Internationally Graduated Optometrist Evaluating Examination Orientation

IGOEE



Professional Conduct

- Behaviour that disrupts the delivery of the exam in any way including, but not limited to, challenging site administration staff directives, questioning exam policies and procedures, disruptive comments about the exam, talking to other examinees during the exam or other behavior that the examination site staff considers disruptive or discourteous to others will be documented and shared with the Regulator.
- -->Examinees who continue to exhibit disruptive behaviour after being warned will be **removed from the exam.**

Exam Conduct Agreement & Confidentiality

Upon registration for this exam, examinees were expected to read, understand and sign the Exam Conduct Agreement.

This document confirms examinees will not disseminate or reveal to others any content of the examination. This means exam content **cannot** be discussed or disclosed with others at any time, in any way, even after the exam is over.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- comparing patient responses with colleagues
- sharing exam content with future examinees
- posting case information or exam questions online

Any breach in confidentiality of exam materials may lead to disciplinary and legal measures, including invalidating examinee results.

Please review Touchstone Institute's Ethical Exam Behaviour webpage by clicking below:

Click here for webpage

Format of the Exam

This exam consists of 4 parts which are conducted on **different days**. The information included in each part is unrelated to any patient interaction or information in the other:

Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Examination

- A series of multiple choice questions
- This part of the exam is administered virtually

Therapeutics Prescribing Assessment for Optometry (TPAO) Examination

- A series of multiple choice questions
- This part of the exam is administered virtually

Format of the Exam

OSCE: Objective Structured Clinical Examination (Short-Cases)

- 9 clinical stations with standardized patient interactions
- This part of the exam is administered at the assessment centre

OSCE: Objective Structured Clinical Examination (Long-Cases)

- 3 Clinical stations with standardized patient interactions and Optometric Equipment
- This part of the exam is administered at the assessment centre

Exam Day Attire

- --->Examinees are encouraged to dress in comfortable, casual professional attire.
- → Profession-specific clothing is not required as examinees are not scored on how they are dressed.



General Information

The following slides contain information specific to the OSCE portion of the exam.



Building Entry

- → Touchstone Institute has implemented a COVID-19 Vaccine Policy. All those entering our facility or attending our events are required to be vaccinated. Please be prepared to show your proof of vaccination.
- ---> Do not show up at the assessment centre more than 10 minutes before your registration time.
- --> Everyone will be required to remain outside the building until a Touchstone Institute staff member instructs them to enter the building. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather.
- → Everyone will be required to complete a screening questionnaire prior to participating in the examination. The screening tool used is provided by Toronto Public Health and can be found <u>here</u>. Anyone answering 'YES' to any of the questions will not be permitted into the building.
- → You will be issued a medical grade mask prior to entering the building that must be worn within the centre at all times.
- → No one will have access to building washroom facilities until they have entered the assessment centre.

- --->Touchstone Institute reserves the right to **refuse entry** to the exam to those examinees **exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19** or are unwilling to abide by the safety protocols.
- ---> Friends, family members and/or children **will not be allowed** into the building or assessment centre.
- ---> Examinees must arrange for their transportation to meet them outside.

What to Bring to the Exam

- ---> Copy of your exam invitation that was emailed to you, either a physical copy or on your phone.
- ---> One piece of valid photo identification. Acceptable pieces of photo identification include; a valid passport, a valid driver's license, or a Canadian citizenship or permanent resident card.
- ---> Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination

Important Information

- ---> Examinees will not be admitted to the examination after registration has closed.
- ---> Touchstone Institute is a fragrance-free assessment centre. Examinees should refrain from wearing cologne, after-shave, perfume scented oils and/or similar products.
- ---> Food will not be served to examinees, but water will be available upon request.
- ---> Please ensure that you have eaten a sufficient amount to get you through the exam before arriving at the centre.

Secure Storage of Personal Belongings

- --->**Upon entry** to the registration area, examinees will be asked to place all their personal belongings in a plastic bag that will have their name on it .
- --->This bag will be sealed and stored in a secure area until the end of the exam.
- ---> Examinees are asked to **refrain from bringing** any unnecessary belongings with them to the exam, including profession-specific equipment.

