



Licence in Dental Surgery

Examination Part 2

**Objective Structured Clinical Examination
(OSCE):
Guidance notes for candidates**



Royal College
of Surgeons

FACULTY OF DENTAL SURGERY

1 General information and instructions

- 1.1 Each candidate will have an OSCE examination consisting of one 2 hour session.
- 1.1.1 During the session candidates will complete a circuit of 20 Stations. 16 of these stations will be active and 4 will be rest stations.
 - 1.1.2 Each Station comprises a series of questions/tasks, each of which is allocated marks with regard to its difficulty and criticality.
 - 1.1.3 Each station lasts 6 minutes with one minute set aside for reading the question and instructions outside the station and 5 minutes for answering the question or performing the required task within the station.
 - 1.1.4 Some stations will have an examiner present to observe the candidate, whereas others will only require the examiner to mark paperwork completed by the candidate but not examine how it is done.
 - 1.1.5 A public address system will announce the timing, and tell candidates when to start and finish stations.
 - 1.1.6 Candidates are not allowed to complete paperwork at the rest stations.

2 Details of the OSCE

- 2.1 The stations are designed to test different skills or combinations of skills such as:
- » History taking
 - » Assessment of a patient
 - » Simple practical procedures
 - » Communication
 - » Patient education
 - » Clinical judgement
 - » Decision making
 - » Ethics
 - » Professional attitude
 - » Management of medical emergencies
- 2.2 Some stations have a role player present, playing a patient, a patient's relative or a member of the dental team, who has been briefed with the relevant information for his/her role. These stations are used to test the candidate's ability to:
- » Discuss treatment options
 - » Obtain informed consent
 - » Give oral health education advice
 - » Interpret radiographic evidence
 - » Prioritise treatment
 - » Take a history
 - » Give advice
 - » Manage medical emergencies
 - » Professional attitude
 - » Communicate with patients, patient's relatives and other healthcare professionals

- 2.3 These lists are not exhaustive but are representative of the types of stations candidates may encounter.
- 2.4 Any gloves, masks or eye protection required for a particular station will be provided.
- 2.5 Candidates should wear suitable clothing and footwear for working in a dental surgery (see document *General Guidance for Candidates*) as some stations require candidates to perform practical tasks.
- 2.6 Candidates will be issued with all the necessary paperwork and writing implements for all of the stations as they progress through the circuit, or prior to commencing the examination. No mobile phones or printed or written materials, or other sources of reference may be brought into the examination rooms.

3 Mark Scheme

- 3.1 Candidates will be assessed to the standard expected of the just passing United Kingdom dental undergraduate on completion of a course of study following *Preparing for Practice (Dental team learning outcomes for registration)* [General Dental Council, 2015].
- 3.2 The mark scheme for each station is unique. Marks are awarded for completing actions and tasks. No marks are deducted for failure to complete actions and tasks. In communication type stations the role players may be able to allocate some of the marks for communication skills.
- 3.3 In the interests of protecting public safety, it is important that candidates demonstrating unsafe or unsatisfactory behaviour should not be able to pass this examination. Such behaviours are likely to be identified only in Part 2 of the exam.
- 3.4 Behaviour that might lead to a fail, irrespective of numerical marks gained, would include significant failings in safety, cross-infection control, and inappropriate and grossly unprofessional behaviour towards staff or patients.
- 3.5 Examiners record a candidate's score on each station using a structured criterion mark sheet. For stations in which direct communication between an Examiner and a candidate is required, the Examiner is permitted to prompt the candidate once per section, for the sake of clarity. This will allow only the question to be repeated (verbatim).
- 3.6 Four of the sixteen active OSCE stations test Medical Emergencies (ME) scenarios against a blueprint. Candidates must pass the ME component, in addition to the OSCE as a whole, to be deemed a Pass in the OSCE.
- 3.7 If the candidate has achieved a total score greater than the overall OSCE pass mark but has insufficient marks in the ME stations, the candidate will be deemed a Fail.
- 3.8 The candidate is not required to pass a minimum number of stations.