

2020

National Dental Specialty Examination Protocol

Approved January 2020
Revised March 2020



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General Information

Schedule*

8:00 a.m.	Check-in
8:30 a.m.	Orientation
9:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Part 1
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon check-in
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Part 2

*** The schedule for the examination in Dental Public Health can be found in the Dental Public Health section of the protocol.**

Check-in

During check-in, you will be issued an NDEB ID card. To receive the NDEB ID card, you must show current government issued photo identification. Acceptable forms of government issued photo identification are:

- driver's licence,
- passport, or
- provincial photo identification.

The identification must be in English or French.

Photo identification must show your name exactly as it appears in your online profile and must not be expired. If the photo identification does not have an expiry date, it must have been issued within the last 10 years.

If you do not provide government photo identification you will not be admitted.

Format

The National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) will be administered in paper form. The number of questions and question values will vary depending on the specialty. The NDSE in Dental Public Health, Oral Medicine and/or Oral Pathology, and Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology will include components delivered on a computer. Specifics for each dental specialty can be found in the corresponding parts of the protocol.

Content

The purpose of the NDSE is to test entry-level competencies required of specialists. The NDSE covers general specialty knowledge including basic sciences, clinical diagnosis, and treatment planning. The level of knowledge required is consistent with the accreditation requirements of each of the specialties.

Terminology

Examination questions are updated on a regular basis as new knowledge becomes available.

The NDEB is aware that the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) published a new disease classification in the Journal of Periodontology in June 2018. The NDSE in Periodontics will use this current AAP classification.

Reference Materials

Tooth Numbering System

The FDI two-digit tooth numbering system is used in all examinations.

FDI / UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM

PERMANENT DENTITION

FDI	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	FDI
Universal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Universal
Universal	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	Universal
FDI	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	FDI
						RIGHT										LEFT	

PRIMARY DENTITION

FDI	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	FDI
Universal	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Universal
Universal	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	Universal
FDI	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	FDI
						RIGHT					LEFT

Regulations

General

- You must be punctual for all sessions. If you arrive late you may be denied entry to the examination.
- You cannot bring watches and/or devices with recording or transmitting/receiving abilities into the examination room.
- Outerwear of any kind is not permitted in the examination room.
- You must empty all pockets before entering or leaving the examination room.
- You must read and sign a Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreement provided on the morning of the examination. This agreement must be signed to receive results. A sample Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreement is available in your online profile, under the “Information” tab. We recommend you review it prior to the examination. NDEB examination content is confidential. All questions are property of the NDEB. Unauthorized disclosure of examination questions is prohibited under copyright laws. By signing the Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreement you agree to maintain the confidentiality of NDEB questions.
- Only water, in a see-through, plastic bottle, with paper labels removed, is allowed in the examination room.
- Food is not allowed in the examination room. If you require food, medicine, or medical equipment in the examination room you must submit a request pursuant to the NDEB [test accommodations](#) policy.
- You can use the washroom facilities during an examination. If you use the washroom during the examination, an invigilator will accompany you. No extra time is given for washroom breaks.
- You are not permitted to bring any items into the washroom with the exception of menstrual products.
- Once the examination is in progress, if you leave the examination room for any reason, other than to use the washroom facilities, you will not be allowed to re-enter.
- You will not be allowed to leave the examination room when there are 10 minutes remaining.

Conduct on Examination Day

Before entering the examination room:

- Remove all outerwear, including hats, scarves, and jackets.
- Empty all pockets.
- Remove all large jewelry and watches and place in your bag or jacket.
- Turn off your cell phone and place it in your bag or jacket.
- Use the washroom.

When entering the examination room:

- Place all personal items in the area designated by the Test Administrator. The NDEB and individuals administering the examination are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.
- Locate your seat.
- Place your NDEB ID card on your desk. This must be visible at all times.
- Do not talk to other examinees.

During the examination:

- You must not communicate, or attempt to communicate, with other examinees.
- You must not write on anything except the materials provided by the NDEB.
- If you need to use the washroom, raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to escort you.

At the end of the examination:

- You must stop writing when the Test Administrator indicates time is up. The transfer of answers from books to answer sheets must be completed within the session time.
- Remain in your seat until all your examination material is collected.
- You must not attempt to recreate questions or discuss specific test items with examinees, potential examinees, or study groups.

Misconduct

You must maintain the confidentiality of all NDEB content. You cannot discuss your examination with others or communicate about questions or answers before, during or after an examination.

