

FRCS Ophthalmology Part 3 Online Delivery

Supplementary document to current Candidate Guidance Document

This document should be read in conjunction with the current Candidate Guidance Document but replaces the following sections:

Section 4 Examination Format

4.3 Structured Oral Examination and Clinical Examination

Part 3 comprises two sections and candidates will sit both sections of this examination at each attempt.

Candidates will be provided with a programme in advance of the examination (after the closing date), and candidates must present for the structured oral examination and the clinical examination respectively according to the dates and times on the programme.

Structured Oral Examination

This section consists of 3 x 20-minute examinations on the following subjects:

- Lids, Oculoplastics and Anterior Segment
- Posterior Segment
- Neurology, Motility and General Medicine

Please note that the examination questions are changed regularly throughout the examination to ensure confidentiality of the examination process.

The principal aims of the structured oral examinations are to assess:

- The application of knowledge to clinical situations
- Reasoning power and problem-solving ability
- Decision-making
- The ability to communicate information and ideas
- The ability to manage common acute medical emergencies

Each candidate will be examined by two examiners in each of the three subjects. In the Neurology, Motility and General Medicine examination one of the examiners will be a physician, the other an ophthalmologist.

Each candidate will spend 20 minutes with each pair of examiners. Each examiner will question the candidate for 10 minutes; the invigilator will advise when 10 minutes are remaining at which point the second examiner will start asking questions.

Each examiner submits an individual mark for the examination: six individual marks in total are awarded for the Structured Oral Examination.

Clinical Examination

This section consists of 4 x 12-minute examinations on four main themes by video assessment, and provision of two Candidate Submitted Videos, of maximum 5 minutes' duration each, showing clinical patient assessments.

The 4 x 12-minute examinations are on the following themes:

- Anterior Segment Disorders
- Posterior Segment Disorders
- Neuro-ophthalmic and Ocular Motility Disorders
- Oculoplastic and Lid Disorders

Each theme is examined in a separate 'virtual' examination room. Each candidate will be shown two videos in each of the examination rooms and will be asked questions on the patient shown in each video.

The purpose of this section is to ensure that the candidate can:

- Demonstrate clinical findings
- Appreciate and attach due significance to clinical symptoms and signs

At the beginning of the clinical examination, the candidate will start in their first virtual room, then after 12 minutes the candidate will return to a virtual quarantine room and will then be directed by an invigilator to their second virtual room and so on, until the candidate has viewed all the videos in each of the four virtual rooms.

The candidate is expected to communicate effectively in English with the examiners and to discuss the clinical findings and the appropriate management for each case presented in the videos.

For the Candidate Submitted Videos section, candidates are required to submit two videos prior to the examination to enable assessment of their patient examination technique and communication. The videos can be filmed using a smartphone or other digital device. Guidance on how to create and submit videos can be found on our website in the document 'Video Submission Candidate Guidance'.

Candidates should examine patients using standard ophthalmology equipment and clinical examination methods. The videos must demonstrate the following:

- Video 1: Confrontation Visual Field Assessment
- Video 2: Cranial Nerves Examination for Cranial Nerves 1 to 8

It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure they submit two appropriate videos by the published deadline date.

Candidates should demonstrate aseptic techniques in each video by using hand gel before examining the patient. The candidate is expected to communicate with the patient in English during the examination. If the patient does not speak English, the candidate should organise an interpreter to be available.

Dress Code

In line with current UK infection control practices, the dress code requirements for the videos submitted by candidates are as follows:

- Arms to be bare below the elbow
- No jewellery on hands or wrists with the exception of wedding rings/bands
- No tie

An acceptable form of dress would be a conventional short-sleeved shirt/blouse, open at the neck, or for a long-sleeved shirt/blouse with the sleeves rolled up throughout the examination. Tee-shirts and polo shirts are not acceptable dress. White coats are not required.

Candidates with religious or cultural reasons for not observing this code will be expected to comply with the dress code when demonstrating the physical examination of patients in the submitted videos. Candidates should obtain consent prior to filming, respect confidentiality at all times and ensure PPE is used where appropriate to ensure compliance with local guidelines.

Marking Scheme

Structured Oral Examination

- Candidates are examined by three pairs of examiners. Each candidate gains a mark from each of the six examiners.
- Candidates may compensate for no more than three fail marks by achieving additional marks elsewhere in this section to achieve the overall pass mark.
- Or
- Candidates may compensate for no more than three fail marks by achieving additional marks in the Clinical Examination.

Clinical Examination

- Candidates are examined by five pairs of examiners (four pairs in the clinical station and one pair reviewing and marking the candidate submitted videos). Each candidate gains a mark from each of the ten examiners.
- Candidates may compensate for no more than three fail marks by achieving additional marks elsewhere in this component to achieve the overall pass mark.
- Candidates cannot compensate for poor performance in this section with a good performance in the Structured Oral Examination.

Where a candidate obtains more than one 'clear fail' mark in either section, a pass in the examination overall cannot be obtained.

In order to pass the Part 3 examination candidates must pass the clinical section and gain enough marks overall to achieve the overall pass mark. Candidates who pass one section of the examination but not the other will have to re-sit both sections at any future sitting.

May 2021