

Examination Report

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

York, Nov 2025

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1 Summary

The Part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination consists of 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 143 candidates sat the York examination.

The pass mark for the structured viva was 75/120 and the pass mark for the OSCE was 128/198.

The reliability values of the oral examination were 0.85 (Viva) and 0.86 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the viva and the OSCE were 67.1% (96/143) and 66.4% (95/143) respectively. The overall pass rate was 60.1% (86/143).

2 Candidates

A total of 143 candidates sat the examination.

3 The structured vivas

There were five structured vivas, which were held on the 10th and 11th of November. The communication skills OSCE station was conducted as one of the viva stations, making six stations in all (the OSCE 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, two examiners per station, 24 marks per station): 120

Table 1: Marks for the viva

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (rounded, using borderline candidate method)	69 / 120	57.5%
Mean score	82.39	68.7%
Standard deviation	14.44	12.0%
Median score	84.00	70.0%
Range	45 – 113	37.5% - 94.2%
Reliability (alpha) – station level	0.680	
Reliability (alpha) – examiner level	0.846	
SEM (rounded)	5.67 (6)	4.7 (5%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	75 / 120	62.5%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark = 75)	96 / 143	67.1%

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

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

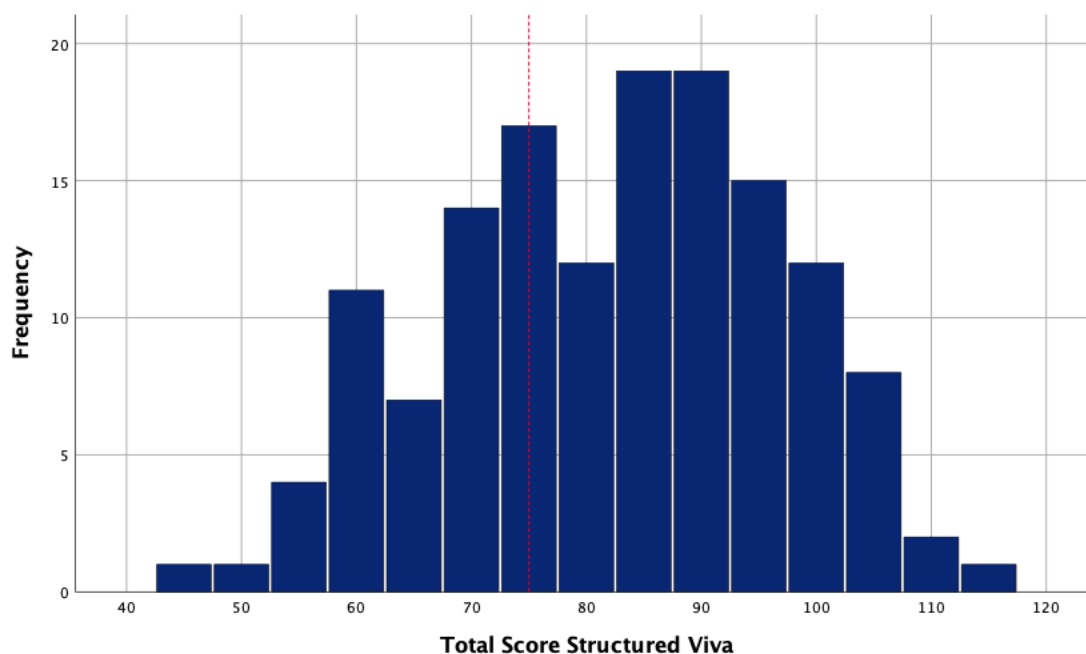


Table 2: Station summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	16.5	17.0	4	24
2	PM1	24	17.4	18.0	5	24
3	PM2	24	15.3	16.0	3	24
4	AER	24	16.5	17.0	6	24
5	HPDP/EBM	24	16.7	17.0	7	24

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	0.87	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.93

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*	0.79	0.52	0.66	0.71	0.62

*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	0.39*				
Station 3	0.34*	0.16			
Station 4	0.40*	0.19*	0.31*		
Station 5	0.36*	0.29*	0.25*	0.31*	

* Statistically significant $p \leq .05$

3.2 Standard setting for the structured vivas

Table 6: Viva standard setting

	Station 1		Station 2		Station 3		Station 4		Station 5		Total
Number of passed candidates	91	92	104	103	86	86	69	75	85	85	
Number of borderline candidates	35	33	27	29	28	36	50	45	38	37	
Number of failed candidates	17	18	12	11	29	21	24	23	20	21	
Median borderline candidate mark	7	7	7	7	6.5	6	7	7	7	7	68.5*