If at any time you are suspected of compromising the security of the examination, including not complying with the regulations, you will be subject to the NDEB's By-laws regarding misconduct. Additional information on [misconduct](#) can be found on the NDEB website.

Test Accommodations

Test accommodations are granted on an individual basis and are dependent on the nature and extent of the request, documentation provided, and requirements of the examination. Read the NDEB's policies and procedures for [Test Accommodations](#) on the NDEB website.

Compassionate Appeals

Compassionate appeals must be submitted in writing within seven days of the examination to appeals@ndeb-bned.ca.

Information regarding [compassionate appeals](#) can be found on the NDEB website and in the [NDEB By-laws](#).

Results

Results are normally released within eight weeks from the date of the examination. You will receive an email notification when your results are available in your online profile.

Results will be reported as a Pass/Fail. Those who receive less than 75 will also receive their test score.

Results will not be released by telephone, email, or fax.

Passing Standard

You must obtain a minimum score of 75 to be successful on an NDEB examination.

Rescore

The appeal process for written style examinations is a rescore.

If you have received a failing grade on an examination, you have up to one month from the date results are released to request a rescore of your examination.

Information regarding the [rescore process](#) can be found on the NDEB website.

NDSE Dental Public Health

Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Check-in
8:30 a.m.	Orientation
8:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Part 1 Policy Analysis
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Part 2 Computer Based Data Analysis
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon check-in
2:15 p.m.	Orientation
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Part 3 Short and Long Answer Questions

Content

The NDSE in dental public health evaluates your knowledge of dental public health principles and public health issues.

Blueprint

Canadian dental public health specialists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in the seven domains. The following blueprint shows the content areas and approximate percentage of questions (cases/topics/computer-based data analysis/policy analysis) in each domain.

Dental Public Health Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Assess community oral health status, needs and resources	10
Diagnose community oral health problems and identify the cause or strength of contributing factors	15
Assess policies, strategies, programs, services and devices that affect oral health and the provision of oral health services	20
Plan activities or programs that would be worthwhile in improving oral health within the given ethical, legal, political, social, demographic, economic and environmental context	15
Manage oral health programs	10
Assemble, synthesize and communicate relevant, accurate and clear information that will enable individuals, families, communities, public and private health organizations and government decision-makers to improve oral health	20
Conduct education on and research into community oral health problems and services in order to assure a diverse and competent public oral health workforce and advancement of the specialty.	10
Total	100%

Format

The examination will consist of three, two-hour parts:

Part 1 will be comprised of a policy analysis of a dental public health topic. A series of long-answer questions will be provided to assess candidates' ability to analyze information provided in a written document, and to write and defend appropriate options for oral health policies to address the problems identified in the document.

Part 2 will be comprised of a computer-based data analysis of dental epidemiologic data provided in a format similar to what would be collected using World Health Organization. (2013). *Oral health surveys: Basic methods* (5th ed.). An IBM SPSS® Statistics software data set will be provided on a PC laptop computer with a standard mouse. Data analysis skills will be assessed through a series of short- and long-answer questions.

Part 3 will be comprised of stand-alone short- and long-answer questions covering basic dental epidemiological principles and dental public health issues in Canada.

Policy Analysis

You will be required to write a policy analysis on a dental public health topic. The following template identifies what should be included in your policy analysis.

1. Provide a title for the policy analysis.
2. Describe the history, context, and scope of the problem.
3. List a minimum of 3 potential options. Briefly describe each option. State the advantages and disadvantages of each option.
4. Identify at least 2 stakeholder groups and their likely positions.
5. Recommend one policy option.
6. Briefly justify the recommended policy option. Explain why the other options are not recommended.
7. Discuss a monitoring and evaluation strategy if that policy option was implemented.
8. Provide a brief summary (2 sentences).

Computer Based-Data Analysis

Sample Case and Questions

You have been provided with a database containing epidemiologic examination records of 1000 seniors aged > 65 years. Your assignment is to determine if the prevalence and severity of root caries are independently affected by age and the smoking status of the senior. The age of the senior is obvious; the codes for the smoking status of the senior and the status of the teeth are shown below.

