



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW



Faculty of
Dental Surgery
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

THE FACULTIES OF DENTAL
SURGERY OF
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF
ENGLAND
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF
GLASGOW

Diploma of Membership in Orthodontics

November 2023

Exam regulations

Important note: these regulations are under continual review therefore it is recommended that candidates keep in regular contact with the College of entry to ensure that they have the most up-to-date information.



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1. Introduction

This document contains the regulations for the Diploma of Membership in Orthodontics of the Faculties of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England
38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3PE
Tel: 020
7869 6281

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
232-242 St Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5RJ
Tel: 0141 221 6072.

The examinations are conducted on behalf of both Colleges by the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Further information can be obtained on the [RCS England website](#).

All parts of the examination are conducted in English.

2. Purpose and aims of the examination

Purpose

The Membership Examination in the specialty of orthodontics represents a summative assessment of core knowledge and competence in the specialty of orthodontics, as defined in the Learning Outcomes. It is intended to test the candidates' knowledge and understanding relevant to the practice of a Specialist in this specialty area.

Aims

To allow the candidate to demonstrate a core knowledge and understanding of the principles and practice of orthodontics.

Candidates should be aware that attaining the award of the Diploma does not confer eligibility for the UK Specialist List for Orthodontics.

3. Content of the examination

The Diploma in Membership in Orthodontics examination will assess the candidate's understanding of diagnosis and treatment planning over a wide range of problems in orthodontics. Further information can be found in the relevant examination blueprint.



4. Format of the examination

Format	What is being assessed
12 Short Answer Questions (One 2-hour computer-based written paper)	Application of knowledge
4 Unseen Cases (15 mins with records, 15 mins viva examination for each case)	Assimilation of information, treatment planning, application of knowledge, peer communication
2 Communication Unseen Cases (10 mins with records, 10 mins examination for each)	Assimilation of information, treatment planning, application of knowledge, patient/relative communication
3 Presented cases written up and submitted (30 mins viva on 2 selected cases only)	Treatment planning, practical, assimilation of information, application of knowledge, communication

Candidates who have passed the MOrth Part A delivered by RCSEd will be granted an exemption from the written component of this MOrth examination.

5. Entrance Requirements

To be eligible to enter the MOrth candidates must provide certified evidence of possession of a primary dental qualification that is acceptable to the Colleges., and have completed 24 months of full-time or equivalent part-time training in orthodontics acceptable to the Colleges by the date of the examination. The training should preferably be continuous but in some cases breaks in training may be permitted. The total training period should not normally exceed six years.

6. Applications for admission to the examination

Applications for admission to the examination must be completed fully with the required certified evidence and accompanied by the full amount of the fee payable for the examination. Applications for the examination must be received by the closing date and time specified in the examinations calendar. Applications received after the closing date will not normally be processed.

Applications for the examination can be downloaded from the RCS England website and should be sent to dentalexams@rcseng.ac.uk.

Further information regarding the examination can be found on the [RCS England website](#) or [RCPSG website](#).

7. Results

Results will be posted on the relevant secure College website and distributed by post.



8. Feedback

Candidates will be given written feedback on their performance where requested.

9. Number of attempts and resits

Candidates are usually permitted a maximum of four attempts at each part of the examination.

To attain a passing standard overall, candidates are required to achieve the identified minimum standard across the different components of the examination, rather than within each individual component of the examination.

Where a candidate is unsuccessful in the examination overall but has attained a passing standard in individual components, they are able to carry forward components of the examination in which they have attained the minimum standard, rather than re-sitting these in future attempts at the examination.

Any candidates re-sitting the examination will need to pay the full fee, regardless of which parts of the exam they are sitting.

10. Infringement of the regulations

The Colleges may refuse to admit to the examination, or may not allow to proceed with the examination, any candidate who infringes any of the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

Examples of such infringements are as follows:

1. Entry to the examination being attempted by making false claims about eligibility or falsifying entry documentation, including the submission of case presentations or a log book containing plagiarised or incorrect content. The College reserves the right to make checks to validate any information or documents supplied by the candidate;
2. Unfair advantage being sought or obtained: by possession of material or devices during an examination that might give advantage; by plagiarism of any description; by communicating or attempting to communicate with another candidate once the examination has commenced; or by refusing to follow instructions given by examiners or examinations staff regarding the conduct and procedure of the examination.
3. Candidates giving or receiving any assistance or communicate by any means with one another or any person, other than the invigilator(s) and examiner(s), at any time while an Examination is in progress. Any candidate acting in breach of this Regulation or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the Examination may be suspended from the examination.
4. Removing or seeking to remove from the examination any examination material, making copies of material or taking of screen captures of remotely delivered material.
5. Candidates should not attempt to obtain confidential information relating to the examination from an examiner or examination officials or pass confidential information on the content of the examination to a third party.

Any candidate who infringes any of the Regulations may be refused admission to, or may face expulsion from, the Examination. All instances of misconduct are reported to the Chair of the Examination Board.



All allegations of misconduct will be investigated in accordance with the procedures published on the Colleges' websites; any penalties incurred will also be in accordance with the published procedures.

11. Appeals and complaints

Candidates who wish to make an appeal about the conduct of their examination must address it to the Head of Examinations at RCS England within 28 days of the dispatch of results in writing. Appeals will be considered which allege maladministration, bias or procedural irregularity of some kind, whether in the conduct or in the determination of the result of the examination. Appeals disputing the academic judgment of the examiners will not be allowed. Details of the appeals process can be found on the website of the administering College.

