Examination Report

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

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Contents

1   Summary

The part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth) oral examination has 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.

The pass mark for the Structured Viva was 75, and the pass mark for the OSCE was 125.

The reliability values (alpha) of the oral examination were 0.779 (Viva) and 0.801 (OSCE).

The pass rates for the Viva and the OSCE were 77.6% and 80.4% respectively. The final overall exam pass rate was 107/143 (74.8%).

2   Candidates

A total of 143 sat the examination. Of these, 63/143 (44.1%) were in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST). The largest groups were in training levels OST4 (19/63) and OST5 (25/63).

3 The Structured Vivas

There were five Structured Viva stations, which were held on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th April 2024. The communication skills OSCE station was conducted as one of the viva stations, making six stations in all (the OSCE communication 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, 10 examiners (2 per station), 24 marks per station): 120

Table 1:   Marks for the Viva

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Raw Pass mark (using Borderline Candidate method)	69/120	57.5%
Mean score	83.6/120	69.6%
Median score	86.0/120	71.7%
Range	33 - 109	27.5% - 90.8%
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.779	
SEM (rounded)	6.21 (6)	5.2% (5.0%)
Final adjusted, rounded pass mark (+1 SEM)	75/120	62.5%
Pass rate	111/143	77.6%

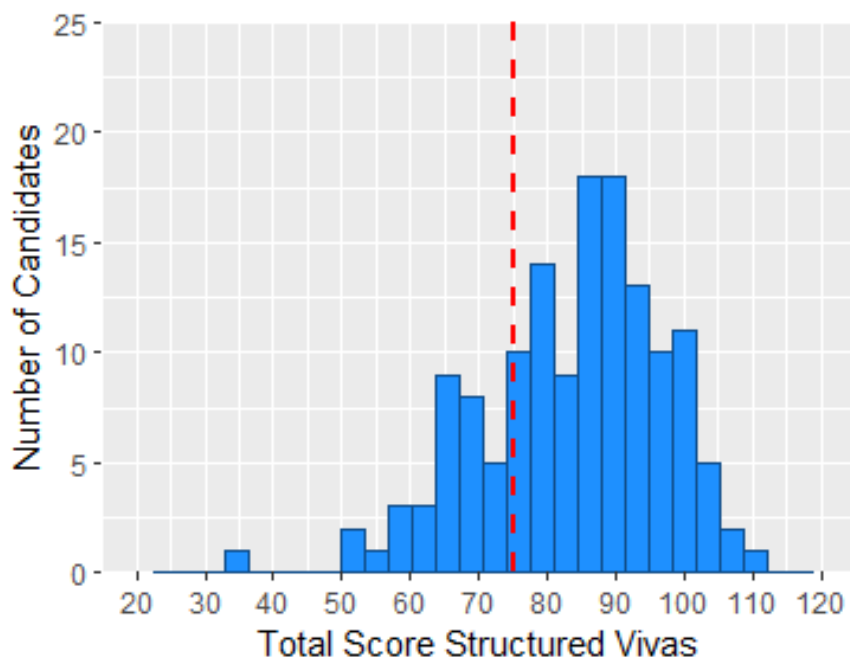*Figure 1: Viva scores (red line denotes pass mark)*

Table 2:   Station Summary — viva

Station	Category	Maximum possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	PI	24	16.6	17	4	24
2	PM1	24	17.8	18	9	24
3	PM2	24	15.7	16	4	24
4	AER	24	15.9	17	2	24
5	HPDP/EBM	24	17.7	18	2	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	0.89	0.79	0.90	0.94	0.95

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*	0.71	0.76	0.72	0.55	0.50

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	0.13				
Station 3	0.04	0.17			
Station 4	0.18	0.21	0.21		
Station 5	0.21	0.27	0.06	0.4	

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	85	86	102	111	72	64	88	85	93	90	
Number of borderline candidates	**45**	**46**	**34**	**29**	**39**	**49**	**29**	**31**	**33**	**34**	
Number of failed candidates	13	11	7	3	32	30	26	27	17	19	
Median borderline candidate mark	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**6**	**7**	**7**	**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 was held with the Vivas). Stations 1-5 were held on 17th – 19th April 2024 and station 6 on 15th and 16th April 2024. 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

Maximum mark (six stations, 12 examiners (2 per station), 36 marks per station (comms station 18 marks per station)): 198

