

LDS Candidate Overview

Structure of the Examination

Following a change in structure in 2022, there are now three parts to the examination:

- **Part 1** comprising two multiple-choice (single best answer and extended matching) question papers;
- **Part 2** comprising Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and Unseen Cases (USC) components;
- **Part 3** comprising a practical clinical skills (PCS) assessment incorporating a dental manikin element along with other practical elements previously assessed in the OSCE.

Timing and assessment aims of each component

The new structure incorporates the following formats and associated assessment aims:

Component	Format	Assessment Aims
Part 1	2 x 150-minute papers: Clinically applied dental science and clinically applied human disease. Aspects of clinical dentistry, law and ethics, and health and safety.	Applied Knowledge
Part 2 OSCE	12 x 7-minute stations	Applied knowledge Clinical skills (radiograph interpretation, prescription writing, obtaining consent etc) Peer communication <i>Spoken</i> medical emergency response Oral health/population-based healthcare Ethical and legal principles Principles of safe practice
Part 2 Unseen Cases	4 x 30-minute cases, each with the phases: - History	Applied knowledge History taking Investigations

	- Preparation - Management	Diagnosis Treatment planning Patient and peer communication
Part 3	180-minute assessment 2 x 70-minute cases 1 x 40-minute observed case	Practical clinical dental skills

Candidates should read the specific guidance document for each part for more information.

Pricing of the three-part structure

The table below outlines the new structure of the exam and the cost of its component parts:

Component	Cost
Part 1 (SBA/EMQ Paper 1 and 2)	£900
Part 2 (OSCE, USC)	£1575
Part 3 (PCS)	£1525

These prices are subject to change and candidates should refer to the [College website](#) for the latest prices.

Order of sitting

Candidates are required to pass each part of the examination in order, before applying for the next part. For example, candidates are required to pass the Part 1 to enter the Part 2 (those passing the Part 1 previously will not need to resit this); likewise, candidates are required to have passed the Part 2 to enter the Part 3. Passes in either component can be 'banked' (as is currently the case with the Part 1), enabling candidates to sit subsequent components on multiple occasions if required on the condition that this is within the attempts limit and overall currency period identified (see section on attempts and currency below).

LDS Syllabus

The LDS syllabus is derived from the *Outcomes for dentists* section of the General Dental Council's [Preparing for Practice](#) document. Further details on the indicative coverage of the Learning Outcomes in each of the three parts of the LDS can be found in the [LDS Learning Outcomes](#) document.

Candidates are advised to read the [LDS Suggested Reading](#) document in approaching their preparation for the examination.

Attempt Limits and Schedule of Exam Attempts

Candidates have a limited number of attempts at each part of the examination. Candidates are also required to pass both the Part 2 and the Part 3 with a certain period of passing Part 1, to ensure currency of the knowledge demonstrated in passing that examination.

The table below shows the number of attempts and the currency period (where applicable) for each part of the examination:

Examination Component	Number of Attempts	Currency of Pass	Number of Diets Per Year
Part 1	4	5 years	2
Part 2	3	n/a	2
Part 3	3	n/a	3

Transitional Arrangements for Existing LDS Part 2 Candidates

Candidates who have already a previous unsuccessful previous attempt at the LDS Part 2 are subject to two arrangements:

1. Previous passes at the OSCE or USC components in the context of an overall fail *will not* be recognised, in line with the examination's regulations at the time of their sitting. Equally, previous passes in the DM component in the context of an overall fail would not exempt a candidate from sitting the new Part 3.
2. All previous attempts at the Part 2 *will* still count, in order to preserve the principles informing limit on attempts in the first place. Candidates who have failed the Part 2 on three previous occasions are still be eligible to sit the reframed Part 2 on one further occasion, again in line with the examination's regulations when they had their most recent, third, attempt (which did not identify that this would be the final attempt at the Part 2).

Regulations and Examination Policies

All candidates applying for and sitting the examination are subject to the [LDS Examination Regulations](#). This document contains details on eligibility criteria, policies around entry to, and withdrawal from, the examination.

Candidates wishing to submit an appeal representation following their examination can seek guidance from the [Appeals Regulations](#), which outlines the rules for this process accordingly.

All candidates who sit the LDS examinations are subject to the RCSEng's [Candidate Code of Conduct](#). Candidates suspected of being in contravention of this Code of Conduct will be investigated under the [Suspected Candidate Misconduct Procedure](#).

On the occasions that a candidate experiences an event before the examination is completed that may cause them to perform at a less than optimal level, reference should be made to the [Mitigating Circumstances Policy](#). This policy provides guidance for candidates and the College to address such mitigating circumstances in a fair and equitable manner.

Candidates who would like to apply for reasonable adjustments should do so in accordance with the College's [Reasonable Adjustments Policy](#).

Examination-day guidance for candidates

Specific guidance relating to timings, dress code and other relevant information for the examination day will be sent to candidates approximately six weeks prior to their examination.