



Royal College  
of Surgeons  
of England

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ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

# Diploma in Dental Public Health Guidelines for Candidates

November 2020

# Diploma in Dental Public Health Examination

## Introduction

The Diploma in Dental Public Health (DDPH) examination is designed to test the knowledge of those individuals who are interested in developing their career in dental public health and have completed a course in dental public health or public health that includes dental public health at a recognised institution in the United Kingdom or elsewhere at the discretion of the College.

The examination is designed to test candidates' knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the syllabus in a structured manner. The examination assesses knowledge, application of the principles of dental public health, the ability to organise ideas and validate thinking and the ability to interpret and communicate dental public health information, whilst challenging a candidate's attitudes, values and opinions.

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the DDPH syllabus and regulations and are provided to help potential candidates in their preparation for the examination.

## Applications

Application forms are available on request from The Royal College of Surgeons of England. Completed forms should reach the Examinations Department, The Royal College of Surgeons of England, no later than the closing date as indicated on the examination's calendar. The required certificates and the full amount of the fee payable for the examination must accompany applications.

The dates and fees of the examinations are published annually in the examinations calendar obtainable free of charge from the Examinations Department.

A candidate who, in writing, withdraws an application for admission may be refunded the fee paid, less a 20% administrative charge, provided that notice of intention to withdraw is received by the Examinations Department before the closing date by which applications are due, as shown in the examinations calendar. No refunds are made to candidates who withdraw after the closing date.

Applications for consideration for withdrawal on medical or compassionate grounds must be submitted to the College with a medical certificate within 28 days of commencement of the examination.

The Faculty may refuse admittance to the examination or to proceed with the examination of any candidate who infringes the Regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

## **Requirements for Entry**

All candidates must have satisfactorily completed a suitable course of instruction in dental public health or public health that includes dental public health, at a recognised educational institution in the United Kingdom or elsewhere at the discretion of the College. If a candidate has not completed a recognised masters course in dental public health or public health they may be required to provide proof of the duration and content of the dental component of their course or be able to demonstrate equivalent professional experience (see Appendix I of DDPH Regulations).

## **Examination Structure**

The examination consists of written and oral elements:

### **Written element**

**Paper 1** is a short answer paper of two hours duration. Four questions are to be answered. Candidates are expected to answer all the questions. The questions represent a range of subject areas from the syllabus, with relevance to both overseas and UK-resident candidates. Candidates **MUST** complete their answers in **BLACK INK**.

**Paper 2** is a short answer paper of two hours duration, normally held on the same day as Paper 1. Four questions are to be answered. Candidates are expected to answer all the questions. The questions represent a range of subject areas from the syllabus, with relevance to both overseas and UK-resident candidates. Candidates **MUST** complete their answers in **BLACK INK**.

### **Oral element**

The oral element is a structured clinical reasoning (SCR) assessment consisting of four assessments and is of 80 minutes duration. Candidates will have 10 minutes preparation time followed by 10 minutes questioning with a different examiner for each SCR. Candidates may be asked on any part of the syllabus. The SCR provides candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate a broad range of knowledge and its application.

A pass or fail grade will be awarded for the examination as a whole.

### **Examination results**

The examination is held annually in June/July. The results will be made available two weeks later. If a candidate is unsuccessful, written feedback may be provided on request.

### **Presentation of awards**

Successful candidates will be invited to attend the award ceremony of the Faculty of Dental Surgery.

### **Specimen Questions**

Specimen questions are available. Copies can be obtained from the Examinations Department of The Royal College of Surgeons of England. They are not to be considered indicative of syllabus coverage in a typical paper.