*Pass mark rounded to 69

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 held with the Vivas), on the 12th, 13th and 14th of November. 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 7: Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (rounded, using borderline candidate method)	119 / 198	60.1%
Mean score	134.06	67.7%
Standard deviation	23.26	11.7%
Median score	136.00	68.7%
Range	62 – 184	31.3 - 92.9%
Reliability (alpha) – station level	0.855	
Reliability (alpha) – examiner level	0.710	
SEM (rounded)	8.86 (9)	4.5% (4.5%)
Final adjusted pass mark (+1 SEM)	128 / 198	64.6%
Pass rate after adjustment (pass mark = 128)	95 / 143	66.4%

**Please note that the Final pass rate is presented, that includes any adjustments. All other analysis is based on original, unadjusted data.*

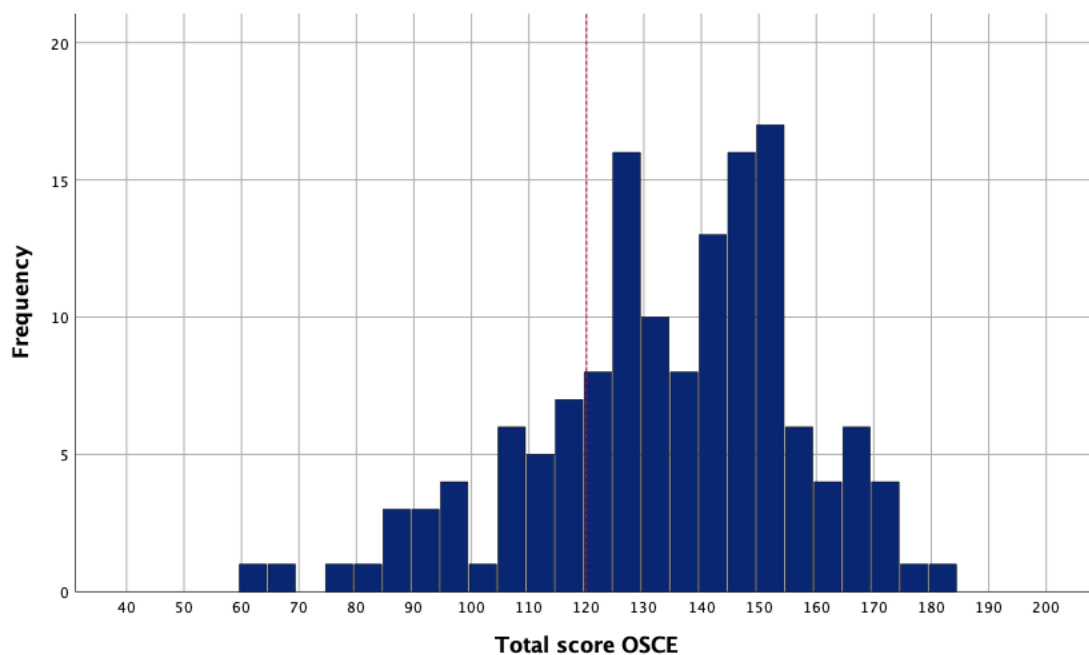


Figure 2: Distribution of OSCE scores (red line denotes pass mark)

Table 8: Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	23.2	24.0	4	35
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	27.4	28.0	11	36
3	Posterior segment	36	24.0	25.0	6	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	24.5	25.0	6	36
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	23.2	23.0	9	36
6	Communication skills	18	11.8	12.0	3	18

Table 9: 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	0.91	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.88	0.86

Table 10: 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*	1.13	1.01	1.03	1.34	1.26	0.72

*The 'mean absolute difference' is the average difference between Examiner A and Examiner B scores for each station

Table 11: Correlation between OSCE stations

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6
Station 1						
Station 2	0.21*					
Station 3	0.30*	0.25*				
Station 4	0.39*	0.26*	0.36*			
Station 5	0.26*	0.30*	0.47*	0.36*		
Station 6	0.30*	0.19*	0.14	0.33*	0.26*	

* Statistically significant $p \leq .05$

4.2 Standard setting for the OSCEs

Table 12: OSCE standard setting

	Station 1		Station 2		Station 3		Station 4		Station 5		Station 6		Total
Number of passed candidates	73	76	94	96	76	78	74	76	61	69	82	72	
Number of borderline candidates	37	43	36	31	48	47	42	38	49	48	38	50	
Number of failed candidates	33	24	13	16	19	18	27	29	33	26	23	21	
Median borderline candidate mark	11	10	12	12	10	10	11	11	11	11	4.5	5	118.5*

*Pass mark rounded to 119

5 Overall results for the oral examination

5.1 Results

Table 13: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	203 / 318	63.8%
Mean	216 / 318	67.9%
Median	219 / 318	68.9%
Range	119 - 291	37.4% - 91.5%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

- i) pass both the viva (75/120 (62.5%)) and OSCE (128/198 (64.6%)) *or*
- ii) pass the OSCE, achieve 69/120 (57.5%) in the viva, and achieve $\geq 203/318$ (63.8%) overall.

