Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Protocol
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Schedule

8:00 a.m.            Check-in
8:30 a.m.            Orientation
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.    Morning session
12:00 p.m.           Afternoon check-in
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.    Afternoon session

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 Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) consists of single answer and multi-answer multiple-choice questions (MCQs), as well as constructed response questions. The OSCE includes two sessions administered on the same day. Each session will include between 50-70 MCQs and one constructed response question. OSCE questions will require that you review the information provided (e.g., case history, dental charts, photographs, radiographs) and answer multiple response type questions. Each multiple response type question will have up to 15 answer options and one or more correct answers. For constructed response questions, you will be required to review the information provided and write an acceptable prescription for a medication commonly prescribed by general dentists in Canada.
Sample Questions

The following are examples of the formats generally used in the OSCE.

Case history

Many questions include a patient case history in the following format.

*Using the case history and image, answer the following question on the answer sheet.*

**Patient Information:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age:</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>Blood Pressure:</th>
<th>120/80 mmHg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Pulse Rate:</td>
<td>72 bpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height:</td>
<td>180 cm</td>
<td>Respiration Rate:</td>
<td>14/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight:</td>
<td>70 kg</td>
<td>Temperature:</td>
<td>37°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chief Complaint:**

“My dentures are loose.”

**History of Chief Complaint:**

Increasing looseness over past 2 years.

**Dental History:**

Present dentures 20 years old.

**Medical History:**

| Significant Findings: | None. |

| Current Medication:   | None. |

| Allergies:            | None. |

**Social/Family History:**

| Significant Findings: |

Smoker: ½ package/day for 20 years.

Alcohol consumption: 7 drinks/week.

**Clinical Examination:**

| Significant Findings: |

Extraoral: None.

Intraoral: See chart.
Single correct answer

Questions with a single correct answer are identified by the direction “Select ONE correct answer”. For these questions, you should select the most likely or most appropriate answer.

(Select ONE correct answer.)

Orthodontic treatment (dental and/or skeletal) for this patient

A. is not required at this time.
B. should be initiated during the primary dentition.
C. should be initiated during the early mixed dentition (after eruption of the first permanent molars and incisors).
D. should be initiated during the late mixed dentition prior to the pubertal growth spurt.
E. should be initiated immediately following the eruption of the permanent second molars.
F. should be initiated after the completion of growth.
One or more correct answers

Some examination questions will have more than one correct answer. These questions are identified by the direction “Select ONE OR MORE correct answers”.

The grade you receive on each question depends on if you select all the correct answers, some of the correct answers, or an incorrect answer. All questions have a maximum score of 1 and a minimum score of 0. Every answer in a multi-answer multiple-choice question has a value. You must select all the correct answers to receive the full mark for the question. If you select an incorrect answer, it does not matter if all your other answers are correct, you receive a score of zero.

The example below shows the responses of three different examinees and the score for each question based on their answers.

Examinee 1
(Select ONE or MORE correct answers)

There is radiographic evidence of caries on

- A. distal of tooth 2.3
- B. mesial of tooth 2.4
- C. distal of tooth 2.4
- D. mesial of tooth 2.5
- E. distal of tooth 2.5
- F. mesial of tooth 2.6
- G. distal of tooth 2.6
- H. mesial of tooth 2.7
- I. distal of tooth 2.7
- J. mesial of tooth 2.8
- K. distal of tooth 2.8

Total mark: 1

Examinee 1 has selected three answers for a total of 1 mark.
Examinee 2

(Select ONE or MORE correct answers)

There is radiographic evidence of caries on

- L. distal of tooth 2.3
- M. mesial of tooth 2.4
- N. distal of tooth 2.4
- O. mesial of tooth 2.5
- P. distal of tooth 2.5
- Q. mesial of tooth 2.6
- R. distal of tooth 2.6
- S. mesial of tooth 2.7
- T. distal of tooth 2.7
- U. mesial of tooth 2.8
- V. distal of tooth 2.8

Total mark: .6

Examinee 2 has selected two answers. They have not selected all the correct answers, so part marks are given for the question.