Senior's smoking status:

Never smoked	00
Smoked occasionally, less than one pack per week	01
Smoked 2 - 4 packs per week	02
Smoked one pack per day	03
Smoked more than 2 packs per day	04
Quit smoking more than 10 years ago	05
No response	09

Root status codes:

- 00 = Sound, no root decay ever or root not exposed
- 01 = Decayed root surface soft
- 02 = Decayed root surface hard
- 03 = Decayed root surface soft and extends beyond line angles
- 04 = Decayed root surface soft and extends beyond line angles
- 05 = Decayed root surface soft and extends beyond line angles
- 06 = Root surface filled
- 07 = Tooth missing due to caries
- 08 = Tooth lost due to trauma, or congenitally absent
- 09 = Sound abutment tooth or special crown (e.g., trauma anteriors)
- 10 = Tooth to be lost due to caries

What is the mean RCI for 65 and for 70 year old seniors? **2 points**

Mean RCI for 65 year old seniors	
Mean RCI for 70 year old seniors	

What is an appropriate statistical test and the p value of that test to determine if the difference in means is significant at the 95% confidence level? **2 points**

Name of test	
P value =	

Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

Distinguish between a descriptive and an analytical study. Give one example of each type of study. **2 points**

Sample Question 2

Fluoridation has recently been challenged as a public health intervention by a small group of committed individuals who oppose the public health measure. What are 2 major objections raised by antifluoridationists? What is the scientific evidence that refutes each objection? **4 points**

Objection	Evidence

NDSE Endodontics

Content

The NDSE in endodontics evaluates a candidate's knowledge and clinical competence in endodontics at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian endodontists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in eleven domains. The blueprint below shows the domains and the approximate percentage of questions covered by each domain.

Endodontics Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Biomedical sciences (includes anatomy, physiology, oral histology, oral pathology, oral histopathology, oral microbiology, immunology, biomaterials)	20
Non-surgical root canal therapy	20
Surgical root canal therapy	10
Diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient management	15
Pharmacology	8
Trauma	7
Anesthesia	6
Treatment of medically compromised patient	5
Radiology	5
Research methods	2
Miscellaneous topics (includes prosthodontics, periodontics, orthodontics, ethics, asepsis & sterilization, implantology)	2
Total	100%

Format

The examination will consist of two, three-hour parts. The examination consists of a mix of stand-alone short- and long-answer questions that assess knowledge and application, and case-based questions that assess diagnostic and clinical decision-making abilities.

Question & Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found in the examination.

Short- and Long-Answer Questions

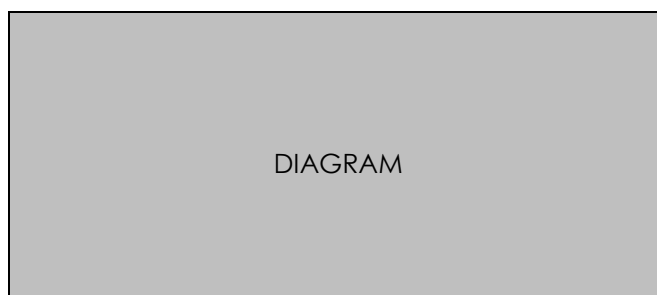
Sample Question 1

List 2 medications commonly used for the treatment of [disease]? **2 points**

1.
2.

Sample Case 2

Identify the 8 structures labeled on the following diagram. **8 points**



1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

Sample Case 3

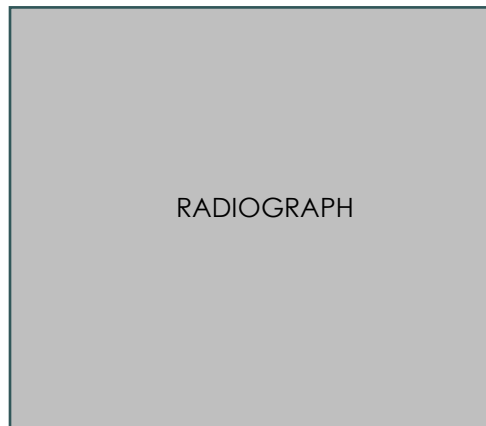
Describe the protocol for [technique]. **4 points**

--

Case-Based Questions

Sample Case 1

A healthy 15 year old patient presents complaining of spontaneous pain in the posterior right mandible. The pain is aggravated by cold. A radiograph and examination results shown below are obtained.



Test	Tooth 4.6	Tooth 4.7
Percussion	WNL	WNL
Palpation	WNL	WNL
Periodontal Probing	323/323	323/323
Mobility	M1	M1
Cold Test	No response	+++ve (lingering)

What is the most appropriate treatment plan for tooth 4.7 and how would it be performed?