Overall, 86 of the 143 candidates sitting passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.

Table 14: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	86 / 143	60.1%

There was a strong correlation between Structured viva total scores and OSCE total scores, of $r=0.68$.

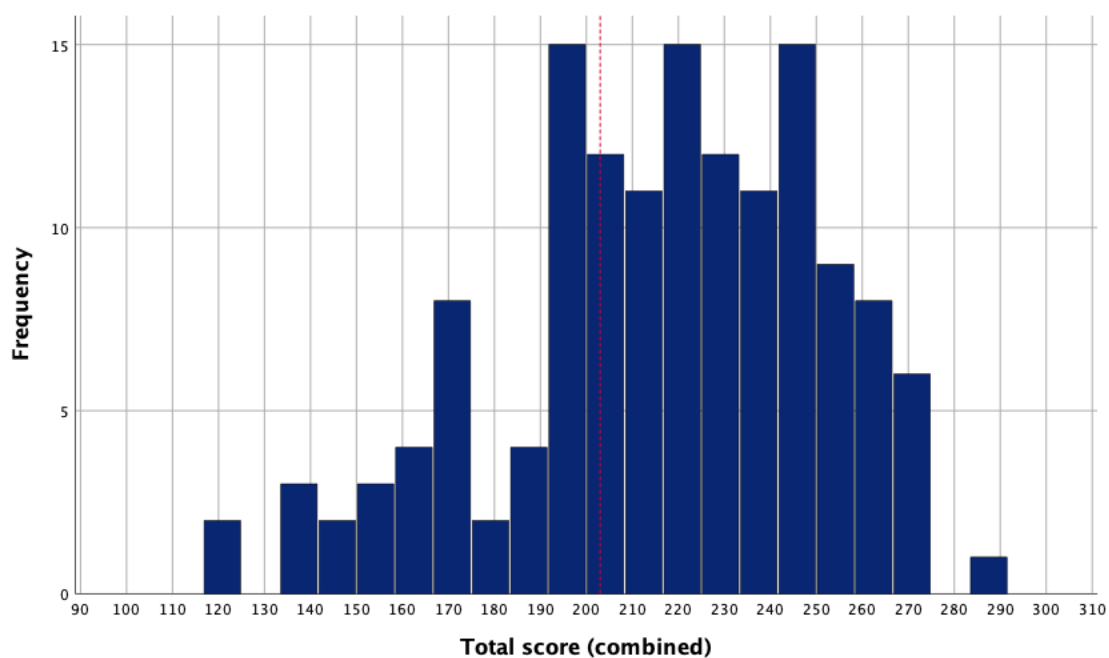


Figure 3: Distribution of total scores (red line denotes overall pass mark)

5.2 Comparison to previous examinations and demographic analysis

Table 15: *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 York	143	62.5	0.85	64.6	0.86	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	66%	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%

Table 16: 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	100.0
	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	177	62.7
OS	Eire	6	7	85.7
	Europe and Overseas	71	122	58.2
N/A	Other / Unknown	159	289	55.0
TOTAL	Total	1684	2442	69.0

Table 17: Breakdown of results by demographic groups

Demographics	Passed	Total	Pass rate
Training grades			
OST2	1	2	50.0%
OST3	13	15	86.7%
OST4	25	31	80.6%
OST5	10	17	58.8%
OST6	9	10	90.0%
OST7	0	3	0%
N/A	28	65	43.1%
Ethnicity (grouped)			
Asian / Asian British	20	41	48.8%
Black / Black British	4	8	50.0%
Chinese	5	7	71.4%
Mixed	5	8	62.5%
Other	4	10	40.0%
White	19	24	79.2%
Unknown	29	45	64.4%
PMQ			
OS	28	64	43.8%
UK	58	79	73.4%
Gender			
Female	35	58	60.3%
Male	27	49	55.1%
Unknown	24	36	66.7%
Attempt			
1 st Attempt	77	116	66.4%
2 nd Attempt	6	21	28.6%
3 rd Attempt	2	5	40.0%
4 th Attempt	1	1	100%