

# ILDS

Licence in Dental Surgery

Examination Part 2

**Unseen Case:  
Guidance notes for candidates**



Royal College  
of Surgeons

FACULTY OF DENTAL SURGERY

## 1 General Guidance

1.1 In this section of the LDS examination candidates will be asked to assess, diagnose and provide all aspects of a management plan for patients with dental needs.

1.2 Role players may simulate adult or paediatric patients, carers, or members of the dental team.

1.3 The unseen cases may additionally involve medical aspects of relevance to the safe practice of dentistry as well as medico-legal issues.

### 1.4 Aims

To assess the candidate's:

- a. History taking, communication and record keeping competencies
- b. Ability to investigate a clinical problem in a systematic and logical manner
- c. Ability to formulate a differential diagnosis and management plan
- d. Application of integrated clinical knowledge to a patient scenario.

### 1.5 Objectives

To assess the candidate's:

- a. History taking skills and their application
- b. Communication skills within a professional setting
- c. Logical approach to patient investigation
- d. Approach to reaching a diagnosis
- e. Ability to treatment plan.

### 1.6 Case scenarios

1.6.1 Scenarios will simulate clinical situations and integrate major competencies with supporting competencies across all parts of the UK undergraduate dental training curriculum.

1.6.2 Candidates are assessed to the level of the just qualifying UK BDS finals candidate.

1.6.3 Candidates will be asked to assess simulated patients (role players) with a variety of oral conditions and will be expected to be able to present their findings.

1.6.4 Candidates will be required to undertake four unseen cases in the assessment.

1.6.5 Experienced professional actors will simulate the unseen case scenario with appropriate clinical photographs, study models and radiographs. Candidates will not have the opportunity to physically examine the role players.

1.6.6 Candidates may be required to request and justify investigations for the unseen case patient (e.g. radiographs, periodontal charting etc.) and may be required to interpret the findings.

- 1.6.7 The scenarios may also include ethical, consent or medico-legal aspects that can be assessed directly as structured questions or indirectly as part of the management plan.
- 1.6.8 Written components of the patient consultation process may be assessed by the examiners and marked for content and legibility e.g. updating the patient's notes, writing a referral letter, etc.
- 1.6.9 Candidates may be required to explain concepts of clinical care to the simulated patients, e.g. gaining informed consent for a procedure, explaining a test result, etc.
- 1.6.10 Simulated patients may ask the candidates questions about their clinical diagnosis or proposed treatment, which will need to be answered in an appropriate manner for a lay person to understand.

## 2 Format of the Unseen Case Scenarios

- 2.1 Each case scenario is divided into three 10 minute periods. Each 10 minute phase is separated by 1 minute such that the entire case scenario is 33 minutes in total.
- 2.2 **History Phase**

Candidates are required to take a history from the patient or assimilate information from clinical records in the first 10 minute period and may be observed by an examiner during this period. Candidates are not permitted to perform an intraoral examination, but clinical photographs of the relevant intraoral condition are provided.
- 2.3 **Preparation Phase**

In the second 10 minute period, candidates will be advised of the task they are required to complete in the management phase (the third 10 minute phase of the unseen case scenario) and are able to prepare as appropriate. During the preparation phase candidates will not be able to communicate with the patient or examiners.
- 2.4 **Management Phase**

In the third and final 10 minute period candidates will complete the prescribed clinical management task, observed by an examiner. The prescribed task may include communication with the simulated patient.
- 2.5 The breakdown of the 33 minutes of a single unseen case scenario is shown in the schematic below. There will be four separate unseen case clinical scenarios of identical format in the LDS Part 2 examination. The clinical task to be completed in the management phase may vary between scenarios.

### Schematic representation of an unseen case scenario

TIMELINE	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins
PHASE	HISTORY	PREPARATION	MANAGEMENT
<b>TASKS UNDERTAKEN DURING THIS PHASE</b>	Candidate takes a history from the patient, observed by an examiner.	Candidate prepares the set task for the management phase.  (No communication with the patient is allowed)	Candidate completes the prescribed clinical management task, observed by an examiner.

### 3 Mark Scheme

- 3.1 Candidates will be assessed to the standard expected of the just passing United Kingdom dental undergraduate on completion of a course of study following *Preparing for Practice (Dental team learning outcomes for registration)* [General Dental Council, 2015].
- 3.2 Candidates will be assessed independently by a different examiner for each case scenario using a standard mark sheet.
- 3.3 During the scenario and in addition to the marks given to candidates, examiners will independently record comments on the candidate's performance in relation to safety, clinical efficacy and professional conduct. Any comments of concern will be assessed by the Examination Board.
- Behaviour that might lead to a fail, irrespective of numerical marks gained, would include significant failings in safety, cross-infection control, and inappropriate behaviour towards staff or patients.
- 3.4 Candidates whose total marks, across all four unseen case scenarios, are equal to or in excess of the pass mark, determined by a standard setting process prior to the examination, and who have not received any comments of concern (after evaluation of the examiners' comments by the Examination Board) will be deemed to have passed the unseen case examination. There is no requirement to pass a minimum number of scenarios.
- 3.5 Retaking candidates must sit the Part 2 examination in its entirety, irrespective of having passed one or more of the unseen case scenarios in a previous sitting.
- 3.6 Role players may be asked to contribute to the assessment by marking candidate's communication skills.