2 points

The patient does not return for treatment. At the subsequent appointment 9 months later, an apical lesion is detected. What is now the most appropriate management for tooth 4.7? **2 points**

Knowledge of literature Questions

The questions test knowledge of the literature and deal mostly with results, conclusions and recommendations of various authors and associations.

What is the main clinical implication of [research], according to [Author/reference]? **2 points**

NDSE Prosthodontics

Content

The NDSE in prosthodontics evaluates your knowledge and clinical competence in prosthodontics at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian prosthodontists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in six domains. The blueprint below presents the six domains and the approximate percentage of questions covered by each domain.

Prosthodontics Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Removable complete dental prosthesis	10
Removable partial dental prosthesis	10
Fixed dental prosthesis supported by natural teeth	20
Dental implant supported prosthesis	30
Maxillofacial prosthetics	5
General prosthetic topics (including basic sciences, medical management of dental patients, dental management of medically compromised patients, tooth wear, theories of occlusion, materials)	25
Total	100%

Format

The examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. Part 1 will include a set of short- and long-answer questions that assess general knowledge. Part 2 will include a set of case-based questions that assess clinical skills (diagnostic and clinical decision-making abilities).

Question and Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

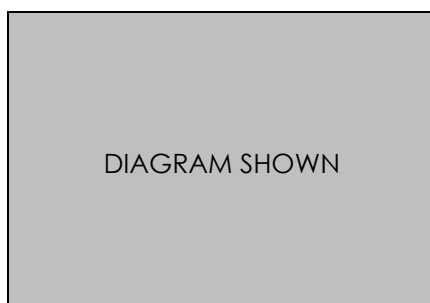
Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

What is the probable impact on the occlusal anatomy of a single crown fabricated on a simple hinge articulator and inserted on tooth 4.6? **1 point**

Sample Question 2

Identify the 4 structures labeled in the diagram. **4 points**

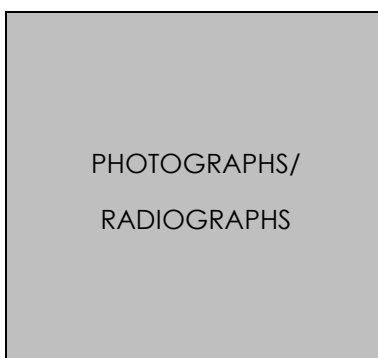


1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Case-Based Questions

Sample Case 1

A 28-year-old female patient presents complaining that her maxillary central incisors are not at the same height. The implant and crown replacing tooth 2.1 were placed when the patient was 16 years old.



What is the cause of the vertical discrepancy? **1 point**

List 4 treatment options to address this problem. **4 points**

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

List 3 complications to anticipate if the implant is removed? **3 points**

1.	
2.	
3.	

NDSE Pediatric Dentistry

Content

The NDSE in pediatric dentistry tests your knowledge and clinical competence in paediatric dentistry at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian pediatric dental specialists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in fourteen domains. The blueprint below presents the fourteen domains and the approximate percentage of questions covered by each domain.

Pediatric Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Growth and development	8
Cariology, preventive dentistry & anticipatory guidance	8
Restorative dentistry / oral rehabilitation	12
Child development & non-pharmacological behaviour guidance	8
Pharmacological behaviour guidance	8
Pharmacology	5
Oro-facial trauma	10
Medical management	10
Oral diagnosis / oral pathology / oral medicine / oral radiology	10
Periodontology	5
Pulp Therapy	10
Infection Control and Occupational Hazards	2
Biostatistics/Epidemiology	2
Record Keeping and Informed Consent	2
Total	100%

Format

The examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. The examination consists of a mix of stand-alone short- and long-answer questions that assess knowledge and application, and case-based questions that assess diagnostic and clinical decision-making abilities.

Question and Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

During which stage of development does [structure] form? **1 point**

Sample Question 2

Describe the proper sterilization of [instrument/equipment]. **4 points**

Sample question 3

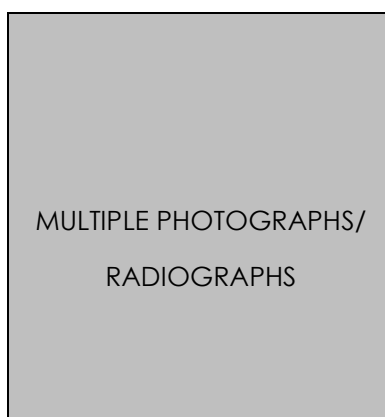
List 2 laboratory tests used to confirm a diagnosis of [disease]. For each test, indicate how the result will change in the presence of the disease.