Table 7:   Marks for the OSCE

Statistic	Value	Percentage
Pass mark (using Borderline Candidate method)	116/198	58.6%
Mean score	*138.3/198*	*69.8%*
Median score	*142/198*	*71.7%*
Range	*80 - 175*	*40.4% - 88.4%*
Reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	0.801	
SEM (rounded)	*9.18 (9)*	*4.6% (4.5%)*
Final adjusted rounded pass mark (+1 SEM)	125/198	63.1%
Final Pass rate	115/143	80.4%

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

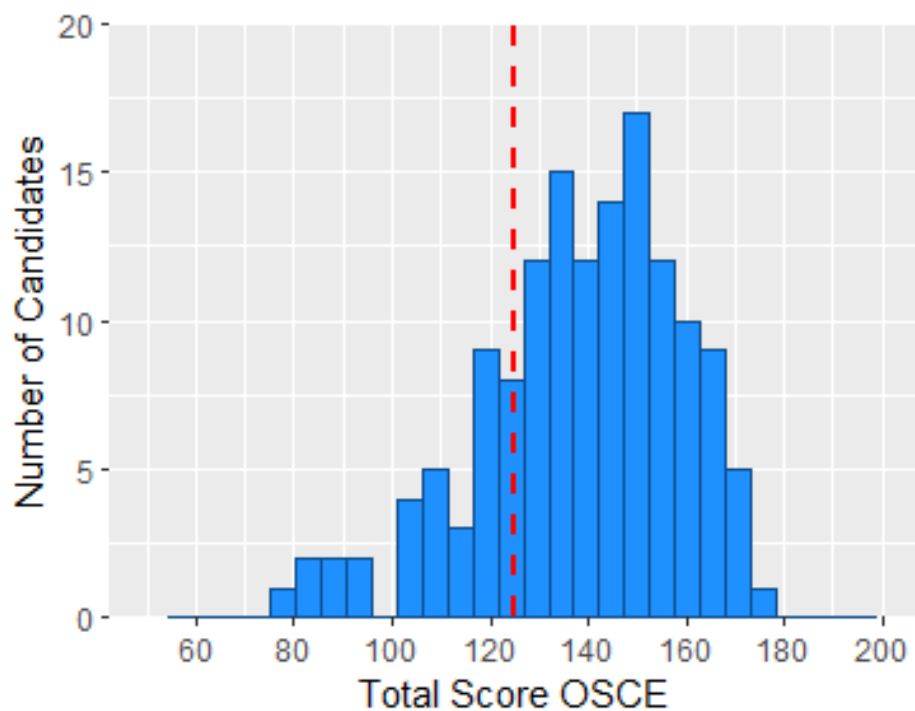*Figure 2: Distribution of OSCE scores (red line denotes pass mark)*

Table 8:   Station Summary — OSCE

Station	Category	Maximum Possible	Mean	Median	Min	Max
1	Anterior segment	36	24.1	24.0	9	36
2	Glaucoma and lid	36	27.5	29.0	10	36
3	Posterior segment	36	24.7	26.0	10	36
4	Strabismus and orbit	36	21.5	21.0	5	36
5	Neuro-ophthalmology	36	27.1	28.0	9	36
6	Communication skills	18	13.4	14.0	2	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	0.88	0.88	0.90	0.90	0.87	0.87

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*	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.7

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	0.15					
Station 3	0.3	0.12				
Station 4	0.15	0.01	0.33			
Station 5	0.28	0.06	0.34	0.29		
Station 6	0.11	0.21	0.21	0.33	0.15	

4.2 Standard setting for the OSCE

Table 12: OSCE Standard Setting

	Station 1		Station 2		Station 3		Station 4		Station 5		Station 6		Total
Number of passed candidates	75	79	111	106	85	87	52	58	99	106	87	89	
Number of borderline candidates	**44**	**43**	**24**	**28**	**40**	**39**	**60**	**50**	**28**	**28**	**36**	**31**	
Number of failed candidates	24	21	8	9	18	17	31	35	16	9	20	23	
Median borderline candidate mark	**11**	**11**	**10**	**11**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**11**	**10**	**6**	**6**	**116**

5   Overall results for the oral examination

5.1   Results

Table 13: Overall results summary

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Pass Mark	200/318	62.9%
Mean	221.8/318	69.8%
Median	221/318	69.5%
Range	123 – 276	38.7% - 86.8%

To pass the oral examination candidates had to either:

i) Pass both the Viva (by scoring ≥75/120) and OSCE (by scoring ≥ 125/198) *or*

ii) Pass the OSCE, achieve at least 69/120 in the Viva, and achieve ≥200/318 overall.

