Examination Part 2

Dental Manikin Test
Guidance notes for candidates
1 General Information and Instructions

1.1 Each candidate will be assessed whilst undertaking dental treatment procedures of a simulated dental patient (the “Dental Manikin Test”).

1.2 The Dental Manikin Test is designed to assess a combination of clinical skills that will be needed to manage one treatment session for a dental patient. These may include, but are not limited to:

   - Practical dental procedures*
   - Interpretation of data, clinical judgement and decision making
   - Communication with laboratories
   - Professionalism
   - Health and safety including occupational health
   - Manual dexterity

*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 etc.

1.3 All instruments and materials required for the test will be provided. These may include, but are not limited to:

   - A selection of 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.

1.4 Candidates will not be permitted to bring their own instruments or materials nor will candidates be able to request supplementary instruments or materials in addition to those provided. Please note that it is not possible to cater to individual preferences. All the candidates will have the same equipment and materials.

1.5 Candidates may wear loupes if they wish, but will need to wear additional eye protection unless the loupes have this built in.

1.6 Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cross infection control materials will be provided as required.
1.7 Support staff will be available to assist with equipment and related matters. Candidates are not expected to practise four handed dentistry and support staff will not assist in the Dental Manikin Test.

1.8 Candidates must use all infection control procedures when carrying out the manikin tests and should wear professional clothing and footwear suitable for working in a clinical general dental practice environment. No jewellery should be worn.

1.9 Candidates will be issued with all necessary paperwork for the Dental Manikin Test by the Examination Centre. The candidates must not bring any paper into the Dental Manikin Test. No mobile phones, other electronic devices or sources of references may be brought into the examination rooms.

1.10 Candidates must hand their examination paper to an examination official at the end of the Dental Manikin Test. No materials may be taken out of the examination rooms.

1.11 Candidates are expected to behave professionally at all times.

2 Overview of the Dental Manikin Test

2.1 The Dental Manikin Test will be a simulation of a patient attending for a single restorative treatment session. Appropriate dental procedures that can be completed during one patient care session (lasting three hours) by a recently qualified UK dental graduate will form the basis of the Manikin Test.

2.2 The Dental Manikin Test is composed of several exercises. The number of exercises may vary from diet to diet because some practical procedures take longer to complete than others. The overriding principles are that each diet is based on a realistic clinical scenario and that all the exercises included in a diet can be completed within three hours by a recently qualified UK dental graduate. In addition, new exercises will be introduced to ensure adequate coverage of GDC Learning Outcomes. (Please see 3.1 below).

2.3 Candidates are assessed on those aspects to be marked on the day, namely: Professionalism, Health and Safety at Work and Occupational Health. The practical exercises themselves will be marked by a panel of examiners on another day.

3 Minimum Standard and Marking Scheme

3.1 The minimum standard is to be no better and no worse than the standard achieved by a UK dental graduate on successful completion of a course of study following Preparing for Practice (Dental team learning outcomes for registration) [General Dental Council, 2015]. The candidates are strongly advised to be familiar with the contents of this document, especially the learning outcomes listed because the practical exercises will be based on these.
3.2 Each of the tests is assessed by the examiners using a structured criterion-based mark scheme. Each test is allocated marks according to its difficulty using the following four grade scale. The tests are assessed as:

» 1. Well below standard
» 2. Just below standard
» 3. Meets standard
» 4. Exceeds standard

3.3 Key assessment points and criteria are displayed on the examiners’ mark sheets for each stage/test, with an area for additional comments.

3.4 The Dental Manikin Test is a simulated clinical examination, not a mechanistic test of practical ability. The test requires candidates 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 will apply. Therefore, candidates must pay attention to health and safety, infection control, working posture, etc. These areas will be assessed in addition to the practical exercises that have to be completed. Safety includes not only personal safety but also avoiding damage to adjoining or other teeth or “soft tissues” when carrying out operative procedures on specific teeth. It must be emphasised that any candidate who approaches the Dental Manikin Test as a purely mechanical exercise will find it a very challenging examination.

4 Duration

4.1 The Dental Manikin Test will last no more than 3 hours, including the time taken to complete any associated paperwork. Candidates are expected to use time efficiently and wisely. However, candidates should be aware that the total time to be spent at the venue is likely to be about 5.5 hours. The additional time is needed before the test for:

» Registration
» Briefing on the process of the test
» A demonstration of the equipment and materials available
» A period of familiarisation with the equipment.

This is not allowing for any unforeseen interruptions to the schedule. A detailed time table will be made available for each diet at the appropriate time. After the test, there will be a de-briefing and feedback session.

5 Venue

5.1 The Dental Manikin Test will be held in a Dental Clinical Skills Laboratory.