



Licence in Dental Surgery

Part 3 Candidate Guidance

What does the exam test?

All parts of the LDS exam assess the outcomes in the GDC's *Safe Practitioner Framework*. To pass the exam, you will need to demonstrate these outcomes at the level of a safe Day One BDS qualified dentist.

You should first make sure you are familiar the **LDS Syllabus** on our website, which shows which learning outcomes can be assessed in the Part 3. The exam will assess a range of these outcomes but may not assess every outcome.

The LDS Part 3 exam tests a combination of clinical skills that would be needed to manage one treatment session for three dental patients. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Practical dental procedures including management of complications that may be of a medical or dental nature. The practical dental procedures may include, but are not limited to:
 - tooth preparation for indirect restorations
 - provisional restorations
 - direct restorations
 - endodontic procedures
 - minimally invasive techniques
 - clinical procedures during removable partial denture provision
 - non-surgical periodontal treatment
 - minor oral surgery procedures
- Interpretation of data
- Clinical judgement and decision making
- Communication with laboratories
- Professionalism
- Health and safety, including occupational health
- Manual dexterity

The Part 3 PCS examination is a simulated clinical examination, not a mechanistic test of practical ability. The test requires you to make clinical decisions based on the information provided, then carry out appropriate clinical procedures.

In addition, all rules and regulations applicable to a live patient being treated in a dental surgery apply. You **must** pay attention to health and safety, infection control, working posture, etc. These areas are assessed in addition to the practical exercises that must be completed and candidates who do not demonstrate appropriate health and safety, infection control or working posture may fail the exam.

The standard expected of a passing candidate is a just competent, safe Day One BDS qualified dentist who meets and demonstrates the learning outcomes in the *Safe Practitioner Framework*.

What does the exam look like on the day?

The LDS Part 3 takes place in a dedicated Clinical Skills Laboratory, like the one in the photo below. You will be sent full directions and instructions about the venue and where to register once your place on the exam has been confirmed.



You will be asked to arrive at the venue approximately one hour before the start of the exam.

You will have up to **20 minutes** before the examination begins to familiarise yourself with the equipment and setup of the laboratory.

You will be sent a link to a **candidate briefing video** before the exam day, and one of the examiners will also go through this with all candidates before the exam begins.

The examination lasts a total of **180 minutes**. You will be provided with a booklet that provides you with the instructions and all information required to complete the cases. You will have **10**

minutes to read the booklet before the examination begins. This is **in addition** to the 20 minutes familiarisation time.

You will then have **140 minutes** to complete Cases A and B, and your work (called ‘artefacts’) will be collected and marked by expert examiners after the examination has ended. You may use the time allotted for Case A and Case B **flexibly** i.e., it is up to you how to manage your time between the cases and their exercises.

Case C is observed and marked by an expert examiner as you are carrying out the tasks. It lasts **40 minutes** and you will either complete it before or after attempting Cases A and B. You will be told on the morning of the examination whether you will sit Case C before or after Cases A and B.

You will not be able to go back to Cases A and B once the 140 allocated minutes have elapsed; likewise you will not be able to go back to Case C once the 40 allocated minutes have elapsed.

An **example** of the examination timetable is below but this may change depending on the day and examination venue.

Time	Candidate group 1	Candidate group 2
08:30	Familiarisation with dental manikin station	Familiarisation with dental manikin station
08:50	Read candidate booklet and tasks	Read candidate booklet and tasks
09:00	Cases A and B (140 mins)	Case C (Observed, 40 mins / 4-5 exercises)
09:40		Cases A and B (140 mins)
11:20	Case C (Observed, 40 mins / 4-5 exercises)	
12:00	End of examination	End of examination

What materials do I need for the exam?

All instruments and materials required for the LDS Part 3 will be provided for you, except for **safety goggles** and **magnification devices** which you should bring yourself.

You will **not** be able to bring any other instruments or materials, and you will not be able to request supplementary instruments in addition to those provided. This is to ensure that all candidates complete the examination using the same equipment and materials.

Instruments provided may include but are not limited to the following. You should make sure that you are familiar with these.

- A selection of standard dental instruments
- A restorative kit including slow and fast hand pieces
- A selection of burs appropriate for the task e.g. diamond and steel burs of suitable sizes and shapes, both fast and slow
- A selection of endodontic instruments and materials
- Impression materials, e.g. silicones (light, medium, heavy body and putty)
- Impression trays and adhesives
- Temporary crown fabrication materials
- Curing light
- Rubber dam kit
- Waxes
- Writing utensils

What should I wear for the exam?

You should wear **clinical attire**.

You should bring your own safety goggles and magnification devices if required

PPE (facemasks, gloves and aprons) will be provided, and you do not need to bring these with you

How can I prepare for this exam?

The LDS Part 3 is a simulation of clinical practice and so you should ensure that you are familiar with the clinical skills needed to manage patients in the UK.

You should ensure that you are familiar with all of the knowledge, skills and behaviours in the *Safe Practitioner Framework* and are able to demonstrate these outcomes at the level of a safe Day One BDS qualified dentist.

If you hold a valid registration outside of the UK, you may choose to practise clinical dentistry as a way of preparing.

If you cannot do this, you may find it helpful to observe clinical practitioners to ensure that you understand the UK standards of practice.

You will need to make sure you are familiar with UK clinical guidelines and standards to inform your clinical choices and practices. You will be required to have knowledge of UK regulations and clinical guidelines relevant to safe clinical practice.

Some candidates find preparatory courses useful, but we are unable to recommend specific courses and don't consider attendance at these courses a requirement to pass the LDS Part 3.