L-Università ta' Malta

MEDICAL COUNCIL MALTA STATUTORY EXAMINATION

MCMSE for Dental Surgeons

General Guidelines for Candidates

Held in conjunction with the Faculty of Dental Surgery, University of Malta | Version: October 2026

1. About the examinations

The aim of the MCMSE for Dental Surgeons is to ensure that candidates are safe practitioners who can provide safe and effective clinical care. The examinations assess technical skill, patient safety and the delivery of evidence-based treatment.

There are four examinations, one in each of the following divisions of dentistry:

- Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health, including practice management
- Child Dental Health and Orthodontics (CDHO)
- Restorative Dentistry
- Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Surgery and Dental Radiology

Each examination has a written paper and either a viva or, for Restorative Dentistry, a practical examination. All written examinations are computer-based and are held on the Wiseflow examination platform. All written and viva examinations are conducted in English.

The examinations are held on the premises of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, University of Malta, and/or at any alternative sites deemed necessary by the Medical Council and the University.

2. The examinations at a glance

Examination	Written	Questions to answer	Paper total	Viva / practical
1. Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health	2 hours	Section A: 2 compulsory essays (30 marks each) Section B: 2 out of 3 (20 marks each)	100 marks	Viva, 20 minutes
2. Child Dental Health and Orthodontics	2 hours	4 out of 6 in each section (8 in total) 25 marks each	200 marks	Viva, 20 minutes
3. Restorative Dentistry	2 hours	1 out of 2 in each of the 4 sections 25 marks each	100 marks	Practical (no viva)
4. Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Surgery and Dental Radiology	2 hours	4 out of 5 case scenarios 25 marks each	100 marks	Viva, 20 minutes

Pass mark: 50% in each component (written, viva and practical).

3. Passing the MCMSE

- To pass an examination, candidates must pass both its written and its viva component. Restorative Dentistry has no viva; candidates must instead pass both the written and the practical component.
- Failure to attend a session will lead to an automatic failure in that examination.
- An overall pass in the MCMSE is awarded only to candidates who pass all four examinations. A candidate who fails any one examination is deemed to have failed overall.
- There are no resit examinations. Unsuccessful candidates must reapply for the next available session and sit all four examinations again, including any they passed previously.
- Results are published by the Medical Council. There is no appeals procedure.

Access arrangements

Candidates who require access arrangements on the grounds of a documented disability or medical condition must submit a request, with supporting evidence, to the Medical Council at the time of application. Any arrangements granted will not alter the content, standard or assessment criteria of the examinations.

4. Before the examinations

The Faculty Manager at the Faculty of Dental Surgery will send registered candidates the following information in advance:

- the examination timetables;
- the examination venues, including the venues for the practical examination;
- the date of a **preparatory mock written examination** on the Wiseflow platform.

Mock examination and Wiseflow access

Candidates must give the Faculty Manager an **active Gmail account** in advance; this gives them access to the examination platform. The mock examination lets candidates become familiar with the platform, and candidates are strongly encouraged to attend.

Laptop

Candidates must bring **their own laptop** to each written examination.

Past papers

The Faculty of Dental Surgery does not provide model, sample or past examination papers. Sample questions may be provided through the Faculty Office.

5. On the day

Arrival

Candidates should arrive **at least 30 minutes before** the start of each examination and identify themselves to the Medical Council Observer at the Secretary's Office, Faculty of Dental Surgery. They will then be guided to the examination venue. For practical examinations, Faculty staff will meet candidates and accompany them to the examination site.

Faculty location: maps.app.goo.gl/r7gw5G4N7DyJoC6y5

> **Late arrival:** candidates arriving more than 30 minutes after the start of a written examination will not be admitted.

Identification

Only the following are accepted as identification: a passport issued by the candidate's country of origin, or a passport or identity card issued by the Government of Malta.

Dress

- Written and viva examinations: professional attire.
- Practical examination: clinical attire. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is supplied by the University.

What you may bring

Permitted	Not permitted
• A water flask • Your own laptop (written examinations) • Your own loupes and burs (practical examination)	• Mobile phones and smartwatches • Notes, books or other written material • Any other unauthorised materials or electronic devices

6. Examination details

6.1 Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health, including practice management

Written examination: 2 hours, 100 marks

- **Section A:** two compulsory questions in essay format, 30 marks each.
- **Section B:** answer two out of three questions, in essay or short-answer format, 20 marks each.

Viva: 20 minutes

A discussion, which may be based on clinical slides.

6.2 Child Dental Health and Orthodontics (CDHO)

Written examination: 2 hours, 200 marks

- **Section A:** Child Dental Health.
- **Section B:** Orthodontics.

Candidates answer four out of six questions in each section (eight questions in total). All questions are in short-answer format and carry 25 marks each.

Viva: 20 minutes

Covers both Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics. A discussion of clinical cases, which may be based on study models, radiographs, tracings and clinical slides.

6.3 Restorative Dentistry

Written examination: 2 hours, 100 marks

- **Section A:** Operative Dentistry and Biomaterials.
- **Section B:** Endodontics.
- **Section C:** Periodontics.
- **Section D:** Prosthodontics.

Candidates answer one out of two questions in each of the four sections. Questions may be short-answer, multiple-choice or essay format, and carry 25 marks each.

Practical examination (there is no viva in Restorative Dentistry)

The practical examination is held at the Clinical Skills Laboratory, Biomedical Buildings, Tal-Qroqq Campus, Msida, on a phantom head using acrylic teeth or on appropriate models. The University supplies all instruments and materials; candidates may bring their own loupes and burs. The practical has four parts:

Part	Time	Task	Will lead to failure
1. Conservative Dentistry	1 h 30 min	An interproximal cavity and restoration.	Damage to the adjacent tooth; a preparation large enough to jeopardise pulp vitality in a real tooth.
2. Fixed Prosthodontics	1 h 30 min	Preparation of a tooth/teeth and the associated temporary restorations.	Damage to the adjacent tooth; a preparation large enough to jeopardise pulp vitality in a real tooth.
3. Endodontics	30 min	An access cavity on a tooth, with the canals clearly identified. A pre-operative radiograph is supplied.	Extensive damage to and/or perforation of the tooth.
4. Removable Prosthodontics	30 min	One or more of: • a denture design for a partially dentate model; • a laboratory procedure associated with denture construction.	A denture design that cannot be worn by the patient and/or does not provide adequate retention, stability and support.

6.4 Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Surgery and Dental Radiology

Written examination: 2 hours, 100 marks

The paper contains five case scenarios, each with three to four questions and carrying 25 marks in total. Candidates answer four out of the five case scenarios.

Viva: 20 minutes

Covers all aspects of the division. A discussion of clinical slides and radiographs.

7. Contacts

Office	Contact for	Details
Faculty Office, Faculty of Dental Surgery	Examination logistics	Ms Jessica Cassar Tel. +356 2340 1172 jessica.borg@um.edu.mt
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