Test Name	Test Result
1.	
2.	

Case-Based Questions

Sample Case 1

A 10 year old boy presents with a chief complaint of [problem].



What are the diagnoses for this patient? **1 point**

--

Discuss the emergency management of this patient. **2 points**

--

List 2 appropriate treatment options for tooth 5.4. **2 points**

1.
2.

Twelve month following treatment of tooth 5.4, the patient presents with [problem]. What is the most appropriate management? **1 point**

--

NDSE Orthodontics

Content

The NDSE in orthodontics evaluates your knowledge and clinical competence in orthodontics at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian orthodontists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in seven domains. The blueprint below indicates the content domains and the approximate percentage of questions in each domain.

Orthodontics Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Anatomy, growth and development	15
Physiology	5
Patient management	5
Statistics	5
Biology and physical science	10
Diagnosis	30
Treatment	30
Total	100%

Format

The examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. The examination consists of a mix of stand-alone short- and long-answer questions that assess general knowledge and application, and case-based questions that assess diagnostic and clinical decision-making abilities.

Question and Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

What are the 2 main components of glass ionomer cement used for orthodontic bands? **2 points**

1.
2.

Sample Question 2

A 54 year old female presents for a new patient examination. The review of her medical history shows that she takes [drug(s)].

For what conditions are these drugs being prescribed, and what are the mechanisms of action of these drugs? **4 points**

Condition	Mechanism of Action
Drug #1:	
Drug #2:	

Sample Question 3

List 4 bones that articulate with the [bone]. **4 points**

1.
2.
3.
4.

Sample Question 4

Match the following structures with one of the provided timelines for recovery following [treatment].

A: [Timeline]

B: [Timeline]

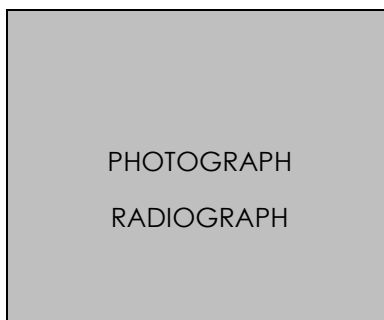
C: [Timeline]

Structure	Timeline
[Structure]	
[Structure]	
[Structure]	

Case-Based Questions

Sample Case 1

A 15-year-old female patient is currently undergoing orthodontic treatment to erupt tooth 1.4.



List 3 movements tooth 1.4 will display when it is tractioned into the arch with elastomeric thread.

3 points

1.
2.
3.

What 2 secondary effects will teeth 1.2 and 1.5 display as a result of tractioning the adjacent tooth 1.4 into the arch? **2 points**

1.
2.

NDSE Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Content

The NDSE in oral and maxillofacial surgery evaluates your knowledge and clinical competence in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian oral and maxillofacial surgical specialists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in ten domains. The blueprint below indicates the content domains and approximate percentage of questions in each domain.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Temporomandibular disorders	5
Implants	10
Cleft lip and palate/craniofacial syndromes	5
Dentoalveolar/preprosthetic surgery	10
Medicine	10
Pathology	10
Orthognathic surgery	10
Reconstructive surgery	10
Trauma	15
Anesthesia and sedation	15
Total	100%

Format

The examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. The examination consists of a mix of stand-alone short- and long-answer questions that assess general knowledge and application, and case-based questions that assess diagnostic and clinical decision-making ability.

Question and Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

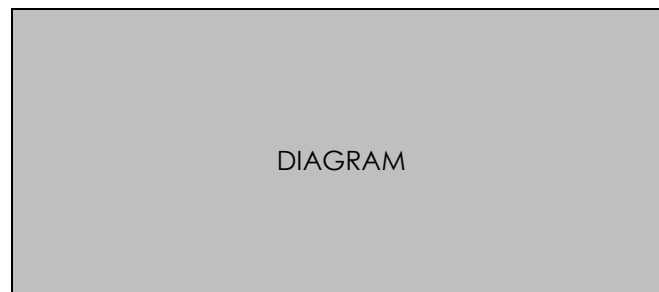
Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

A 39-year-old female undergoes temporomandibular joint reconstruction with a costochondral rib graft. What is the most appropriate manoeuvre intra-operatively during a costochondral rib graft for evaluation of a pneumothorax and how is it performed? **2 points**

Sample Question 2

Identify the 4 structures labeled on the following diagram. **4 points**



1.
2.
3.
4.

