

Examination Report

Part 2 Oral: Dubai, February 2026

Report prepared by Sian Williams, Lucy Foard & Kiran Sanghara

Psychometric Solutions Group

DATA REPORTING

All scores and pass rates presented in this report are based on data provided to the Psychometric Solutions Group by the College after the results had been processed and published. Analysis of scores is based on the sum of station scores; pass rates are based on post exam board decisions.

Where cohort sizes are <10 candidates, performance data (mean scores and pass rates) are suppressed. Where cohort sizes are small, exam reliability estimates (alpha and SEM) may be suppressed, and average SEMs of equivalent exams may be used.

SUMMARY

The part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination has two elements. The Structured Viva consists of five stations, each double-marked by two examiners and worth a total of 24 marks per station (12 marks per examiner), giving a total score of 120 marks. The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) consists of six stations worth a total of 198 marks: five clinical stations each worth 36 marks (18 marks per examiner) and one communication station worth 18 marks (9 marks per examiner). One of the OSCE stations is administered alongside the Vivas.

A total of eleven candidates sat the examination.

The pass mark for the Structured Viva was 79/120 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 125/198.

The pass rates for the Viva and the OSCE were 45.5% (5/11) and 54.5% (6/11) respectively. The overall exam pass rate was 54.5% (6/11).

STANDARD SETTING

The pass marks for each component of the Part 2 Oral exam are generated using the Hofstee method.

Examiners provide the parameters for the standard setting based upon their judgment of the difficulty of the stations. The following values were used to set the pass mark for this examination:

- 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 were 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, to generate the final pass mark for that component.

OVERVIEW – STRUCTURED VIVA

There were five Structured Viva stations, held on 6th February 2026. In addition, the communication skills OSCE station was conducted alongside the Viva stations, resulting in six stations being administered on the day. However, the OSCE communication station is not included within the analysis of the Viva; it is reported as part of the OSCE analysis. Each Viva station 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

For more information on the structure and content of the exam see the College website.

RESULTS – STRUCTURED VIVA

Table 1 shows a summary of the examination results including candidate performance, examination reliability metrics (Cronbach's Alpha and Standard Error of Measurement; where appropriate), and pass mark and pass rate.

Table 1. Summary of results - Viva

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Number of candidates	11	
Maximum possible mark	120	
Mean candidate mark	77.5	64.6%
Median candidate mark	75.0	62.5%
Standard deviation	9.1	7.6%
Highest candidate mark	94	78.3%
Lowest candidate mark	61	50.8%
Reliability (alpha): Station-level	*	
Reliability (alpha): Examiner-level	0.39	
Standard error of measurement	7.2	6.0%
Raw Hofstee Pass mark	71.6	59.7%
Hofstee pass mark (final, + 1 SEM, rounded)	79 / 120	65.8%
Pass rate	5 / 11	45.5%

Table 2. Station summary - Viva

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
1	PI	24	15.6	15.0	7	21
2	PM1	24	15.6	15.0	10	20
3	PM2	24	13.5	14.0	3	23
4	AER	24	17.0	18.0	7	21
5	HPDP/EBM	24	15.7	14.0	10	22

Table 3. Correlation between examiners' marks at each Viva station

Station	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Category	PI	PM1	PM2	AER	HPDP/EBM
Correlation	0.89	0.71	0.91	0.93	0.96

Table 4. Mean absolute difference in examiners' marks at each Viva station

Station	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
Category	PI	PM1	PM2	AER	HPDP/EBM
Mean absolute difference*	0.91	1.09	1.18	1.00	0.64

*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 1				
Station 2	0.45			
Station 3	-0.12	0.02		
Station 4	-0.01	0.22	-0.37	
Station 5	-0.44	-0.26	0.35	-0.17

*Statistically significant $p \leq 0.05$

OVERVIEW – OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL EXAMINATION (OSCE)

There were six OSCE stations in all, held on 7th February 2026. The five Clinical OSCE stations were delivered on a different day(s) to the Vivas, whilst OSCE Station 6 (Communication Skills) was conducted alongside the Viva circuit. 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)

For more information on the structure and content of the exam see the College website.

RESULTS – OSCE

Table 6 shows a summary of the examination results including candidate performance, examination reliability metrics (Cronbach's Alpha and Standard Error of Measurement; where appropriate), and pass mark and pass rate.

