

# THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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## MALTA

Correspondence to be  
addressed to:  
'The Registrar'

SLH-OPD, Level 1,  
St. Luke's Square,  
G'Mangia, Malta  
WEBSITE: <https://ehealth.gov.mt>

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15<sup>th</sup> March 2013

### **Report on the Medical Council Malta Statutory Examination Dental Surgeons Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

#### **Introduction:**

The EU Directive 2005/36/EC stipulates that the Medical Council needs to organise, to a minimum of twice a year, the Statutory Examination for non-EU Dental Surgeons applying for registration in Malta.

Since year 2006, the Medical Council has had several requests from foreign non-EU Dental Surgeons willing to sit for the Medical Council Malta Statutory Examination (MCMSE) for Dental Surgeons. However, due to several obstacles, lack of cooperation and other limitations, the Medical Council could not accede to these requests.

In year 2009, Dr John Felice B.Ch.D. (Malta), Dr Herbert Messina Ferrante M.O.M., B.Ch.D.(Malta), L.D.S.R.C.S.(Eng), F.I.C.D.(USA) and Dr. David Muscat B.D.S.(Lond) were appointed as the Medical Council's Subcommittee for the setting up the MCMSE for Dental Surgeons. Between 2009 and 2011, the Subcommittee held several meetings with a number of bodies involved in this issue. After an extensive exercise, the MCMSE for Dental Surgeons was finalised in mid-year 2012.

Agreements were reached with the Faculty of Dental Surgery, University of Malta, in order to conduct the MCMSE for Dental Surgeons for Non-EU dentists on its behalf, during the exit examinations for 5<sup>th</sup> year dental students in June and during the resit exams in September. It was also agreed that the amount of € 1164.69, which is to be paid by candidates in order to sit for the MCMSE as stipulated by the Health Care Professions Act 2003, Chap 464, Legal Notice 330 of 2006, it to be forwarded in full to the Faculty of Dental Surgery, University of Malta. It was also ensured that these examinations will not involve patients.

As stipulated by the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, Dr David Muscat, Dr John Felice and Dr Daniel Farrugia M.D. (Malta), DEAA, EDIC were appointed as the Medical Council Examination Observers and Quality Assurer on 8th August 2012.

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The 23 prospective candidates were informed that the MCMSE will be held in September 2012, and were given the timetable provided by the faculty, by means of email dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The following information was forwarded to all prospective candidates:

1. The examination will be held in the English Language.
2. Each candidate will be tested on the following examination parts:
  - Prevention and Community Dentistry (a written examination and a viva (viva voce))
  - Child Dental Health and Orthodontics (a written examination and a viva (viva voce) in each topic)
  - Restorative Dentistry (one paper with 6 parts – Fixed Prosthodontics, Removable Prosthodontics, Periodontology, Endodontics, Operative Dentistry, Dental Materials). In this paper, candidates are to choose 1 question from 2 questions on each topic. This examination is 3 hours long, that is, each candidate has 30 minutes per question.
  - A Practitcal examination on a Phantom Head. This will consist of several tests:
    - a. Class 2 cavity
    - b. Crown Prep Bonded Crown on a Premolar or a Molar
    - c. Partial Denture Design
    - d. Access cavity for Endodontics
  - Oral Medicine and Pathology a written examination and a viva (viva voce)
3. All subjects were failing, that is, one must obtain a passmark in all the subjects. The pass-mark is 50.
4. Candidates were requested to confirm their attendance by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Failure will automatically imply that they wished to be removed from the Medical Council's list of applicants waiting to sit for the examination.
5. Candidates were also requested to send a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a recent Certificate of Good Standing (this is valid for 3 months upon the date of issue) by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012.
6. The payment of the sum of €1170 (1170 Euros, as per attached LN 330/2006) was to be settled by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012, or otherwise they will not be able to sit for the examination. Payment could be effected by either sending a cheque in Euros payable to the Medical Council, by Bank Transfer as per attached Circular, or else by the exact amount in cash. Candidates were to inform the Council by which method the payment will be effected.
7. The Visa was required.

Only one (1) applicant confirmed attendance. The Medical Council received the sum of €1170 on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and the Faculty was informed that only one candidate will sit for the MCMSE by means of email dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The payment was forwarded to the Faculty as per agreements reached.

The candidate was provided with the procedure (guidelines: Appendix 1) by means of email dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012. On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012, the candidate was provided with the examination syllabus and with the final timetable as per hereunder:

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Written:

DATE	SUBJECT	TIME	VENUE*
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2012	Restorative Dentistry	09.00-12.00	Lecture Room 4, Block C, Level 1, Mater Dei Hospital
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Oral Medicine, Oral Surgery and Oral Pathology	09.00-12.00	Lecture Room 4, Block C, Level 1, Mater Dei Hospital
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Child Dental Health and Orthodontics	09.00-12.00	Lecture Room 5, Block C, Level 1, Mater Dei Hospital
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Preventive & Community Dentistry	09.00-12.00	Conference Room, Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital

Clinical Assessment/Oral Examination:

DATE	SUBJECT	TIME	VENUE
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Oral Medicine, Oral Surgery and Oral Pathology	08.30	Meeting Room 2, Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Preventive and Community Dentistry	10.30	Meeting Room 2, Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Restorative Dentistry	08.30	Phantom Head Medical Scho Mater Dei Hospital
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Child Dental Health & Orthodontics	08.30	Meeting Room 2, Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital

The results were issued by the Faculty on 20<sup>th</sup> September and these were officially delivered to the Medical Council on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Registrar informed the candidate on the result by email dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The official result, which provided a breakdown of the marks obtained, was sent by registered mail, by means of letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

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### Results:

Table 1: Results of the MCMSE dated 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012

