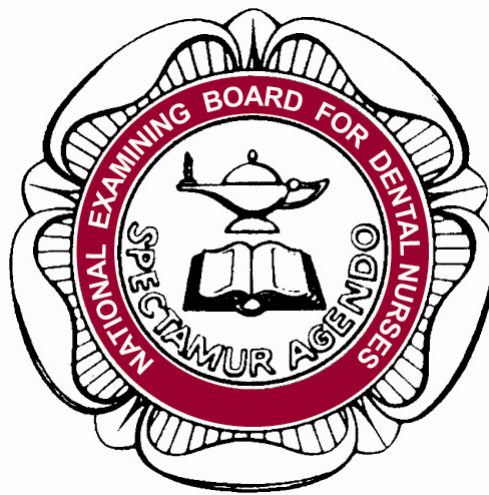# NATIONAL EXAMINING BOARD FOR DENTAL NURSES

NATIONAL DIPLOMA

IN

DENTAL NURSING

DIPLOMA EXAMINATION GUIDANCE

Introduction

The NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing is an exciting development in the way dental nurses are being examined for entry to the GDC register.

The aim of the Diploma examination is to assess knowledge and decision making to demonstrate that the candidates understanding and competency shows that they are safe to practice as a dental care professional.

Changes to the examination are designed to make the qualification acceptable to the GDC for registration and also to bring it into the current educational best practice environment. New assessment criteria have been developed for the examination which is split into two parts.

The first part consists of a written paper containing a mixture of Single Best Answer questions in the form of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQs).

The second part of the examination consists of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) which is designed to assess the candidate's clinical skills and competencies.

The new curriculum is based on the GDC registration requirements and sets out the knowledge, skills and behavioural requirements that should be developed and demonstrated.

The full curriculum can be found at www.nebdn.org

The curriculum shows how different sections can be tested using a variety of assessment methods, i.e., Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), Extended Matching Questions (EMQs), Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), Record of Experience (RoE). Some sections will show more than one possible assessment method and, therefore, these might be tested in a variety of ways.

This handbook contains important guidance on the new examination format and includes:

1. Information on the written examination, with sample questions
2. A guide to the MCQ and EMQ answer sheets
3. Guidance Notes for the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations

Any candidate preparing for the NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing should read this guidance in full.

NEBDN would like to wish you every success in the examination and in your career as a Dental Nurse.

Information on the Written Examination Format

This document provides information to Course Providers and candidates on how to approach the written section of the NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing examination.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

The style of MCQ has the full title of 1 from 5 single best answer MCQ. They are written as follows:

- The question itself is usually two or three sentences long;
- Typically, the first sentence introduces the topic of the question;
- The final sentence usually asks a specific question based on the information given;
- They are designed to test the application of the relevant knowledge;
- Key words or phrases are not highlighted;
- There are always five answer options;
- Only one of those five will be the 'best', and therefore the correct, answer. Other options are not necessarily completely wrong, but there will always be one option that is clearly better than the others;
- The options to each question are always homologous – of the same form (so, all micro-organisms, all periodontal instruments, all filling materials, and so on);
- They are always set out alphabetically or numerically in ascending order.

As the question style always follows the same pattern, it is not possible for candidates to 'work out by elimination' or 'guess' the correct answer – they must have the relevant knowledge and the understanding to be able to apply it to the scenario of the question. Only then can the single best answer be identified.

Similarly, as a logical alphabetical or numerical order is always followed in the answers, the correct answer cannot be determined by seeing how many times, say, option d) has been an answer, and therefore not choosing it again.

The single best answer will be at whichever option letter it falls at alphabetically or numerically. So it is theoretically possible, for example, for an examination to have an option in the same position (such as option d) as the correct answer for almost every question asked, if the correct answer happens to fall at the position of option d) alphabetically or numerically.

Candidates mark their single answer choice on an optical marking sheet which will be computer marked. For each question, they indicate the answer they have chosen by making a horizontal line in a small box representing the relevant option. Only one box must be filled in, otherwise the computer will reject that question. Similarly, the box must be filled in horizontally – drawing a circle around it or marking an answer option with a cross will also cause the computer to reject that question.