Examinee 3

(Select ONE or MORE correct answers)

There is radiographic evidence of caries on

- A. distal of tooth 2.3
- B. mesial of tooth 2.4
- C. distal of tooth 2.4
- D. mesial of tooth 2.5
- E. distal of tooth 2.5
- F. mesial of tooth 2.6
- G. distal of tooth 2.6
- H. mesial of tooth 2.7
- I. distal of tooth 2.7
- J. mesial of tooth 2.8
- K. distal of tooth 2.8

Total mark: 0

Examinee 3 has selected four answers. Three of the answers have a positive value, but “I” is incorrect. The examinee gets 0 for this question.
Constructed response questions

- Questions requiring a written prescription will be scored from a minimum value of zero to a maximum value of four marks.
- A blank prescription form, illustrated below, is provided.
- You must:
  - enter your NDEB ID number where indicated on the prescription form.
  - write an appropriate prescription for the patient as described in the case history.
  - NOT sign the prescription.

THE NATIONAL DENTAL EXAMINING BOARD OF CANADA

Question: NDEB ID# ____________

DOCTOR XXX XXXXX
100 ANYWHERE STREET
ANYWHERE CITY, CANADA

DATE: ______________

NAME: __________________

ADDRESS: __________________
  __________________

Rx

☐ NO REPEAT
☐ REPEAT ____ TIME(S)

SIGNATURE XXXXXXXXXX
(DO NOT SIGN PRESCRIPTION)
Grading criteria for prescriptions

A prescription submitted with no errors will receive a maximum value of four marks. You will receive a zero score if:

- your NDEB ID number is incorrect or missing.
- the prescription is signed or written in ink.
- a critical error is made, including prescribing a drug which is not available in Canada.

One mark will be given for each of the following categories if they are completed correctly:

- date/patient name/structure of prescription
- drug
- dosage
- instructions
Content

Examination items are developed based on the Competencies for a Beginning Dental Practitioner in Canada available in the How to Prepare section of the NDEB website.

Blueprint

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSCE Blueprint</th>
<th>Approximate % of Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Anesthesia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endodontics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Emergencies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Surgery</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Dentistry</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology/Therapeutics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Radiology</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removable Prosthodontics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Crowns/Operative Dentistry</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparation Materials

You are encouraged to use the resources available, including the released examination materials, on the NDEB website to prepare for the OSCE. These resources are for personal use only.

OSCE Frameworks

The sample Question and Answer Frameworks for the types of questions used in the OSCE are available in the How to Prepare section of the NDEB website. You are strongly encouraged to visit the website in preparation for the examination.

Periodontal Charts

The following represents an example of a periodontal chart that may be used in the OSCE. Each chart utilizes 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 “X.”
- 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).
The following example is a chart of the maxillary second quadrant with tooth 2.6 missing. The probing depths, in millimeters, 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 is no other mobility or furcation involvement on any other teeth/surfaces.

### Vestibular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth</th>
<th>2.3</th>
<th>2.4</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>2.6</th>
<th>2.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probing depth</td>
<td>3 2 4</td>
<td>4 5 4</td>
<td>4 4 6</td>
<td>4 7 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recession</td>
<td>3 3 3</td>
<td>3 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleeding on probing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• •</td>
<td>• •</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lingual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth</th>
<th>2.3</th>
<th>2.4</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>2.6</th>
<th>2.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probing depth</td>
<td>2 2 2</td>
<td>3 4 4</td>
<td>4 3 5</td>
<td>5 5 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recession</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• •</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleeding on probing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• •</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reference Texts

A list of reference materials recommended in Faculties of Dentistry in Canada can be found in the How to Prepare 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 volume of released questions which are available in the How to Prepare 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FDI</th>
<th>Universal</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRIMARY DENTITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FDI</th>
<th>Universal</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training Courses

The NDEB is aware of third-party providers of test preparation courses. Be advised that the NDEB is not affiliated with, nor does it endorse any third-party providers of test preparation courses. The disclosure, distribution, solicitation and reconstruction of NDEB examination content is strictly prohibited, as is the use for commercial purposes of NDEB examination content, including the released examination material on the NDEB website.

Examination Confidentiality, Security, and Integrity

All NDEB content, including examination content, is the property of the NDEB. Unauthorized use, disclosure, reproduction and publication of NDEB content is against the law and is strictly prohibited.

