



Diploma in Special Care Dentistry – changes to Part A and Part B

Please note from **1 July 2019** the format of the DSCD RCS England examinations will change, as outlined below.

The standard being assessed remains the same - equivalent to a practitioner with two years' experience in providing dental treatment in the field of Special Care Dentistry. However, it is no longer a requirement to submit a portfolio of evidence (i.e. logbook) or CPD evidence.

Furthermore, the format of the Part A and Part B components will be revised as follows:

Part A

- Written paper consisting of **140 single best answer (SBA)** questions mapped to the 7 modules of the curriculum:
 1. Oral Sciences of Relevance
 2. Knowledge & Understanding of Conditions leading to Impairment & Disabilities
 3. Behavioural Sciences & Sociology of Health, Impairment & Disability
 4. Law, Ethics and Health & Safety
 5. Provision of Comprehensive Oral Care
 6. Developing Services in a Community Setting
 7. Clinical Effectiveness

Part B

- 7 stations consisting of:
 - 2 problem solving structured clinical reasoning (SCR) stations
 - 2 clinical governance SCRs
 - 2 unseen cases SCRs
 - 1 communication skills station

Each station will have 10 minutes preparation time and 10 minutes structured examination time

The two parts of the examination will take place on consecutive days. To be awarded the DSCD candidates must pass both Part A and B which may be passed independently. Candidates may apply to re-sit failed components on 2 subsequent sittings (provided in following years).

There will be transitional arrangements for the 2020 sitting of Part A. The revised format will be fully implemented from 2021.

All candidates currently registered will be contacted by the College directly regarding the implications of this change and options available. New candidates wishing to register for DSCD will be advised of options at the point of registration.

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