



National Examining Board for Dental Nurses

NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing OSCE Examination information

Prior to the OSCE examination candidates are given a briefing by the Super Coordinator. This takes place 30 minutes before the start of the examination.

Candidates should be wearing their candidate ID badge in the briefing; this is to ensure that the Examiners can check the details against their pre-printed mark sheets.

At the start of the briefing, candidates will be informed that they are under 'exam conditions' and must not talk to other candidates. The Super Coordinator will read through the briefing notes and then Candidates have 20 minutes to read through the booklet. Candidates are not allowed to take notes during this time or discuss the content of the booklets. All booklets are collected in *before* candidates are allowed to leave the holding room.

Candidates are under exam conditions from the start of the briefing which means no talking or communicating in any way with other candidates.

Candidates must not take mobile phones or any similar electronic device into the examination room. These items must be switched off and left in the designated area. Any candidate who is found to be in possession of a mobile phone or similar electronic device after the start of the examination will be removed from the examination.

The OSCE examination consists of 10 Stations. There are no rest stations.

Candidates are required to carry out a task for every station with a defined amount of time per station to complete each task.

There are clear instructions pinned up outside each station. The instructions are also available inside each station. It is important to read the instructions carefully as they will describe precisely the task that is to be completed.

Candidates will start at an allocated station and rotate around the circuit until every station is visited.

When entering the examination room, candidate will see quite a few people. As this is a practical assessment, there are a number of Helpers who re-set the stations in between candidates. There are also Examiners, actors, and other members of the examination team, in addition to candidates.

Once the examination begins, the examination room is not silent. This is a practical assessment and there are some 'communication' stations, so some background noise is normal.

When all candidates are at their starting station, a bell will ring to indicate the start of the 1 minute in which they have to read the candidate instructions. Another bell will ring to indicate the start of your OSCE station. At the end of the allotted time a bell will ring to indicate the end of the station. Candidates will be guided to the next station by a Helper or an Examiner and the cycle starts again.

If candidates finish a station early, they will be asked to stay in or just outside the station. They must not move on until the bell rings to signal the end of that station.

As this is a timed assessment, if candidates wish to leave the room once the examination begins they will be allowed to do so but will miss stations whilst they are out of the room. They cannot go back to the station they were on when they left the room, as time will have moved on.

If a candidate feels unwell they should let the examiner or a helper know.

If a candidate requires a drink during the OSCE, whilst sat outside the station they should make it known to a member of staff who will provide one.

At most stations, the candidate's performance will be observed and marked by an Examiner. However, some stations will be 'unstaffed' – this means that an Examiner will not be present. In these stations the candidate will be presented with questions to be answered onto an answer sheet. Candidates must remember to write their name and candidate number on the answer sheet otherwise it cannot be marked. The candidate number is printed on the name badge.

Candidates are allowed to verbally describe the activities as they are carrying them out but they must physically conduct the task. For example they can describe what the instruments are used for but they must select the appropriate instruments as well.

There are stations in which an actor will be playing a role. The actor's role will be made clear to the candidate in each of the relevant candidate instructions. In these stations, an Examiner will also be present to observe and mark performance. The actor should be treated as you would do a real patient in your workplace.

Examiners may say 'hello' or 'goodbye' but they will not communicate any further with you *unless* the station instructions clearly asks the candidate to speak to the Examiner as part of the task.

If candidates get stuck, or do not understand what they need to do at a station, it might be helpful to read the instructions again.

If a prop or PPE is present in a station then it is there to be used, as you would do at work. Photographs are also sometimes used instead of a real item, instrument or piece of equipment.

Once the examination is over, please note that exam conditions still apply until the candidate has collected their belongings and left the centre.

When candidates have left the exam centre, they should not be tempted to post details about the exam on social media sites. This would be unfair to other candidates and these actions may be viewed as unprofessional. As a qualified or a trainee dental nurse, there are professional standards to uphold so candidates need to be careful about what they post.

At the end of the exam today, NEBDN ask candidates to complete a short questionnaire. NEBDN is keen to explore the candidates OSCE experience and also get some feedback on the way the candidate has been prepared for the assessment.