

**The Royal College of
Surgeons
of Edinburgh**



**The Royal College of
Physicians and Surgeons
of Glasgow**



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

**Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of
Dental Surgery (MFDS)**

**Guidance to Candidates for
Part 1 and Part 2**

Updated September 2019

MFDS

GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

Part 1 Written Examination

- The aim of this part of the examination is to test the range of knowledge and understanding that underpins direct patient care.
- The examination will cover the range of topics included in the Syllabus as described in more detail below.
- The examination will be conducted in English.
- The examination takes the form of a written paper comprising Single Best Answer questions.
- The duration of the written paper is 3 hours.
- Candidates are awarded a pass or a fail.
- Candidates must have written confirmation of a pass in Part 1 before applying to sit Part 2.

Sample questions are available on College websites.

The parts of the syllabus covered in the written paper are:

- Patient examination and diagnosis
- Treatment planning and patient management
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Medical and dental emergencies
- Anaesthesia, sedation, pain and anxiety control
- Periodontal therapy and management of soft tissues
- Surgical and non-surgical management of the hard and soft tissues of the head and neck
- The developing dentition
- Restoration and replacement of teeth
- Communication
- Professionalism and ethics
- Management and leadership
- Critical reading
- Infection control
- Growth, development and ageing
- Laboratory communication
- Prescription and letter writing
- Radiography and radiology
- Test result interpretation – histopathology, diet sheets, pocket charting

The paper will normally contain up to 180 questions. All questions should be attempted. Marks are not deducted for incorrect answers.

Clinical photographs or radiographs may be attached to the question paper.

It is important to note that written papers are machine marked. Instructions on completing your answer sheet will be provided and candidates are advised to follow them carefully.

For each examination diet, a passing standard (i.e. pass mark) is set using an Angoff standard setting procedure. This means that, at each exam diet, an expert panel meets to define and discuss a 'borderline' candidate and agree what skills and attributes this candidate should possess. Judgement from the experts is collected on each question (item) with consideration given on the probability of a borderline candidate being able to answer the question correctly. The pass mark is then calculated by adding together the probabilities for the individual questions within the paper. Therefore, the pass mark will vary at each examination diet.

Issue of Examination Results

The examination results for the MFDS Part 1 written paper will be posted on the College websites, www.rcsed.ac.uk (RCS Edinburgh) or www.rcpsg.ac.uk (RCPS Glasgow), approximately 5 weeks after the examination. Results will also be sent to you by email following publication on the websites.

Disclaimer

The Colleges will not accept any responsibility if the papers go missing as a consequence of an act of nature or theft.

Part 2 Examination

- The aim of this part of the examination is to test your clinical competence by assessing your communication skills and your knowledge, understanding and management of a range of common conditions.
- The examination takes the form of an OSCE (objective structured clinical examination).
- The examination will normally last between two and two and a half hours in total.
- Candidates will be escorted in turn around a number of 'stations', normally spending 8 minutes at each station and 2 minutes 'in transit'. Whilst there is no requirement for a rest station, there may be between one and four included in the circuit.
- At each of the remaining 10 stations, you will be presented with some information about a patient and then asked to manage the patient's concerns and/or communicate with the patient and/or use the clinical material to plan treatment. The patients will be actors. The stations will carry equal weight.
- You will have the two minutes between stations to read about your next patient.
- At some diets, there may be an extra 'Pilot' station at which a new clinical scenario will be tested for possible use at a future diet. The mark awarded at a Pilot station will not contribute to your final overall mark
- There will be at least one examiner at each station who will observe you.
- The criteria on which your performance is assessed are defined below.
- You will not be asked to carry out any active treatment.
- You will be expected to dress professionally. Clinical dress is not required. An acceptable form of dress would be a conventional shirt or blouse with trousers or skirt. Tee-shirts, polo shirts and jeans are not considered to be appropriate dress. To facilitate the assessment of non-verbal communication skills and interaction with the actor, the Colleges will require candidates for the duration of the examination to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. If, for any reason, a candidate prefers not to comply with this requirement, they should advise the lead invigilator on arrival at the examination centre. Examiners will then be made aware of this. Candidates should note that the wearing of any clothing which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face may potentially impact on examiners' assessment of their non-verbal communication skills.
- The examination will be conducted in English

Examples of cases are available on the College websites.

After your examination you may be required to wait in the examination centre for a short time while other candidates are examined.

The ten areas on which you will be examined will be as listed below. The full range of clinical disciplines will be covered.

History taking	2 stations
• Dental, medical, social	
Explanations	4 stations
• Diagnosis, prognosis, treatment options, procedures	
Interpretation of investigations/special tests	1 station
Managing patient concerns/queries	3 stations
• Gaining consent, handling complaints, managing anxiety, motivating, breaking bad news	

The marking criteria used to assess you are listed below.

Information Gathering

- Taking a focussed and efficient history (patient concerns, medical, dental and social history) that elicits relevant information.
- Making appropriate use of information from records provided.
- Coming to a diagnosis.

Dentist-Patient interaction

- Welcome and courtesy. Sensitivity to the patient's feelings. Empathy.
- Facilitating expression of the patient's story by listening skills and using non-verbal cues.
- Awareness of the patient's ideas, concerns and expectations.
- Respect for the patient's ideas, concerns and expectations.
- Respect for patient's confidentiality and autonomy.

Conveying information

- Explaining the problem.
- Explaining the options for treatment
- Negotiating the patient's agreement to a management plan.
- Advising and educating the patient.
- Breaking bad news.
- Using appropriate language and checking patient's understanding.

Clinical Issues

- Devising an effective treatment plan (evidence-based where possible).
- Arranging appropriate follow-up.
- Including preventive management where appropriate.
- Including a range of options where available.
- Sensible use of time and resources.
- Recognising implications for patient and others.
- Awareness of prognosis, consent and other medico-legal issues.

All ten stations are of equal value. For each examination diet, a passing standard is set prior to the examination. All four domains on all ten stations are added together to give a mark on the examination as a whole. The pass mark is calculated using the borderline regression method. The four domains are information gathering, dentist-patient interaction, conveying information and clinical issues.

Examination Results

The examination results for the MFDS Part 2 Examination will be posted on the College websites, www.rcsed.ac.uk (RCS Edinburgh) or www.rcpsg.ac.uk (RCPS Glasgow), approximately 3 weeks after the examination. Results letters will also be sent to you by email following publication on the websites.

Candidates will be advised the pass mark for the examination and their mark attained.