If a candidate needs to change an answer, they must erase the incorrect one thoroughly (not cross it out) otherwise the computer will reject the answer sheet.

Below are three examples of the 1 from 5 single best answer MCQs used in the NEBDN National Diploma examination:

MCQ Example 1

A gingivectomy procedure is to be carried out on an epileptic patient. The technique will involve the removal of hyperplastic gingival tissue from the buccal side of the upper left premolar teeth. Which one of the following nerves must be anaesthetised to allow the procedure to be carried out painlessly?

    a) Greater palatine nerve
    b) Inferior dental nerve
    c) Long buccal nerve
    d) Middle superior dental nerve
    e) Posterior superior dental nerve

The correct answer is d)

The question clearly states that only the buccal gingivae of the upper premolar teeth will be involved in the procedure, so the nerve supplying this area simply needs identifying from the options listed. Only the middle superior dental nerve is relevant to the question.

MCQ Example 2

In patients suffering from chronic periodontitis, both supragingival calculus and subgingival calculus may be present at the same time. Which one of the following options is a periodontal instrument that is used specifically to remove subgingival calculus:

    a) Curette
    b) Jaquette scaler
    c) Push scaler
    d) Sickle scaler
    e) Ultrasonic scaler

The correct answer is a)

The question asks for the instrument that is used specifically to remove subgingival calculus. Although an ultrasonic scaler can be used for this purpose, it is not specifically so, and can be used to remove supragingival calculus too. All of the other options listed are used to remove supragingival calculus only; therefore option a) is the single best answer.

MCQ Example 3

Various regulations and legislations apply to the safe running of dental workplaces. Which one of the following options applies to the COSHH regulations?

    a) Accidents at work
    b) Chemicals
    c) Fire extinguishers

d) Pressure vessels
e) Radiation hazards

The correct answer is b)

The candidate must know what COSHH stands for, and is relevant to, before being able to choose the single best answer from the options list.

Extended Matching Questions (EMQs)

This style of question follows a similar layout to the MCQ in some respects.

Usually, each options list has several questions (a question set) attached to it. Occasionally, though, there may be just one question for an option list.

The EMQ style questions are written as follows:

- The topic covered by the question set is stated, to help focus the candidate's thoughts;
- A lead-in statement is then given which explains what the candidate is required to do, and how many options they are required to choose from the list, for each question. Usually, candidates are required to select just one option. If more than one option is required, this will always be clearly stated;
- The option list is then given, and it will usually contain a minimum of eight options;
- The items on each option list are always homologous – of the same form (so all surgical instruments, all micro-organisms, and so on);
- They are always set out alphabetically or numerically in ascending order;
- The questions are set out as several sentences giving a detailed scenario;
- The question might also include a photograph, radiograph, diagram etc.;
- They are designed to test analytical and reasoning skills, as well as requiring a detailed and concise application of knowledge;
- Key words or phrases are not highlighted;
- Each topical option list usually has several questions set to it, but sometimes there is only one.

The candidate is required to understand the question and apply detailed knowledge to be able to identify the correct answer(s) from the option list.

Below are two different examples of a question set, each to its own option list, of the EMQ style of question used in the NEBDN National Diploma examination:

EMQ Example 1

Topic: Dental Pathology

For each of the following dental pathology questions, select the single most appropriate micro-organism from the option list. Each option might be used once, more than once, or not at all.

a) Bacillus fusiformis
b) Candida albicans

c) Coxsackie virus
d) Epstein-Barr virus
e) Herpes simplex
f) Paramyxovirus
g) Porphyromonas gingivalis
h) Staphylococcus aureus
i) Streptococcus mutans

1. An eighteen year old patient attends the surgery as an emergency, complaining of severe gingival pain and halitosis. He admits to being a smoker, and brushing his teeth only once every few days. On examination, his oral hygiene is very poor and his gingivae are swollen and sloughing at the papillae. The dentist diagnoses acute necrotising ulcerative gingivitis. Which one of the options listed is a micro-organism associated with this condition?

