	15.4	15.5	7	22
5	HPDP/EBM	24	15.4	15.0	8	22

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	0.70	0.94	0.89	0.97	0.88

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*	1.83	0.17	0.42	0.58	0.75

*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	0.06				
Station 3	0.16	0.08			
Station 4	0.72*	0.07	0.41		
Station 5	0.21	-0.03	0.52	0.39	

*Statistically significant $p \leq .05$

4 The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all, held on the 26th November 2025. The five Clinical stations were held on different days to the Vivas (OSCE Station 6 was 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

Maximum mark (six stations, 12 examiners (2 per station), 36 marks per station for stations 1 – 5; 18 marks for station 6): 198

Table 6: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Raw Hofstee Pass mark	122.7 / 198	62.0%
Mean score	146.17	73.8%
Standard deviation	19.37	9.8%
Median score	147.5	74.5%
Range	111 - 178	56.1% - 89.9%
Reliability (alpha): Station-level	0.802	
Reliability (alpha): Examiner-level	0.898	
SEM (rounded)	6.2 (6)	3.1% (3.0%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	129 / 198	65.2%
Pass rate	10 / 12	83.3%

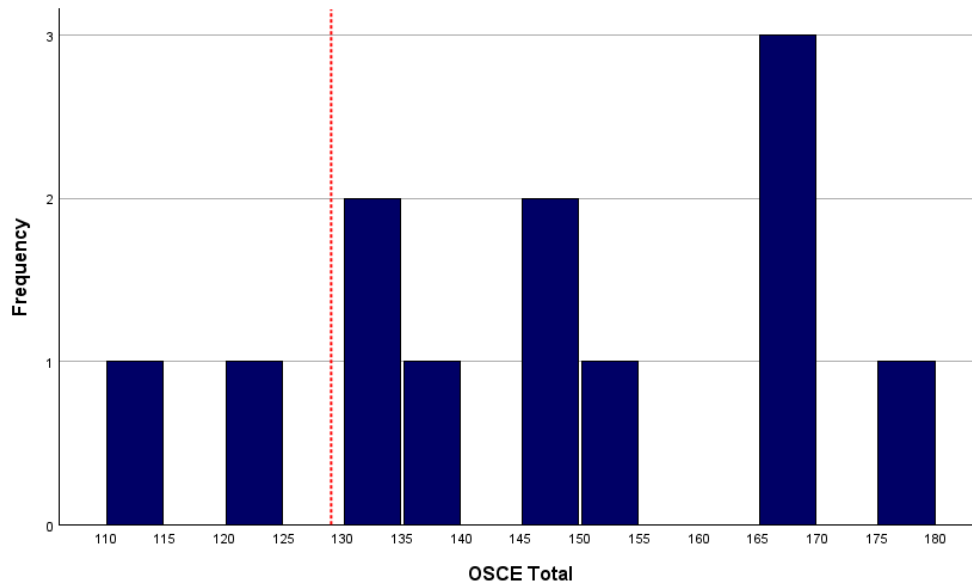


Figure 2: Distribution of Total OSCE scores (Red line denotes pass mark)

Table 7: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	27.67	28.0	19	35
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	24.58	25.5	15	32
3	Posterior segment	36	23.50	24.0	12	35
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	25.58	26.5	15	30
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	27.75	29.0	20	35
6	Communication skills	18	17.08	17.5	15	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	0.93	0.94	0.97	0.80	0.77	0.29

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*	0.83	0.58	0.67	1.42	1.58	0.58

*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	0.67*					
Station 3	0.83*	0.65*				
Station 4	0.51	0.35	0.45			
Station 5	0.57*	0.39	0.53	-0.14		
Station 6	0.15	0.04	0.17	0.36	-0.21	

* 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	203 / 318	63.8%
Mean	223.3 / 318	70.2%
Median	225.5 / 318	70.9%
Range	178 - 277	56.0% - 87.1%

To pass the oral examination, candidates had to either:

- i) Pass both the Viva (by scoring $\geq 74/120$) and OSCE (by scoring $\geq 129/198$) or
- ii) Pass the OSCE, achieve at least 69/120 in the Viva, and achieve $\geq 203/318$ overall.

8 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 12: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	8/12	66.7%

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
Nov 25 - Cairo	12	61.7%	0.8	65.2%	0.9	66.7%	n/a
Nov 25 - York	143	62.5%	0.9	64.6%	0.9	60.1%	74%
Oct 25 – Pakistan	13	64.2%	0.9	67.2%	0.8	84.6%	n/a
Oct-25 Delhi	12	65.8%	0.7	64.6%	0.8	58.3%	n/a
June-25 Malaysia (KL)	20	62.5%	0.9	65.7%	0.7	65.0%	33%
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	97	71.1
	East of England	99	156	63.5
	East of Scotland	15	16	93.8
	London and KSS	405	520	77.9
	Mersey	76	104	73.1
	North of Scotland	16	24	66.7
	North East	2	2	100
	Northwestern	89	138	64.5
	Northern	74	94	78.7
	Northern Ireland	27	33	81.8
	Thames Valley (was Oxford)	64	75	85.3
	Peninsula (Southwest)	33	54	61.1
	Severn	55	70	78.6
	South East of Scotland	32	39	82.1
	Wales	57	90	63.3
	Wessex	50	81	61.7
	West Midlands	116	173	67.1
	West of Scotland	58	81	71.6
	Yorkshire and Humber	111	178	62.4
OS	Eire	6	7	85.7
	Europe and Overseas	71	122	58.2
N/A	Other / Unknown	167	300	55.7
TOTAL	Total	1692	2454	68.9