ORE Part 2

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Guidance

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Introduction

Candidates are expected to demonstrate competence, knowledge and familiarity in the aspects of dentistry outlined in the General Dental Council's (GDC) Preparing for Practice (PfP) learning outcomes for dentists. The standards of conduct, performance and ethics required are described in the GDC publication Standards for the Dental Team.

The ORE Part 2 assesses learning outcomes drawn from the four overarching PfP domains:

- Clinical
- Communication
- Professionalism
- Management and Leadership

These domains encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and professional attributes expected of a newly qualified dentist practising safely and effectively in the UK. The full range of relevant learning outcomes may be assessed across the four component examinations that comprise ORE Part 2.

Information and Instructions

The primary aim of this assessment is to evaluate a dentist's ability to safely treat patients in practice. The OSCE consists of a single continuous examination of up to two hours.

1. What to Expect

Prior to the Examination

Candidates will receive an email before the examination date confirming the examination venue and allocated arrival time. Careful attention should be paid to the address provided, as examinations may be held at different venues.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they have read all relevant ORE Part 2 Policy and Procedure documents before the examination.

Requests for reasonable adjustments must be submitted at least six weeks before the examination date and in accordance with the Reasonable Adjustments Policy.

Details of the identification requirements and registration process will also be provided by email before the examination.

Upon Arrival

Candidates are required to arrive at their allocated time. Those arriving early may be asked to leave the building until their scheduled arrival time. Candidates who arrive late will not be permitted to sit the examination. Sufficient time should therefore be allowed for travel to the examination venue.

Upon arrival, candidates will be required to register and present proof of identity in accordance with the instructions provided before the examination.

All equipment required for the examination, including equipment for relevant stations, will be provided. Books, electronic devices (including smart devices and AI-enabled wearable technology), and watches are not permitted in the examination.

During the examination

- Each OSCE circuit consists of 20 stations, 15 of which are live, and five of which are 'rest' stations
- Live stations will count towards a candidate's overall marks, whereas rest stations are an opportunity for candidates to reflect
- Stations are six minutes long in total: one minute reading time at the beginning and five minutes to complete the task

The examination may be recorded for quality assurance or training purposes.

2. What does the OSCE consist of?

The OSCE is a timed clinical examination in which candidates will move from station to station. Each station will require performance of a specific clinical task in a simulated setting. Most stations will also involve interaction with a simulated (standardised) patient.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of the station types that may be included:

- Consultation station
- Station including a physical examination
- Written station
- Skills demonstration

Candidates should begin each station by confirming their name and candidate number.

Clinical examination

In some stations, assessment will focus on the ability to conduct a physical examination of the simulated patient.

Candidates are expected to carry out basic examinations and should be able to identify and use the appropriate equipment where required.

Professional behaviour should reflect that expected in a real-life clinical setting, including requesting permission to perform any relevant clinical examinations. Some stations will require the examination to be performed, while in others the examiner may ask: “What would you like to examine?” In these situations, candidates will be expected to specify the examinations they wish to carry out and, where relevant, explain how the examination would be performed. The examiner will then provide a results sheet.

3. Marking

Each station will be assessed against three of the following four domains, depending on the station’s focus:

- Clinical
- Communication
- Professionalism
- Management and Leadership

Examiners will give a judgement for each of the three domains assessed, as well as an overall judgement for the station. The possible judgements are:

- Exceeds Standard
- Meets Standard
- Borderline
- Below Standard
- Well Below Standard

These judgements are converted into numerical scores. The OSCE uses the Borderline Regression method of standard setting to establish a cut-off score for each station. Candidates' numerical scores are then used to determine both their station-level results and overall OSCE outcome, which are classified as **Pass**, **Borderline**, or **Fail**.

4. Irregularities

If an unexpected circumstance or procedural irregularity occurs during the examination, a member of the examination delivery team must be informed as soon as possible. This includes any situation outside a candidate's control that is believed to have adversely affected performance. Every effort should be made to report the issue as soon as it arises and before leaving the examination venue. Prompt notification allows the matter to be investigated and, where possible, resolved as quickly as possible, including on the day of the examination.

5. Examination Regulations

Candidates are reminded that discussion of the examination is strictly prohibited both before and after the examination. This requirement also extends to the period after leaving the examination venue, as discussing or sharing details of the examination is a breach of examination regulations. The GDC and the Consortium expect all candidates to demonstrate professionalism and integrity at all times, before, during, and after the examination.

6. Example – OSCE

Domains assessed

Clinical, Communication and Professionalism.

Opening statement

You are a BDS graduate working in a general dental practice. You are expected to assess and manage a 23-year-old patient who has presented with a toothache. You are not given any additional information.

What is required to achieve a pass?

- Take a thorough history, including a history of the current problem, dental history and a basic relevant medical history
- Take an appropriate lifestyle/social history
- Identify the patient's concerns, listen appropriately and display empathy
- Make a diagnosis
- Recommend appropriate management and follow up
- Display professionalism throughout