   The correct answer is a)

   The clinical scenario describes the signs and symptoms of the condition, and then states the disease that is present. The candidate must then apply their knowledge of micro-organisms that cause this condition, and locate it from the option list. With a more extensive option list, the lead-in statement could ask for two appropriate micro-organisms from the list, making it a harder question still.

   Alternatively, the name of the disease diagnosed can be left out of the question, so that the candidate then has to determine it from the signs and symptoms themselves, before being able to choose the correct option from the list – again, this would then become a harder question still.

2. Many adult patients suffer from chronic periodontitis, especially those with risk factors such as smoking and certain medical conditions. Research has discovered that there are many different micro-organisms involved in this condition, some occur in most patients and others are less often found. Which one of the options listed is one of the micro-organisms linked to chronic periodontal disease?

   The correct answer is g)

   As the question stem states, there are many micro-organisms that have been linked to chronic periodontal disease, but the only one listed as an option is Porphyromonas gingivalis. Others include Actinomyces species, Prevotella intermedia, and Treponema denticola.

   Again, if any of these had been added to the option list, the question could have asked for more than one choice to be stated, making the question harder.

EMQ Example 2

The following example shows a style of questioning that requires analysis and reasoning by the candidate:

Topic: Oral Health Advice and Procedures

For each of the following oral health scenarios, select the single most appropriate point

of advice or instruction from the option list. Each option might be used once, more than once, or not all.

   a) Advice on toothbrushing
   b) Apicectomy
   c) Completion of a diet sheet
   d) Disclosing tablet use
   e) Flossing instruction
   f) Fluoride tablet use
   g) Fluoride toothpaste use
   h) Gingivectomy
   i) Prophylaxis polishing
   j) Reduce acid intake
   k) Reduce sugar intake
   l) Subgingival scaling
   m) Supragingival scaling
   n) Tooth restoration with amalgam filling
   o) Tooth restoration with crown

1. A twenty three year old female office assistant attended the practice with a chipped tooth, which had happened the previous evening at a local bar. She complained of general tooth sensitivity to cold foods and drinks for the past few months, and was concerned that her teeth were 'crumbling' despite her low sugar diet regime.

   On examination, the dentist discovered a minimal incisal edge chip of the lower left central incisor which required smoothing only. There were no cavities and the teeth had clean shiny enamel generally. Which one of the options listed is the most likely advice to be given to this patient?

   The correct answer is j)

   The candidate must analyse the information given in the question, to determine the following points:

   Clean, shiny enamel with thinning incisal edges is a classic sign of acid erosion. The general sensitivity of the teeth has been produced by the gradual thinning and stripping away of the enamel surface layers, so that the pulp tissue is more easily thermally stimulated.

2. A thirty five year old male attended the practice with a painless sinus associated with the upper right central incisor, which had been present intermittently for several months. He complained of an occasional bad taste and tenderness over the tooth.

   On examination, the dentist noted the tooth had a firm and well-fitting crown present, and a radiograph showed the presence of a post in the root filled tooth. Which one of the options listed is the procedure most likely to be recommended for this patient?

   The correct answer is b)

   The candidate must analyse the information given in the question, to determine

the following points:

The tooth is already root filled and the canal is sealed with a post crown restoration. Recurrent infection has occurred at the apex of the tooth, which can be successfully managed by an apicectomy procedure. The alternatives would be to remove the post crown and re-root fill the tooth (so requiring a new post crown), or to extract the tooth.

A guide to the MCQ and EMQ answer sheets

Part 1 of the NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing examination consists of two kinds of questions. These are 1 from 5 single best answer Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQs).

This guide is to help you to understand how to fill in the optical marking answer sheets for MCQs and EMQs.

It is important that you fill in the answer sheet correctly because it is marked by a computer.

Incorrectly completed answer sheets will be rejected by the computer.

It is also important to understand that the question paper itself will not be marked. Only the answer sheets will be marked. Therefore, you must make sure that you have put all your answers onto the answer sheets.

