

2021

Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE) Protocol

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Check-in

Prior to the examination, read [Prometric's test centre policies](#) including arrival and check-in procedures. These procedures may change at any time. It is your responsibility to know the test centre policies prior to your examination. If you do not comply with Prometric's policies, you may be refused access to the test centre.

During check-in at the Prometric test centre, you will be required to show current government issued photo identification. Acceptable forms of government issued photo identification are:

- driver's license,
- passport,
- or provincial photo identification card.

The ID must be in English or French.

Photo identification must show your name exactly as it appears on your application form 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.

During check-in, you will be scanned with a metal detector wand, fingerprinted, required to raise your pant legs above your ankles, empty and turn all pockets inside-out, and raise shirt sleeves above your wrists prior to entry into the test room.

Prometric staff will inspect eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories. These inspections will occur each time you enter the testing room.

You are advised to refrain from wearing jewelry besides wedding rings. Any other jewelry including ornate hair accessories will need to be removed and placed in the locker provided.

You will be provided with scratch paper and a pencil. These items will be collected at the end of the examination.

Format

The Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE) is a 3-hour examination with one scheduled 15-minute break. The DSCKE consists of single-answer and multi-answer multiple-choice questions. Questions may include radiographic images, photographs of models, or photographs of patients, periodontal charts, prescriptions, or a patient case history. Patient images should be viewed as if you are facing the patient.

The examination will be administered electronically at Prometric test sites. The [NDEB's e-Exam Orientation](#) should be viewed prior to taking the DSCKE.

Sample Questions

The sample questions below illustrate the formats generally used in the DSCKE.

Single Correct Answer

For questions that indicate "Select **ONE** correct answer", always choose the MOST appropriate answer for each question.

Sample Question: 1 (Select **ONE** correct answer.)

Bluish-grey discolouration of the crown of a tooth following trauma is due to

- external resorption.
- pulpal hemorrhage.
- discoloured composite restoration.
- chromogenic bacteria.

One or More Correct Answers

For questions that have one or more correct answers, indicated by the direction "Select **ONE OR MORE** correct answers", select all answers that are correct. The minimum score for any question is zero ("0"). The maximum score for any question is three ("3"). Answers may have different weights. Part marks will be awarded if some, but not all, correct answers are selected provided that no incorrect answer is selected. If an incorrect answer is selected, you will receive a zero ("0") score for the entire question.

The following is an illustration of the scoring system. The value for each answer is on the left.

Sample Question: 2 (Select **ONE OR MORE** correct answers.)

There is radiographic evidence of caries on the

Value

- 1 distal of tooth 2.3.
- 1 mesial of tooth 2.4.
- 0 distal of tooth 2.4.
- .2 mesial of tooth 2.5
- .2 distal of tooth 2.5.
- .2 mesial of tooth 2.6.

Value

- .2 distal of tooth 2.6.
- .2 mesial of tooth 2.7.
- 1 distal of tooth 2.7.
- 1 mesial of tooth 2.8.
- 0 distal of tooth 2.8.

Case History

Many questions include patient case histories in the format illustrated below.

Using the information provided, answer questions 1 to 10 on the answer score sheet.

Patient Information: Jane Doe 123 Main Street Ottawa, Ontario			
Age:	57	Blood Pressure:	130/86 mmHg
Gender:	Female	Heart Rate:	80 bpm
Height:	167 cm	Respiration Rate:	15/min
Weight:	60 kg	Temperature:	37°C
Chief Complaint:		"My front tooth hurts."	
History of Chief Complaint:		Noticed pain for the last 3 days.	
Dental History:		Irregular visits.	
Medical History:			
Significant Findings:		None.	
Current Medication:		None.	
Allergies:		None.	
Social/Family History:			
Significant Findings:		None.	
Clinical Examination:			
Significant Findings:			
Extraoral:		None.	
Intraoral:		None.	