The NDEB has implemented security policies and measures to preserve the confidentiality and integrity of its examination content. These measures are in place to eliminate any unfair advantage among examinees and avoid the high costs associated with replacing compromised examination content.

See the NDEB’s Intellectual Property Statement for more information on how the NDEB protects and enforces its rights.
Misconduct

All NDEB content, including examination content, is for personal use only. Any other use of NDEB content is strictly prohibited. Examples of prohibited use of NDEB content include but are not limited to receiving from or disclosing NDEB content, reproducing (through memorization or by any other means), and publishing any NDEB content in whole or in part. Conduct that compromises the confidentiality and integrity of the NDEB’s processes and examinations will be investigated and is subject to the NDEB’s By-laws regarding misconduct.

Additional information on misconduct can be found on the NDEB website.
Examination Day Regulations

This is a closed book examination. No study aids are permitted in the examination room. Failure to comply with any regulation may result in an accusation of misconduct.

- You must be punctual for all sessions. If you arrive late, you may be denied entry to the examination.
- Cell phones are prohibited while taking the exam. They must be turned off and placed in the designated area for personal items.
- All watches are prohibited while taking the exam. They must be turned off and placed in the designated area for personal items.
- Devices with recording or transmitting and/or receiving abilities are prohibited in the examination room.
- You must not wear a hat, hood, coat, hoodie with the hood up, scarf covering the head, or bulky clothing (except where same constitutes religious attire).
- 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.
- 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 have magnification for examinations that contain images. Magnification with lights will not be allowed.
- Your NDEB ID card must always be visible.
- You cannot write on anything other than the materials provided by the NDEB.
- 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, including a bag or purse into the washroom.
- 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.
- You must stop writing when directed by the Test Administrator.

It may be necessary for the NDEB to introduce new regulations or modify existing regulations for specific examination administrations. Any new or modified regulations will supersede regulations published in the protocol.
On Exam 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 always be visible.
- Do not talk to other examinees.
- Do not open your exam booklet.

**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 share specific test items with examinees, potential examinees, study groups, or anyone else.
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.

Exceptional Circumstances: Withdrawals, Compassionate Appeals, and Conduct of the Examination

Withdrawals

If, before the examination, you experience a serious medical circumstance or unanticipated exceptional circumstance beyond your control you must withdraw from the examination. Notice of such a withdrawal should be provided in writing using the Withdrawal form before the examination if possible, but no later than seven days following the examination. If applicable, supporting documentation must accompany the submission.

More information can be found in the NDEB By-laws.

Compassionate Appeals

If you believe you have been prevented from demonstrating your ability because of a serious medical circumstance or unanticipated medical circumstance during the examination, you can submit a compassionate appeal to have the results of the examination voided. Compassionate appeals must be submitted using the Compassionate Appeal Request form within seven days of the examination.

More information can be found on the NDEB website and in the NDEB By-laws.

Conduct of an Examination

If, during the examination, you believe there may have been an irregularity or inconsistency in the conduct of the examination that prevented you from demonstrating your ability, it must be immediately reported to staff at the examination centre.

Should you want to submit an appeal based on the reported irregularity or inconsistency, it must be submitted in writing within seven days of the examination using the Appeal of the Conduct of an Examination Form.

More information is available in the NDEB By-laws.
Results

Results are normally released within 10 weeks of 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 equated re-scaled score.

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

Passing Standard

To assure a consistent level of difficulty, the NDEB uses test equating and re-scaling procedures to correlate raw scores to scores on a reference examination and to a standardized passing score of 75.

You must obtain a minimum test equated, re-scaled score of 75 to be successful on an NDEB examination.

Information on test equating and re-scaling is available on the NDEB website.

Appeals and Rescoring

If you receive a failing grade, you have one month from the date results are released to request a manual rescore.

A manual rescore involves two NDEB staff members comparing the answers on your answer sheet with the master answer key. The result of the manual rescore will be the final score. In most circumstances, this process confirms that no errors occurred during the scanning and electronic scoring process.

In no case will you have access to your answer score sheets or examination questions.

Repeats

The OSCE can be taken a maximum of three times.