

Sample OSCE stations

The exam will consist of ten OSCE stations, each of which will have the individual scenarios placed outside. The scenarios will contain information about the “patient” you will see at that particular station.

The information you will be given will include the patient’s name, age, gender, occupation and any relevant history. You will also be given a lead question. This will tell you the focus of the station.

Prior to entering each OSCE station you will have up to two minutes to look at this information before you speak to the “patient”.

While you are having a dialogue with the “patient”, an examiner will be marking you against a pre-agreed set of criteria on a mark sheet.

Examples of candidate information and mark sheets are given below. The mark sheets are used as a basic outline and guide to the examiners. They indicate the absolute minimum required and the actual assessment of passing or failing is more complex than indicated on these mark sheets.

EXAMPLE 1

Information for Candidate

Theme: History Taking

Patient Details:

Name	Mr
Age	65 (DoB
Gender	Male
Occupation	Retired librarian

Information about scenario

This is a new patient to your general dental practice today. He has a broken painful lower right first molar tooth and he has already told you he wants the tooth extracted.

At this station

Take a complete history from this patient and explain to the patient any implications of his history on his oral health and any proposed dental treatment.

(Accept that you cannot examine the patient).

Marking Schedule

Theme: History Taking

Topic: Extractions

Information Gathering		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies medical condition (atrial fibrillation) associated with anticoagulation• Ascertains relevant medical (including drug) history• Elicits list of medication from patient• Identifies Warfarin as an issue for dental extraction• Enquires about INR level		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not identify extraction as posing post extraction haemorrhage risk• Does not take adequate medical history including medication and allergies		
	Grade	
Dentist/Patient interaction		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies patient's desire to have tooth extracted today• Courteous• Takes account of patient's needs		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not understand patient's desire for treatment today• Unfriendly and unhelpful• Dictates treatment to patient without rapport / seeking views		
	Grade	
Communicating		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explains medical history questions in plain language• Communicates issues with extraction and anticoagulation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ need to check INR and acceptable INR range○ haemorrhage risk for anticoagulant• Explains short term pain relief• Explains treatment plan clearly and without jargon		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lacks clarity and uses jargon in explaining medical information• No or poor explanation for refusing to extract tooth• No or poor explanation of alternative pain relief treatment• Does not explain guidelines for anticoagulants		
	Grade	

Clinical Management		
Competent		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defers extraction • Discusses need for GP/Hospital to assess INR maximum of 72 hours before extraction • Offers alternative treatment for pain relief • Recommends analgesia which does not interact with Warfarin 		
Not competent		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrees to extraction today with no INR check • Suggests inappropriate analgesia – NSAID 		
	Grade	

Outstanding / Good / Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory / Poor / Bad
(delete as applicable)

EXAMPLE 2

Information for Candidate

Theme: Managing Patient Concerns

Patient Details:

Name	Mrs
Age	56 (DoB
Gender	Female
Occupation	Restaurant Owner
Relevant Social History	Married, 1 son aged 27. Non-smoker. Non-drinker
Relevant Medical History	Fit and well
Relevant Dental History	Regular attender for past 30 years

Information about scenario

Towards the end of a busy morning, your receptionist comes through to your surgery to explain that Mrs is in the waiting room and is very upset and angry. She has come back from a holiday where she has had toothache and an infection. She went to a local dentist who said she had a lot of teeth that were decayed.

The practice principal, Mr, usually sees Mrs but he is on holiday for two weeks. The notes confirm that Mrs has been a patient at the practice for the past 30 years. The notes report that she had some toothache six months ago and radiographs taken at that time show multiple carious lesions and an apical radiolucent area affecting the lower left first molar (LL6, tooth 36). However the radiographs were not reported in the notes and no treatment was provided except advice on use of a desensitising toothpaste.

At this station

Discuss and respond to Mrs’s concerns regarding previous dental care in the practice.

Marking Schedule

Theme: **Managing Patient Concerns**

Topic: **Missed dental caries**

Information Gathering		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate history of clinical problem and treatment		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inadequate questions to diagnose clinical problem		
	Grade	

Dentist/Patient interaction		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empathy in recognition of patient's situation• Demonstrates appropriate concern and understanding of the issue		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No empathy• Cold• Defensive• Blames patient		
	Grade	

Communicating		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honest about radiographic findings and diagnosis• Admits that caries has been missed and arrangements should have been made to treat problem• Gives information to patient about complaints procedure if asked		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses jargon• Evasive – does not acknowledge radiographic findings• Is not aware of any complaints procedures used in practice		
	Grade	

Clinical issues		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arranges to get patient seen quickly for treatment• Ensures that patient is not in pain• Discusses treatment issues		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straight for referral without arranging examination		

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blaming colleague• Does not establish if patient is in pain		
	Grade	

Outstanding / Good / Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory / Poor / Bad
(delete as applicable)

EXAMPLE 3

Information for Candidate

Theme: Explanations

Patient Details:

Name	Mrs
Age	40 (DoB
Gender	Female
Occupation	Accountant
Relevant Social History	Non-smoker, non-drinker
Relevant Medical History	Fit patient with no relevant medical history
Relevant Dental History	Regular attender, but nervous about receiving treatment

Information about scenario

You have taken over this patient's care from a colleague in general dental practice. She has been booked for root canal treatment of the upper left central incisor. There is post and crown but no root canal filling in the tooth which has developed a labial discharging sinus. A radiograph has been taken and is shown below.

At this station

Listen to the patient's history and then explain the nature of the intended procedure.



Marking Schedule

Theme: Explanations

Topic: Repeat root canal treatment

Information Gathering		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listens to history and elicits relevant points• Realises that the patient is apprehensive Realises patients reluctance but not resistance to receive further RCT		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not obtain all of history• Does not notice apprehension• Does not realise misgivings towards further RCT		
	Grade	

Dentist/Patient interaction		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allays fears and answers the prompts simply and reassuringly<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Listening and clarifyingb) Eye Contact		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fails to reassure patient about the procedure• Failure to maintain eye contact• Not listening to prompts		
	Grade	

Communicating		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear explanation of the procedure. Discussion about removal of crown, post, and re-root canal treatment• Avoids jargon.		
Not competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to explain, reassure• Use of unnecessary jargon		
	Grade	

Clinical Management		
Competent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear understanding of procedure, including treatment options and risks• Aware of root fracture risk with removal of post• Aware of flare up with re-treatment		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aware re-treatment may not be successful and discusses apical surgery, and extraction and replacement 		
<p>Not competent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion of options/risks Does not mention risk of root fracture 		
	Grade	

Outstanding / Good / Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory / Poor / Bad
(delete as applicable)