Periodontal chart

The following represents an example of a periodontal chart that may be used. Each chart will utilize the following notation:

- The upper part of the chart denotes the findings on the vestibular (buccal and/or labial) surfaces of the teeth being discussed for the case.
- Missing teeth are denoted by a large “-”
- Probing depths, in millimetres, are listed in the next row below the tooth number.
- Recession is listed below the pocketing, in millimetres. If there is no number, there is no significant recession.
- Bleeding on probing is denoted by “•” and is listed directly below the pocket where bleeding was found.
- The middle part of the chart denotes the findings for the lingual surfaces, using the same categories as above.
- Mobility and furcation involvement apply to the entire tooth and can be found on the bottom part of the chart.
- Mobility for the tooth, if present, is listed as a “1, 2, or 3”, using the Miller classification.
- The Class (I, II, III) of furcation involvement (if present) is listed with the surface indicated (B, L, M, D).

This example is a chart of the maxillary second quadrant, with tooth 2.6 missing. The probing depths, in millimetres, are listed, going from mesial on the left, to distal on the right. In this example, there is 3 mm of recession all along the buccal of teeth 2.4 and 2.5. No other recession is noted. There is bleeding on probing on the mesiobuccal and distobuccal of teeth 2.5 and 2.7, and all along the lingual of tooth 2.7. No other bleeding is noted. Tooth 2.7 has a buccal furcation Class II and a Class 2 mobility. There are no other mobility or furcation involvements on any other teeth/surfaces.

Vestibular															
Tooth	2.3			2.4			2.5			2.6			2.7		
Probing depth	3	2	4	4	5	4	4	4	6	-	-	-	4	7	6
Recession				3	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-			
Bleeding on probing							•		•	-	-	-	•		•

Lingual															
Tooth	2.3			2.4			2.5			2.6			2.7		
Probing depth	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	3	5	-	-	-	5	5	6
Recession										-	-	-			
Bleeding on probing										-	-	-	•	•	•

Mobility															2
Furcation															B-II

Content

Blueprint

The blueprint below shows the content areas and approximate percentage of questions in each area.

DSCKE Blueprint	Approximate % of questions
Evaluation of Scientific Literature	10
Diagnostic Sciences	
Oral Radiology	10
Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology	20
Patient Management	
Prosthodontics, Periodontics, Endodontics	20
Growth and Development/Pediatric Dentistry/Oral Surgery	20
Pharmacology, Therapeutics/Local Anesthesia/Medical Emergencies	20
Total	100%

Reference Materials

Reference Texts

A list of reference materials recommended in Faculties of Dentistry in Canada can be found in the [Reference Materials and Resources](#) section of the NDEB website. The NDEB also references journal articles, clinical guidelines, and practice standards issued by specialty organizations.

Released Questions

The NDEB publishes a large number of released questions which are available in the [Reference Materials and Resources](#) section of the NDEB website.

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

Failure to comply with any regulation may result in an accusation of misconduct.

General

- You must be punctual for all sessions. If you arrive late for a session you may be denied entry to the examination.
- Cell phones are prohibited in the examination room.
- All watches are prohibited in the examination room.
- Devices with recording or transmitting and/or receiving abilities are prohibited in the examination room.
- Outerwear of any kind is not permitted in the examination room.
- You will be required to empty all pockets before entering or leaving the examination room.
- You will be required to read and agree to a Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreement before you can begin the examination. If you do not agree, you will not be able to start the examination.
- You will have one scheduled break during the examination to use the washroom. If you take an unscheduled break it will be reported to the NDEB and may be considered misconduct.
- You will not have access to your locker during the scheduled break.

Due to public health orders, the NDEB may find it necessary to introduce new regulations or modify existing regulations for specific examination administrations. Any new or modified regulations will supersede regulations published in the protocol.

Misconduct

NDEB examination content is confidential. All questions are property of the NDEB. Unauthorized disclosure of examination questions is prohibited under copyright laws.

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. You cannot attempt to recreate questions.

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 info@ndeb-bned.ca.

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

Results

The results of the DSCKE examination will be sent by email to participants and Canadian Faculties of Dentistry offering Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Programs (DSATP) normally within six weeks of the examination. Participants must notify the NDEB office of any change of email address.

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

Guidance Standard

As the DSCKE is an admission test used by DSATPs, there is no defined passing score.

The results of the DSCKE are used by Faculties of Dentistry in the admission process for the DSATP.

Rescore

You have one month from the date results are released to request a verification of your score.

NDEB staff members confirm the score produced from the electronic examination matches the score provided to the examinee. The examinee's answers are then compared to the master answer key.

Repeats

The DSCKE can be taken a maximum of two times.