



Licence in Dental Surgery

Examination Part 1 & 2

**General Guidance for Candidates**

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Royal College  
of Surgeons

FACULTY OF DENTAL SURGERY

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The LDS examination comprises two Parts and assesses the relevant competencies as outlined in the **LDS Learning Outcomes** document available on The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) website.
- 1.2 Part 1 consists of two written papers, each of three hours duration, taken on the same day. The examination format will be Single Best Answer (SBA) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQ) centred mainly on knowledge and its application to:
  - A. Clinically applied dental science and clinically applied human disease.
  - B. Aspects of clinical dentistry, law and ethics, and health and safety.
- 1.3 Both papers must be passed at a single sitting to pass LDS Part 1. If either paper is failed a candidate will be required to re-sit all of Part 1.
- 1.4 The Part 2 examination is held over a minimum of 3 days and consists of 3 sections:
  - 1.4.1 Observed Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) of 2 hours duration
  - 1.4.2 The 'Unseen Case' [based on an objective structured long examination (OSLE) model] - an examination designed to test the candidates' diagnosis, treatment planning and clinical reasoning. Approximately 1 hour duration (32 minutes for each scenario).
- 1.5 In order to progress to Part 2, candidates must have taken Part 1, and are advised to have written confirmation of a pass in Part 1.
- 1.6 Candidates are permitted a maximum of four attempts at each Part and Part 2 must be passed within five years of obtaining Part 1.

## 2 Examination procedure

- 2.1 Candidates should assemble outside the Examination Venue as instructed on the letter sent from the Examinations Department before the start of the Examination and should not enter until instructed to do so by the lead examiner.
- 2.2 For the Part 1 examination, each desk in the Examination Venue will be numbered and candidates must sit at the desk that corresponds to their examination/candidate number. Please ensure that the question booklets for the two papers match the answer sheets (e.g. Paper A questions should be marked on a Paper A answer sheet).
- 2.3 Candidates are required to obey the instructions of the lead examiner. It is the duty of the lead examiner to prevent any behaviour likely to cause disturbance to other candidates. Both entry to and exit from an examination shall be at the absolute discretion of the lead examiner.

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- 2.4 No coats, bags, printed/written materials, mobile telephones and other electronic equipment or unauthorised writing instruments are allowed into the Examination room. These must be deposited in the location specified by the lead examiner. Candidates in breach of this rule will have the items confiscated and will be suspended from the Examination, and will have his or her results withheld pending investigation.
- 2.5 Candidates who are ejected from a Part 1 examination will not be allowed to take Part 2 and their application fee will be forfeited.
- 2.6 All stationery required for the Examination will be provided.

### 3 Admittance to the examination

- 3.1 You must bring proof of identity to each examination. Proof of identity must be an official document, such as a current passport or driving licence that includes your name, signature and a photograph.
- 3.2 Candidates who are late by no more than 30 minutes for a Part 1 Examination may be allowed entry to the Examination at the discretion of the lead invigilator but will not be given extra time to compensate for their late arrival.
- 3.3 Once seated, candidates should leave their identification and anything else required by the examinations department on the desk ready for inspection.
- 3.4 For the purposes of visual identification, any candidate sitting any examination may be required to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. The College will observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates.

### 4 Guidance

- 4.1 Candidates should wear appropriate clothing for a professional examination and maintain a professional appearance. No hand jewellery or watches should be worn when working with instruments and footwear should be suitable for working in a dental surgery i.e. closed toed shoes. Candidates should wear suitable clothing and footwear for a clinical general dental practice environment.
- 4.2 The fire regulations in operation at the venue have to be observed and a briefing will be given at the start of the examination.
- 4.3 Candidates should write their examination/candidate number on the provided Question booklet/Answer sheet using the pencil provided.
- 4.4 Candidates shall not give or receive any assistance or communicate by any means with one another or any person at any time during the Examination period. However candidates will need to demonstrate during the examination professional communication with support staff i.e. dental nurses and examination staff. Any candidate acting in breach of the LDS Regulations or behaving in any other manner that could disrupt the Examination may, at

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- the discretion of the lead examiner, be suspended from the Examination, or have their results withheld pending investigation.
- 4.5 Candidates may not begin reading the paper (apart from the instructions on the front of the Question booklet), or marking answers on the Answer sheet before the lead invigilator announces the start of the Examination period.
- 4.6 Candidates must stop writing when the lead invigilator announces the end of the Examination. If they fail to do so they will be disqualified. All answers must be transferred to the Answer sheet before the end of the Examination. Extra time will not be allowed for the transfer of answers. No part of a Question booklet shall be torn out or removed from the Examination room.
- 4.7 Any candidate who wishes to leave the Examination Hall to go to the restroom must ask the permission of an invigilator who will escort them.
- 4.8 Candidates should be aware that they may finish the examination well within the time allowed. For security reasons if a candidate stays until the end of the Examination they will be unable to leave the Examination hall until ALL the Question booklets and Answer sheets have been collected. The Lead invigilator will signal when the exam is over. All candidates must remain seated whilst the exam scripts are being collected.
- 4.9 Candidates who have any questions or comments on the content of the Examination should report them to the lead examiner or record them on the Feedback Questionnaires provided. All such comments will be noted and considered at the adjudication stage. No clarification will be given by the examiner.
- 4.10 Refreshments are not always available at a centre. Candidates may bring a small plastic bottle of water or other non-carbonated cold drink to the Examination. However these are not allowed in the designated clinical areas.
- 4.11 Any candidate who contravenes any of these instructions will be liable to penalties that may include expulsion from the Examination and annulment of results. The College Malpractice Policy is available on the College website. It is the candidate's responsibility to be familiar with these before they attend the examination. Candidates should note that the copyright on the content of the papers is held by the RCSEng and that unauthorised use of any of the questions is prohibited. In the event of contravention of this copyright, legal action may be taken. Any candidate found making notes on the content of questions will be disqualified.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 Behaviours that might lead to a fail, irrespective of numerical marks gained, would include significant failings in safety, cross-infection control, and inappropriate behaviour towards staff or patients.

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- 4.14 Therefore, candidates must pay attention to health and safety, infection control, working position, etc. These areas will be judged in addition to the practical exercises that have to be completed.

## 5 Results

Results will appear on the RCSEng website on the date specified on examination documentation sent to the candidate, or as announced at the examination. Candidates will receive subsequent written confirmation of their results.