This guide explains how to do this.

You should remember that in this examination you get 1 mark for every correct answer. This is the same for MCQs and EMQs - every correct answer gains one mark. Incorrect answers get no marks, but marks are not deducted for an incorrect answer (negative marking).

It is important to use a PENCIL (not a pen) to fill in the answer sheets. If you make a mistake or want to change an answer you have entered you must rub out the wrong answer - do not cross it out and write in the correct one.

The answer sheets are pre-printed with your name, your NEBDN candidate number, your examination date and your examination centre. You should check that these details are correct before the examination begins.

Now let's see how to fill in the answers on the answer sheets:

MCQs

There is a sample of an MCQ answer sheet on page10.

There are 75 MCQs in the examination and you should aim to spend about one hour answering these.

Each MCQ briefly describes a situation and then asks a question about it. You select the best answer from a list of five options.

You will see from the sample MCQ answer sheet that the questions are set out in groups of five. This is to make it easier for you to fill in the sheet.

Each question number has 5 boxes to the right of it, labelled a, b, c, d, and e. You mark the box that corresponds to your answer to each question, so, for example:

If you think the answer to question 1 is option c, then you would mark across box 'c' in pencil.

If you think the answer to question 2 is option a, then you would mark across box 'a' in pencil.

Mark the correct answer for each question in the same way, for all 75 MCQs.

EMQs

There is a sample of an EMQ answer sheet on page 11.

There are 50 EMQs in the examination and you should aim to spend up to one and a half hours answering these.

The EMQ answer sheets are very similar to the MCQ answer sheets. However, you will notice two differences:

Questions are not all grouped in 5s (as on the MCQ answer sheet). For example, on the sample EMQ answer sheet on page 11, questions 83 and 84 are grouped as a pair. Questions 98 and 99 are also a pair. However, you will see that questions 76 to 79 are together as a group of 4. This is because the questions in each group all have the same option list. So, for example, questions 83 and 84 are both answered from the same option list.

You will also notice that all of the EMQs have option lists that have more than 5 options. Questions 76 to 79 have a list of 9 options (a to i); questions 80 to 82 have a list containing 6 options (a to f). Further down the page, questions 88 to 92 are all answered from the same list of 14 options (a to n).

In EMQs each option might be used once, more than once, or not at all. This means that it is possible for more than one question in a group to have the same answer.

Exam Technique

It is advisable to decide on your answer to each question and enter it onto the answer sheet straight away.

Don't forget that you can go back and change an answer, as long as you have time. If you do wish to change an answer, remember to erase the wrong one thoroughly – do not cross out the wrong answer or the computer will reject your answer sheet.

Also, remember that you do not lose a mark for an incorrect answer, so aim to answer as many questions as you possibly can.

You have two and a half hours to complete the written examination. You should aim to spend about one hour answering the MCQs and up to one and a half hours answering the EMQs.

Exam Conduct

1. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator will instruct candidates when to begin writing at the start of the examination session. Candidates should not begin writing until instructed to do so. Candidates must stop writing at the end of the examination when similarly instructed.

2. Except at the discretion of the Presiding Examiner, no candidate shall be allowed to enter an examination room later or to leave an examination room earlier than 30 minutes after the beginning of a session.

3. No candidate will be allowed to take into the examination room or have in their possession during an examination any notes, books or other reference material. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator has the authority to confiscate such documents.

4. Candidates must not take into the examination room, or have in their possession during an examination, any radio or audio equipment or mobile telephone.

5. Candidates must not take into the examination any electronic calculator or other means of data storage or retrieval.

6. Candidates are allowed a small bottle of water for consumption during the examination provided that no disturbance is caused to other candidates. Except with the written consent of the Board, no other items of food or drink may be taken into the examination room and the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator has authority to confiscate unauthorised items until the examination has ended.

7. Candidates must not take any examination papers from the examination.

8. Candidates must not communicate with any other candidates during the examination.

9. Candidates must not leave their places during the examination except with the permission of the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator. In case of a problem candidates must raise their hand to attract the attention of the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator.

10. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator will not be able to read or explain any questions.

11. A candidate who acts in such a way as to disturb or inconvenience other candidates will be dismissed from the examination by the Presiding Examiner or Invigilator.

12. Where applicable, candidates attending a written examination must comply with the safety requirements of the room in which the examination is being held.

13. The Presiding Examiner or Invigilator shall report to the Board any breach of these Rules and shall inform the candidate that such a report is to be made.

If a candidate is found in breach of Rules 3, 4, 5 and 11 they will be dismissed from the examination and a report of their conduct forwarded to the General Dental Council.

Dress Code

Candidates are not required to wear their clinical uniform for the written paper and they should wear clothing they feel comfortable wearing.

SAMPLE of MCQ Answer Sheet

Candidate ID: <<Reference>>

Surname: <<Surname>>

Forename: <<Forename>>

Exam Date: <<Exam Date>>

Session: <<Session>>

Exam Centre Number: <<ExamCentreNo>>

Exam Centre Name: <<ExamCentre>>

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS
. Use HB pencil only
. Mark like this: ▬
. Please do NOT tick, cross or circle

MCQ Exam

Candidate NEBDN Number

-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
-1-	-1-	-1-	-1-	-1-
-2-	-2-	-2-	-2-	-2-
-3-	-3-	-3-	-3-	-3-
-4-	-4-	-4-	-4-	-4-
-5-	-5-	-5-	-5-	-5-
-6-	-6-	-6-	-6-	-6-
-7-	-7-	-7-	-7-	-7-
-8-	-8-	-8-	-8-	-8-
-9-	-9-	-9-	-9-	-9-

1 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   21 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   41 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   61 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
2 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   22 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   42 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   62 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
3 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   23 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   43 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   63 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
4 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   24 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   44 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   64 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
5 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   25 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   45 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   65 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-

6 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   26 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   46 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   66 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
7 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   27 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   47 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   67 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
8 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   28 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   48 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   68 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
9 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   29 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   49 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   69 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
10 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   30 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   50 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   70 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-

11 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   31 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   51 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   71 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
12 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   32 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   52 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   72 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
13 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   33 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   53 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   73 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
14 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   34 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   54 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   74 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
15 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   35 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   55 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   75 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-

16 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   36 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   56 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
17 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   37 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   57 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
18 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   38 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   58 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
19 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   39 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   59 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-
20 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   40 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-   60 -a- -b- -c- -d- -e-

SAMPLE of EMQ Answer Sheet

National Examining Board for Dental Nurses

EMQ Exam

Candidate ID: <<Reference>>

Surname: <<Surname>>

Forename: <<Forename>>

Exam Date: <<ExamDate>>

Session: <<Session>>

Exam Centre Number: <<ExamCentreNo>>

Exam Centre Name: <<ExamCentre>>

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS
. Use HB pencil only
. Mark like this: ▬
. Please do NOT tick, cross or circle

Candidate NEBDN Number

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) Guidance Notes

Professional appearance and behaviour will be assessed during the OSCEs, so it is important that candidates understand how they will be assessed on the day.

Practical Assessment

The OSCE is designed to assess the candidate's skills, competencies, and practical application of knowledge of various clinical situations.

The OSCE will consist of a circuit of approximately 17 OSCE stations and each station will last for five minutes. Two of the stations will be rest stations where the candidate will be provided with refreshments. Depending on their place in the rotation, a candidate might begin or end their OSCE circuit at a rest station.

At each station the candidate will be required to undertake either a practical or a paper-based task. These tasks are linked to a competency within one or more of the four domains of the NEBDN Diploma Curriculum. A typical OSCE station consists of a clinical vignette and instructions for the candidate to complete the task. Candidates will have one minute to read instructions describing the required task before entering the OSCE station. The instructions usually only contain a few lines of text.

Most OSCE stations will include an Examiner whose role is to assess the candidate carrying out the task. Examiners will be observing and completing a set Mark Sheet as the candidate performs the task. Examiners will not enter into dialogue with candidates but will check the candidate's name and NEBDN number. Candidates will be provided with an ID badge during registration.