Case-based Questions

Sample Case 1

A 54-year-old male presents for a new patient examination. A review of his medical history shows that he is taking [Drug #1], [Drug #2], [Drug #3], and [Drug#4].

What are the mechanisms of action of these drugs? **4 points**

Drug #1:
Drug #2:
Drug #3:
Drug #4:

What disease or diseases does this patient suffer from? **1 point**

--

What additional information is required to assess the relative risk of medical complications related to this(these) [disease(s)]? **2 points**

List 2 potential complications that this patient may experience. **2 Points**

1.
2.

What would be the rating of the strategic physiologic reserve and risk of complications or emergencies related to the underlying disease(s) of this patient? **2 points**

Reserve:
Risk:

How is a treatment precipitating a crisis associated with the underlying disease(s)? **2 points**

NDSE Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

Content

The NDSE in oral and maxillofacial radiology evaluates your knowledge and clinical competence in oral and maxillofacial radiology at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian oral and maxillofacial radiologists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in five domains. The blueprint below presents the domains and the approximate percentage of the questions covered by each domain.

Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology - Part 1	Approximate % of questions
Radiation Sciences	12.5
Imaging Techniques	12.5
Head and Neck Anatomy	12.5
General Head and Neck Pathology	12.5

Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology - Part 2	Approximate % of questions
Interpretation of diagnostic imaging of the maxillofacial region	50
Total	100%

Format

The examination will consist of two, three-hour parts. Part 1 will consist of short-answer and essay type questions, and Part 2 will consist of twelve sets of patient diagnostic images for the candidate to interpret.

Question and Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

Short-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

In intraoral imaging, what are 3 likely outcomes if the kilovoltage setting on the x-ray generator is increased? **3 points**

1.
2.
3.

Essay Type Questions

Sample Essay Question 1

Discuss the clinical, radiographic, and histopathologic features of diseases X and Y. **20 points**

Radiographic Interpretation

The radiographic interpretation part of the NDSE will be done using images provided on a PC laptop computer with a standard mouse.

The images will be presented in multiple formats including:

1. CBCT volumes with Anatomage Invivo 3D Imaging software – Lite version
2. MDCT and MRI volumes with Synaptive Medical ClearCanvas Software
3. CBCT and MDCT MPA movie files.

NDSE Periodontics

Content

The NDSE in periodontics evaluates your knowledge and clinical competence in periodontics at the specialty level.

Blueprint

Canadian periodontists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in eleven domains. The blueprint below indicates the content domains and approximate percentage of questions in each domain.