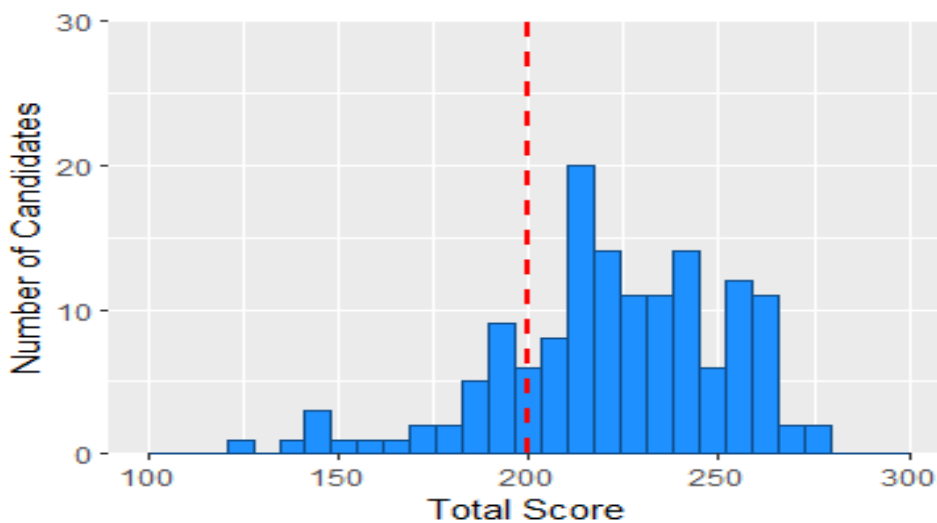**Overall, 107 out of 143 candidates passed the Part 2 Oral examination this diet.**

Table 14: Pass rates

Statistics	Value	Percentage
Overall pass rate for the oral examination	107/143	74.8%
Pass rate for candidates in Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST)	55/63	87.3%
Pass rate for non-trainees	52/80	65.0%

*Please note that the Final pass rate presented includes any adjustments. All other analysis (Table 13) is based on original, unadjusted data.

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

5.2   Breakdown of oral examination

Table 15: Breakdown of results by training

Training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
In OST	8	55	87.3	63
Not in OST	28	52	65.0	80
Total	36	107	74.8	143

Table 16: Breakdown of results by level of training

Level of training	Failed	Passed	Pass rate (%)	Total
OST2	1	0	0.0%	1
OST3	2	10	83.3%	12
OST4	2	17	89.5%	19
OST5	3	22	88.0%	25
OST6	0	5	100.0%	5
OST7	0	1	100.0%	1
Total	8	55	87.30%	63

5.3 Comparison to previous examinations

Table 13: Comparison to previous examinations

Date	Candidates	Viva pass mark	Viva reliability	OSCE pass mark	OSCE reliability	Oral pass rate	Oral pass rate in OST
April - 24	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%
Apr-15	77	60%	0.9	60%	0.9	62%	80%
Nov-14	79	63%	0.8	62%	0.7	63%	70%
Apr-14	104	57%	0.8	61%	0.8	58%	65%
Apr-13	109	60%	0.8	63%	0.8	57%	56%
Nov-12	103	58%	0.9	61%	0.8	58%	64%
The MCQ examination has been de-coupled from the oral examination since April 2014							

Table 14: Cumulative results by deanery (September 2010 to date; not including Nov 22 data)

Country	Deanery	Number of passes	Number of candidates	Pass rate (%)
UK	East Midlands	64	89	*71.9*
	East of England	83	136	*61.0*
	East of Scotland	14	15	*93.3*
	London and KSS (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	355	462	*76.8*
	Mersey	72	97	*74.2*
	North of Scotland	13	21	*61.9*
	Northwestern	83	130	*63.8*
	Northern	71	90	*78.9*
	Northern Ireland	22	28	*78.6*
	Oxford	56	67	*83.6*
	Peninsula (Southwest)	30	50	*60.0*
	Severn	50	65	*76.9*
	Southeast of Scotland	29	35	*82.9*
	Wales	51	82	*62.2*
	Wessex	47	77	*61.0*
	West Midlands	104	159	*65.4*
	West of Scotland	48	69	*69.6*
	Yorkshire	98	152	*64.5*
OS	Eire	2	3	*66.7*
	Europe and Overseas	56	103	*54.4*
Other/Unknown		28	43	*65.1*
		1376	1973	*69.7*