Table 6. Summary of results - OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Number of candidates	11	
Maximum possible mark	198	
Mean candidate mark	127.5	64.4%
Median candidate mark	128.0	64.6%
Standard deviation	19.1	9.6%
Highest candidate mark	159	80.3%
Lowest candidate mark	97	49.0%
Reliability (alpha): Station-level	0.51	
Reliability (alpha): Examiner-level	0.76	
Standard error of measurement	9.4	4.7%
Raw Hofstee Pass mark	115.8	58.5%
Hofstee pass mark (final, + 1 SEM, rounded)	125 / 198	63.1%
Pass rate	6 / 11	54.5%

Table 7. Station summary - OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
1	Anterior segment	36	25.3	26.0	18	31
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	20.5	20.0	6	30
3	Posterior segment	36	29.4	30.0	20	34
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	22.7	23.0	8	32
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	19.7	23.0	2	29
6	Communication skills	18	10.0	8.0	4	18

Table 8. Correlation between examiners' marks at each OSCE 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	0.70	0.88	0.87	0.94	0.98	0.96

Table 9. Mean absolute difference in examiners' marks at each OSCE 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*	1.45	1.91	0.64	1.82	0.82	0.73

*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 1					
Station 2	-0.32				
Station 3	-0.26	0.11			
Station 4	-0.31	0.71*	0.10		
Station 5	-0.11	0.42	0.52	0.14	
Station 6	0.42	-0.13	0.29	-0.21	0.40

*Statistically significant $p \leq 0.05$

OVERALL RESULTS FOR THE ORAL EXAMINATION

Table 41. Overall results summary

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Overall Final Pass mark	204 / 318	64.2%
Mean candidate mark	205.1	64.5%
Median candidate mark	218.0	68.6%
Highest candidate mark	242	76.1%
Lowest candidate mark	158	49.7%

To pass the oral examination, candidates had to either:

- i) Pass both the Viva (by scoring $\geq 79/120$) and OSCE (by scoring $\geq 125/198$) or
- ii) Pass the OSCE, achieve at least 72/120 in the Viva, and achieve 204/318 overall.

Table 52. Pass rates

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the Oral examination	6 / 11	54.5%

BREAKDOWN OF RESULTS

Table 13. Breakdown of results by training pathway

Category	Passed	Total	Pass Rate
In OST	1	2	50.0%
Not in OST/Unknown	5	9	55.6%

CUMULATIVE DATA

Table 14. Comparison to previous examinations

Date	Centre	Number of Candidates	Viva pass mark	Viva reliability	OSCE pass mark	OSCE reliability	Oral pass rate	Oral pass rate in OST
Feb 26	Dubai	11	65.8%	0.4	63.1%	0.8	54.5%	50.0%
Jan 26	Singapore	12	64.2%	*	67.7%	0.7	66.7%	66.7%
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	20	62.5%	0.9	65.7%	0.7	65.0%	33%
May 25	Crete	3	64%	-	65%	-	67%	n/a
Apr 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
Apr 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	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	n/a	20	64%	0.8	65%	0.9	65%	n/a
Apr-23	n/a	158	65%	0.7	63%	0.8	61%	86%
Nov-22	n/a	120	64%	0.8	60%	0.8	62%	n/a
Apr-22	n/a	114	62%	0.7	63%	0.8	68%	91%
Nov-21	n/a	119	60%	0.6	61%	0.8	73%	85%
Apr-21	n/a	74	62%	0.7	64%	0.8	77%	84%
Mar-21	n/a	46	58%	0.8	60%	0.8	70%	94%
Nov-20	n/a	86	62%	0.4	64%	0.8	74%	85%
Nov-19	n/a	85	67%	0.7	60%	0.8	71%	80%
Apr-19	n/a	84	63%	0.6	64%	0.9	64%	79%
Nov-18	n/a	106	58%	0.8	64%	0.8	58%	74%
Apr-18	n/a	74	62%	0.8	60%	0.8	70%	80%
Apr-17	n/a	105	61%	0.8	63%	0.8	66%	82%
Nov-16	n/a	107	60%	0.8	63%	0.8	71%	84%
Apr-16	n/a	61	63%	0.8	63%	0.9	56%	69%
Nov-15	n/a	72	61%	0.8	62%	0.8	69%	86%
Apr-15	n/a	77	60%	0.9	60%	0.9	62%	80%

Table 15. Performance by Deanery for all examinations Sept 2010 to date (where information is available)

Deanery	Pass	Total	Pass rate (%)
East Midlands	69	97	71.1
East of England	99	156	63.5
London & Kent, Surrey, and Sussex	405	520	77.9
North East England	152	200	76.0
North West England	89	139	64.0
Northern Ireland	27	33	81.8
Scotland (East)	15	16	93.8
Scotland (North)	16	24	66.7
Scotland (South East)	32	39	82.1
Scotland (West)	58	81	71.6
South West England	88	124	71.0
Thames Valley	64	75	85.3
Wales	57	90	63.3
Wessex	50	81	61.7
West Midlands	116	173	67.1
Yorkshire & Humber	111	178	62.4
Eire	6	7	85.7
Europe and overseas	73	126	57.9
Unknown; N/A	179	318	56.3
Total	1706	2477	68.9%