DATE	NUMBER OF APPLICANT	RESULTS	
		PASS	FAIL
Sept 2012	1 candidate sat for whole examination	-	1

Dr John Felice B.Ch.D. (Malta)  
Observer & Quality Assurer  
Member Medical Council

Dr David Muscat, B.D.S.(Lond)  
Observer & Quality Assurer  
Member Medical Council

Dr Daniel Farrugia M.D. (Malta), DEAA, EDIC  
Observer & Quality Assurer  
Member Medical Council

Ms Svetlana Cachia B.Com.(Hons.)(Melit.), M.A.(Public Policy)(Melit.)  
Registrar Medical Council

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### Appendix 1:

Medical Council Malta Statutory Examination (MCMSE)  
for Dental Surgeons  
In Conjunction with the University of Malta

#### General Guidelines:

The examinations will be held on the premises of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, University of Malta, and/or any alternative sites, as deemed necessary by the Medical Council and Faculty. Candidates will be provided with the necessary information on the venues of the examinations.

Candidates for the Medical Council Examinations in Dentistry are advised to present themselves at least 30 minutes before the start of the exam and identify themselves with the Medical Council Observer at the Secretary's Office, Faculty of Dental Surgery, The Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital.

Candidates are to present the necessary identification with the Medical Council Observer. Only passports from the county of origin or Passports/ Identification Cards issued from Government of Malta will be recognised as acceptable identification documents.

Candidates are to be dressed in professional attire for all written and viva examinations.

Candidates are to bring your own hand pieces since these will not be provided.

All the written and viva examinations will be conducted in English Language.

There will be four examinations in the following divisions of Dentistry:

1. Preventive and Community Dentistry, including practice management,
2. Child Dental Health and Orthodontics,
3. Restorative Dentistry and
4. Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Surgery and Dental Radiology

Students have to be successful in both written and viva components of the respective examinations to obtain a pass in the subject. Failure to attend a session will lead to an automatic fail in the examination. If a candidate fails one of the four examinations it will lead to an overall failure. There will be no resit examinations. Unsuccessful candidates will have to reapply in the next available session of the examinations.

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### **Examinations Details:**

#### 1. PREVENTIVE AND COMMUNITY DENTISTRY including Practice Management

The written examination in PREVENTIVE AND COMMUNITY DENTISTRY is of 3 hours duration. There will be one paper with 2 sections as follows:

Section A: 2 Compulsory questions, essay format.

Section B: 3 questions to choose 2. The questions can be an essay or short answer format. The short answer format will have a choice.

The viva examination in Preventive and Community Dentistry will consist of a discussion. Slides may be used as a basis for the viva.

The duration of the viva examination will be 20 minutes.

#### 2. CHILD DENTAL HEALTH AND ORTHODONTICS (CDHO)

The written examination is of 3 hours duration, equally divided between Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry. There are 4 sections in the examination as follows:

Section A: Compulsory question in Orthodontics; Essay Format

Section B: Compulsory question in Paediatric Dentistry; Essay Format

Section C: 3 questions to choose 2 in Orthodontics, multiple short answer format.

Section D: 3 questions to choose 2 in Paediatric Dentistry, multiple short answer format.

The viva examination in CDHO will cover both divisions of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry. The examination will consist of a discussion on clinical cases. Study models, radiographs, tracings and clinical slides may be used as a basis for the viva.

The duration of the viva examination will be 20 minutes.

#### 3. RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

The written examination in Restorative Dentistry is of 3 hours duration. There will be one paper with 6 sections in the respective fields of FIXED PROSTHODONTICS, REMOVABLE PROSTHODONTICS, PERIODONTOLOGY, ENDODONTICS, OPERATIVE DENTISTRY and DENTAL MATERIALS. Every section will have 2 questions to choose 1.

The format of the questions can be an essay or short answer format.

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The practical examination in Restorative Dentistry will be held at the Clinical Skills Laboratory, Medical School, Level 0, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida. The examination will be held on a Phantom head using acrylic teeth or on appropriate models.

The practical examination in Restorative Dentistry will be subdivided in 4 parts:

### 1. Conservative Dentistry (1hour 30mins)

In the Conservative dentistry component, the candidates will be requested to complete the following in order to qualify:

- An interproximal cavity and restoration
- A conservative pit and fissure preparation and restoration

The candidates should note that the University of Malta would supply all instruments and materials. Damage to the adjacent tooth and large preparations that would jeopardize the pulp vitality in a real tooth, will lead to failure.

### 2. Crown and Bridgework (1hour 30mins)

In the Crown and Bridgework component, the candidate will be requested to prepare a tooth/teeth and associated temporary restorations. Damage to the adjacent tooth and large preparations that jeopardize the pulp vitality in a real tooth, will lead to failure.

### 3. Endodontics (30 mins)

In the Endodontics component, the candidate will be requested to prepare an access cavity on a tooth where the canals should be clearly identified. A pre-operative radiograph will be supplied.

### 4. Removable Prosthodontics (15- 30mins)

In the Removable component, the candidate may be requested to perform one or more of the following:

- Prepare a denture design for a number of study models
- Perform a laboratory procedure associated with denture construction

### 5. Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Surgery and Dental Radiology

The written examination in Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Surgery and Dental Radiology is of 3 hours duration. There will be one paper with 5 sections as follows:

Section A: Oral Surgery; 4 questions to choose 3, short answer format.

Section B: Dental Radiology; 2 questions to choose 1, short answer format.

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Section C: Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology; 3 questions to choose 2, short answer format.

Section D: Oral Surgery; 2 questions to choose 1, essay answer format.

Section E: Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology; 2 questions to choose 1, essay answer format.

The viva examination will cover all aspects of the division. The examination will consist of a discussion of clinical slides and radiographs. The duration of the viva examination will be 20 minutes.