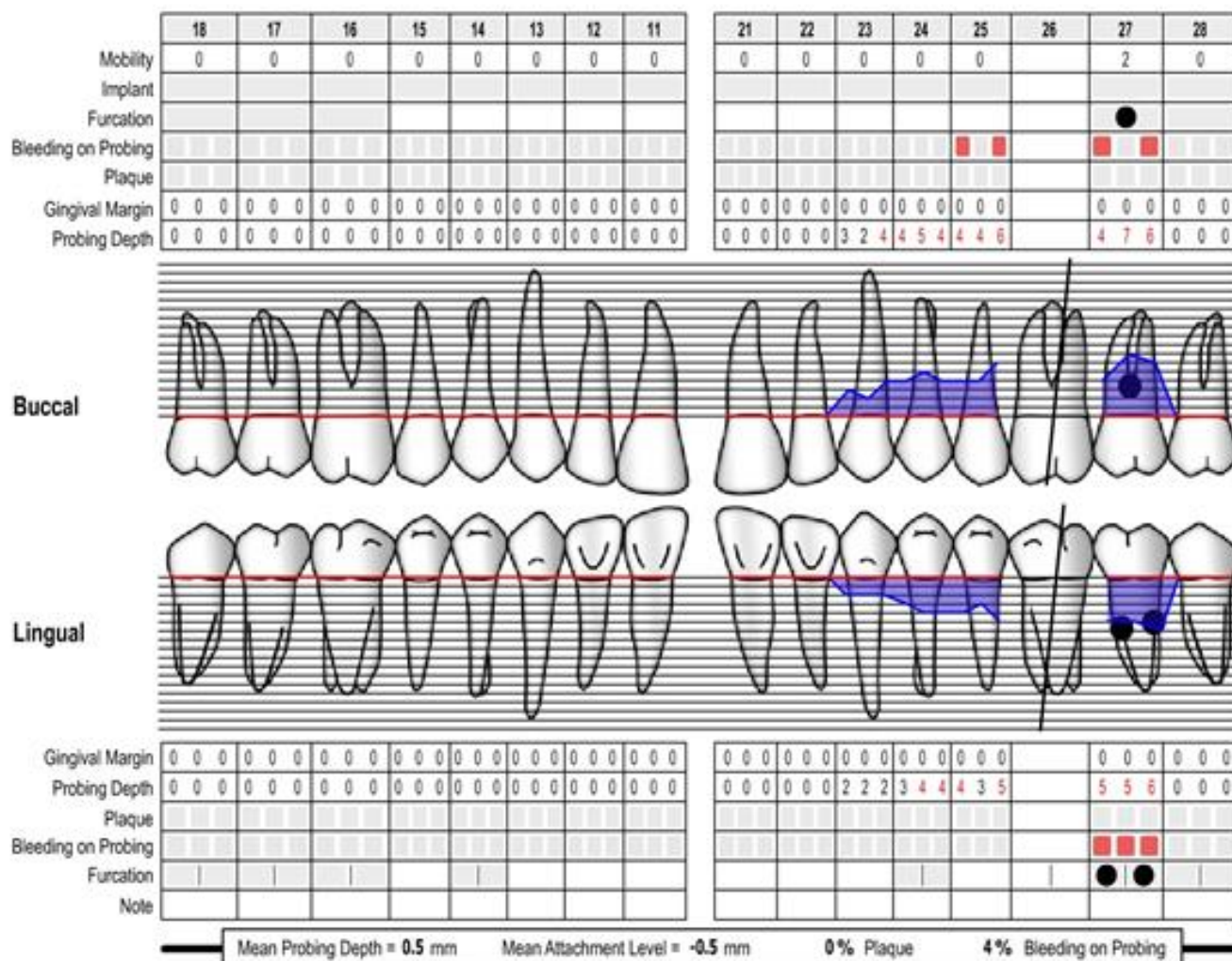
Periodontics Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Oral medicine and oral pathology	10
Anatomy / radiology / radiographic interpretation	10
Immunology and microbiology	10
Etiology / physiology / periopathology	10
Patient history and examination	5
Diagnosis	5
Prognosis	5
Treatment of periodontal disease (including evidence-based treatment)	20
Implantology	15
Medically compromised patients and medical emergencies	5
Anxiety and pain management/pharmacology	5
Total	100%

Format

The examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. The examination consists of a mix of stand-alone short- and long-answer questions that assess general knowledge (and application of knowledge), and case-based questions that assess diagnostic and clinical decision-making ability.

Periodontal Charts

Periodontal charts in the examination will be created using <http://www.periodontalchart-online.com/uk/index.asp>. The following is a sample of a periodontal chart for a case using this website.



Question & Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

What is the mechanism of action of [drug]? **1 point**

--

Sample Question 2

Periodontal regeneration procedures are often enhanced by various graft or implant materials. List 4 of the basic categories of these grafts or implant materials and briefly describe their differences. **4 points**

1.
2.
3.
4.

Sample question 3

List 3 pathogens associated with [disease] and 2 virulence factors for each pathogen. **9 points**

Pathogen	Virulence Factor
A.	1.
	2.
B.	1.
	2.
C.	1.
	2.

Sample question 4

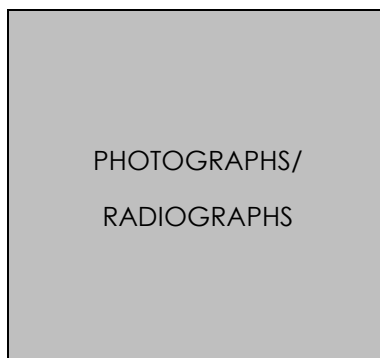
Define and describe the characteristics of the nonspecific plaque hypothesis and the specific plaque-hypothesis. **4 points**

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Case-Based Questions

Sample Case 1

A 65 year old female is referred for periodontal assessment and treatment regarding “deep pockets”. She is a smoker and her plaque control is poor.



Once the periodontal examination is complete, what is the *initial* management for this patient?

1 point

What are 4 advantages of the *initial* therapy if surgical therapy is planned for this patient? **4**

points

1.
2.
3.
4.

What are 4 acceptable limitations of scaling and root planing? **4 points**

1.
2.
3.
4.

The patient quit smoking and then underwent scaling and root planing. A re-evaluation is performed 6 months later and a significant improvement in oral hygiene, bleeding upon probing, and probing depth(s) is noted. What are 3 reasons for the reduction in the pocket depth measurements? **3 points**

1.
2.
3.