Candidates are allowed to verbally describe their actions if they want to, but are not usually required to do this.

In some OSCE stations candidates will be required to interact with an actor who will be simulating a specific role (for example, the role of a patient).

There may also be one or more observers in OSCE stations for Quality Assurance purposes. Any observers will be merely looking at the process of the OSCE and will therefore have no impact on the marking of a candidate.

If a candidate completes the task within the five minutes allowed they will be asked to wait outside the station until it is time to move to the next station.

Candidates will be given a handbook containing copies of the OSCE instructions during the candidate briefing prior to the examination and will be given time to read through each of the instructions. **Any candidate found discussing the contents of the handbook could be excluded from the examination.** The handbook will be collected from all candidates prior to starting the OSCEs.

Example OSCE Station

The following is an example of the type of OSCE station against which candidates may be assessed:

Oral health advice (partial denture)

Candidate instructions

This patient has just been fitted with his/her first partial denture. Please give them appropriate oral health advice, particularly with regard to oral hygiene, wearing and cleaning the denture.

An Examiner will observe you and award marks on your competency. The Examiner will not interact with you while you are undertaking your task.

OSCE Exam conduct

1. Candidates shall not commence the OSCE until instructed to do so by the Presiding Examiner. Candidates must stop the OSCE when instructed.

2. No candidate shall be allowed to enter an examination room late or to leave an examination room early.

3. No candidate will be allowed to take into the examination room or have in their possession during an examination any notes, books or other reference material. The Presiding Examiner has the authority to confiscate such documents.

4. Candidates must not take into the examination room, or have in their possession during an examination, any radio or audio equipment or mobile telephone. The Presiding Examiner has the authority to confiscate such equipment until the examination has ended.

5. Candidates must not take into the examination any electronic calculator or other means of data storage or retrieval. The Presiding Examiner has the authority to confiscate such equipment until the examination has ended.

6. Candidates must not take any foods or drinks into the examination. There will be two rest stations as part of the OSCE circuit, providing refreshments.

7. Candidates must not take any equipment, materials, or papers from the examination.

8. Candidates will be issued with an ID badge during registration. Candidates must wear their ID badge throughout the examination.

9. Candidates must not communicate with any other candidates during the examination.

10. The Examiner will not be able to read or explain any of the OSCEs. However, the OSCE assessing charting skills uses an MP3 player. If this piece of equipment becomes faulty then the examiner will read out the charting details for the candidate.

11. A candidate who disturbs or inconveniences other candidates shall be warned and may be removed from the examination by the Presiding Examiner.

12. Candidates must comply with the safety requirements of the room in which the examination is being held.

If a candidate is found in breach of Rules 3, 4, or 5 they will be dismissed from the examination and a report of their conduct forwarded to the General Dental Council.

OSCE Examination Dress Code

Candidates will be assessed on their professional appearance and behaviour. Therefore **all Candidates need to wear their clinical uniform** and comply with the following:

1. Candidates should wear clinical clothing throughout OSCE assessments and should look clean and tidy with a good standard of personal hygiene. Clothes / clinical uniform should be free from obvious dirt and stains.

2. Hair should be clean and tidy. Hair that falls below the collar should be secured away from the face in a style that does not need constant re-adjusting. Facial hair must be kept short, neatly trimmed or tidily secured.

3. Only discreet tattoos should be visible. If offence could occur due to the design or style of any tattoo, it should be completely covered.

4. Nails should be clean and well-manicured. Candidates must have nails which are clean and unvarnished. False nails are not permitted.

5. No jewellery should be worn except plain wedding bands. Candidates should wear no more than one pair of discreet plain ear studs and no more than one discreet nose stud.

6. Footwear should be clean and in good repair; enclose the whole foot and be plain. Open toe shoes or sandals are not permitted.

7. To facilitate the assessment of non-verbal communication skills and interaction with the examiner, NEBDN reserves the right to require candidates to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face.

END