12. Withdrawal from the examination

Any candidate who wishes to withdraw an application for admission to the examination must notify the relevant College in writing. A refund or transfer of the fee paid may be made (less an administrative fee), provided that notice of an intention to withdraw is received by the relevant College before the closing date by which applications are due, as shown in the examinations calendar. Refunds or transfers are not normally made to any candidate who withdraws after the closing date.

Any candidate who wishes to withdraw an application for admission to the examination on medical grounds and request a refund or transfer of fee must submit a request in writing to the relevant College, accompanied by a medical certificate. An application for consideration of a refund or transfer of fee on compassionate grounds should be supported by full details, plus a supporting letter from an appropriate professional. Each such application must be submitted to the relevant College within 28 days following the date of the commencement date of the examination.

The Colleges reserve the right to review admission to the examination on an individual basis in exceptional circumstances.

A candidate who becomes ill or has an accident during the examination must inform the Lead Examiner for that diet as soon as possible. On the advice of the Lead Examiner, the candidate may withdraw from the examination or the Lead Examiner may agree with the candidate how the candidate should proceed to complete the examination.



13. Candidates with special circumstances

Tailored examination and other assessment arrangements may be made for individual candidates with additional needs due to learning differences (such as dyslexia) or due to permanent or temporary disability through reasonable adjustments. These arrangements are intended to ensure that candidates are able to perform to the best of their ability and that they are not discriminated against because of learning differences or because of permanent or temporary disability.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the College when they submit their application of any additional needs they have, the reason for them, and any reasonable adjustments being requested.

Applications for reasonable adjustments to meet additional needs are normally required to be supported by written evidence. For example, in the form of a medical report from their general medical practitioner for medical conditions, or an educational psychologist's report for a learning difference such as dyslexia.

14. Proof of identity at the examination

Candidates must bring their passports to each part of the examination. Exceptionally, candidates who are not in a position to provide a passport must produce an official document that includes their name, signature and a current photograph e.g. current photographic driving license.

For the purpose of visual identification, any candidate sitting any examination may be required to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. The Colleges will observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates.

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

15. Curriculum

The Learning Outcomes for the orthodontics specialty training programme curriculum are available on the General Dental Council website on the following webpage: https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/specialist-lists/orthodonticcurriculum.pdf?sfvrsn=76eeced_2

16. Syllabus coverage

The examination will test the candidates' broad-based understanding of the theory and practice of orthodontics set in the context of total patient care. The relevant basic and clinical science will be included in the examination.

The level of understanding of the following subjects should be appropriate to a three-year specialist training programme.

The specific clinical topics and domains assessed can be found in the relevant examination blueprint.



17. Submission of Case Presentations

The presentation of the case records of three cases treated personally by the candidate is intended to illustrate the candidate's ability to treat a range of orthodontic problems to a high standard and to demonstrate an understanding of the principles underlying the treatment.

The three cases must have had the majority of treatment completed by the candidate. The candidate must be able to demonstrate that they have made a substantial contribution to the treatment of the cases and it must be made clear in the case records which elements, if any, have been undertaken by other clinicians.

Two cases, selected by the examiners from the three cases submitted, will be discussed in depth and the duration of this part of the examination will be 30 minutes.

Candidates failing the examination but passing the treated cases section will be exempt from this section for the next diet of the examination only. At any subsequent attempt, candidates would be required to re-submit their cases, which can be the same case as those previously submitted.

Clinical case records must be submitted electronically with all personal identifiers, both of the patient, candidate removed.

As part of the clinical records, either hand traced or digitally traced lateral cephalograms will be accepted. The pre-treatment, post-functional and near end lateral cephalograms should be traced with fine-tip black, green and red ink pens respectively.

As part of the clinical records, either study models, digitally printed study models, copies of digital models, scans of study models or photographs of study models will be accepted.

Clinical case records should be accompanied by a signed statement from the accredited supervisors confirming the candidate's substantial involvement in the treatment of the selected cases. This statement should be submitted in a separate file. It must not be enclosed with the clinical case histories.

Where possible cases should be complete but may be presented prior to completion where there are extenuating circumstances.



18. Diploma and membership

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The candidate, after having passed all parts of the examination for the MOrth Specialist Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery shall be given a Notice subscribing his/her name to the by-law and the required declaration; that it rests with the Board of Faculty to confer upon them the Specialty Diploma of Membership; and that until the granting of such a Diploma by the board, they are not in any circumstances, entitled to make use of the letters MOrth after their name; to exercise any other rights conferred by the membership; or be admitted as visitors to the examination.

Upon confirmation by the Board of Faculty the successful candidate shall then receive a Diploma bearing the Seal of the College and the Diploma shall state that such Member has been successful in the examination. Every Member shall pay each year such annual subscription as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Faculty with the concurrence of the College Council.

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The results of the examination of candidates for the Specialty Diploma of Membership in Orthodontics shall be considered and verified by a Board of Examiners appointed by the College Council.

The successful candidates will be invited automatically to join the College as a Member in Orthodontics of the Faculty of Dental Surgery. A joining fee, as determined from time to time by the College Executive Board, will be payable for those who are not already affiliated to this College. In addition, each member shall pay an annual subscription fee, as may be determined from time to time by the College Executive Board. In return, members will receive a Diploma of Specialty Membership bearing the seal of the College, access to all membership benefits, including the use of the letters M(Orth) RCPS(Glasg) after their name.