NDSE Oral Medicine and/or Oral Pathology

Content

The National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) in oral medicine and/or oral pathology evaluates your knowledge and clinical competence at the specialty level.

Blueprint – Oral medicine and oral pathology

Oral medicine and oral pathology candidates are required to demonstrate competency in all the domains. The blueprint below indicates the content domains and the approximate percentage of the examination covered by each domain.

Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology - Part 1	Approximate % examination
Microscopic evaluation*	50

Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology - Part 2	Approximate % of examination
Basic medical sciences	7.5
Orofacial tissue-based disease	7.5
Clinical judgments-lesions in common**	17.5
Clinical judgements-oral medicine	17.5
Total	100%

** Lesions in common means the lesions that both Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine have in common.

Format: Oral medicine and oral pathology

The oral medicine and oral pathology examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. Part 1 consists of a practical histopathology evaluation that assesses diagnosis of surgical oral pathology tissue sections. Cytology specimens, electron micrographs, immunohistochemical and molecular histology tissue sections may be included.

Part 2 consists of a written examination comprised of short- and long-answer questions that assess knowledge of basic medical sciences and orofacial tissue-based disease, as well as case-based vignettes that assess clinical judgment in the topics of lesions in common and oral medicine.

Blueprint: Oral medicine only

Oral Medicine Blueprint - Part 1	Approximate % of examination
Basic medical sciences	15
Clinical judgements-lesions in common**	35

* Lesions in common means the lesions that both oral pathology and oral medicine have in common.

Oral Medicine Blueprint - Part 2	Approximate % of examination
Orofacial tissue-based disease	15
Clinical judgements-oral medicine	35
Total	100%

Format: Oral medicine only

The oral medicine examination will be administered in two, three-hour parts. Part 1 consists of short- and long-answer questions that assess knowledge of basic medical sciences, and case-based clinical vignettes that assess clinical judgment in the topic of lesions in common. Part 2 consists of short- and long-answer questions that assess knowledge of orofacial tissue-based disease, and case-based clinical vignettes that assess clinical judgment in the topic of oral medicine.

Blueprint: Oral pathology only

Oral Pathology Blueprint-Part 1	Approximate % of examination
Microscopic Evaluation*	50

Oral Pathology Blueprint-Part 2	Approximate % of questions
Basic Medical Sciences	7.5
Orofacial Tissue-Based Disease	7.5
Clinical Judgements-Lesions in Common**	35
Total	100%

** Lesions in common means the lesions that both Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine have in common.

Format: Oral pathology only

The oral pathology examination will consist of two, three-hour parts. Part 1 consists of a practical histopathology evaluation that assesses diagnosis of surgical oral pathology tissue sections. Cytology specimens, electron micrographs, immunohistochemical and molecular histology tissue sections may be included. Part 2 consists of a written examination comprised of short- and long-answer questions that assess knowledge of basic medical sciences and orofacial tissue-based disease, as well as case-based vignettes that assess clinical judgment in the topics of lesions in common.

Question & Answer Formats

The following samples illustrate question formats that may be found on the NDSE.

Short- and Long-Answer Questions

Sample Question 1

What 2 medications are commonly used for the treatment of [disease]? **2 points**

1.
2.

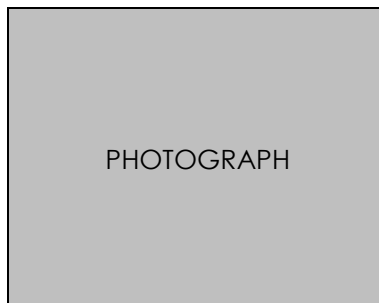
Sample question 2

Use the table below to compare diseases A and B. **12 points**

	Disease A	Disease B
Etiology		
Pathogenesis		
Clinical features		

Diagnosis		
Management		
Prognosis		

Sample question 3



Describe the biopsy procedure for this lesion and the patient management considerations for the procedure. **8 points**

Case-Based Vignettes

Sample Case 1

List 6 clinical manifestations of [disease]. **6 points**

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

List the 3 underlying mechanisms that cause [disease]. **3 points**

1.
2.
3.

Provide a classification of [disease]. **1 point**

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List 4 laboratory tests that may be used to investigate a patient suffering from [disease]. **4 points**

1.
2.
3.
4.

***Microscopic Evaluation**

The microscopic evaluation part of the examination will involve the evaluation and diagnosis of tissue sections using *Leica Aperio ImageScope* pathology slide viewing software.