Exam Prohibited Items

--->The following items **must** be left at registration:

- Any electronic devices (i.e. smartphones, smart watches, tablets, computers)
- × Personal bags, wallets, purses
- **×** Paper, pens, pencils
- × Books, notebooks
- ★ Food, drinks

Exam Permitted Items

--> Examinees may have the following items with them during the exam:

✓ Tissues

Cough drops, mints, gum, chap stick

✓ Hair ties

- Medication needed for a medical condition
- Menstrual products

Present these items to exam staff for inspection while at registration

--->COVID-19 safety protocols have been implemented to support examinee safety while at the assessment centre. They include, but are not limited to:

- COVID-19 screening Passive screening before entering the assessment centre
- Wearing a face mask for the duration of time at the assessment centre
- Hand hygiene practices
- Decrease in exam capacity and changes to examination scheduling
- Physical distancing measures

Hand Hygiene

- --->Hand hygiene will be strictly enforced.
- Examinees will be required to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer at the beginning of every OSCE Interaction.
- --->Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be prominently displayed in all locations where examinees are expected to use it. This includes, but is not limited to, at sign-in/sign-out desks, in every OSCE station room, and in different sections of the exam floor.

Exam Site Cleaning

--->Cleaning will be completed on a regular basis throughout the exam day.

--->Exam staff will regularly disinfect frequently touched

surfaces, items and areas throughout the day.

Non-Compliance of COVID-19 Safety Protocols

--->All safety protocols will be monitored by examiners, site staff and standardized patients. Any violations of the COVID-19 safety protocols will be documented in an incident report and reported to the Touchstone Institute staff.

- --->Violations include, but are not limited to:
 - Not wearing mask
 - Not adhering to physical distancing
 - Not performing hand hygiene
 - Engaging in physical touch beyond that which is required to complete the exam

COVID-19 Exam Content

- ---> There is no COVID-19 content in this exam.
- ---> Examinees will not be scored on their knowledge of COVID-19.
- → For the protection of all participants, optometric equipment has been fitted with breath shields, but examinees should assume COVID-19 is not a factor in the exam content, questions or scenarios. It does not need to be considered, and no screening needs to be completed.
- ---> No changes have been made to the blueprint of the exam.

Exam Notebook and QR Code

- ---> Examinees will be provided with a notebook containing 12 blank pages for use during the OSCE.
- --> Examinees should ensure their notebook contains the following information:
 - Name and registration number on the front cover
 - The correct number of pages
 - A QR code on the back cover
 - Examinee signature on the front cover

Exam Notebook and QR Code

--> Examinee notebooks will need to be turned in at the end of the exam with all pages accounted for.

--->Do not rip pages out of the notebook.

---> Examinees will also receive 2 pencils to use during the OSCE.

--->If another pencil is required during the exam, examinees must ask exam staff who will be positioned outside the OSCE stations in the hallway.

Exam Incident Reporting

- Any examinee who feels they may have been disadvantaged during their examination must notify a member of staff and complete an incident report before leaving the assessment centre. This will allow site staff to gather the examinee's account of the incident while it is fresh in their mind.
- --->Site staff may also ask examiners, standardized patients or relevant staff to complete an incident report to assist with the investigation process.
- -->Emails from examinees requesting to submit an incident report after leaving the assessment centre will **not** be considered for investigation.
- → Examinees who have completed an incident report can expect to receive an email outlining a resolution within 8 weeks of the examination date.

Exam Incident Reporting

Exam Discontinuation

- ---> If examinees begin to feel unwell during the exam, they should notify exam staff immediately.
- ---> If examinees have started the exam and do not wish to continue or are unable to, exam staff will document their early departure in an incident report.
- ---> The incident report will be shared with FORAC.
- ---> Examinees will be required to sign an exam discontinuation waiver.



Designated Space and Washrooms

- --->All examinees must remain in their designated rooms during breaks throughout the day.
- ---> Exam staff will organize movement of participants to and from the exam areas.
- ---> Washroom breaks are expected to occur before and after the exam administrations.
- --->Washroom use is allowed during the exam but must be facilitated by exam staff.
- ---> Examinees will not be given additional time to make up for washroom breaks.

Building Evacuation

--->If an emergency situation occurs during the exam, examinees should:

- Remain calm.
- Follow instructions from exam staff who will escort them out of the building to a safe holding area.
- **Bring** their exam notebook with them.
- Remember not to share exam content with other examinees while outside of the exam space, as per the Exam Conduct Agreement.

Leaving Exam Site – Sign Out Procedure

Examinees must follow directions from exam staff who will take them to an area to complete the sign out procedure and collect their personal belongings.

- ---> Examinees will hand in their OSCE notebook with all the pages intact and any pencils they may have in their possession.
- --->Once examinees have handed in all materials, site staff will sign them out and they may leave the building.
- --->Reminder: examinees must continue to comply with physical distancing measures at all times.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The following slides contain information specific to the OSCE portion of the exam.



- -->An Objective Structured Clinical Examination or OSCE is a popular form of assessment that allows for the direct observation of clinical skills within a "real-patient" simulated setting.
- ---> Examinees rotate through a series of timed, simulated stations while interacting with standardized patients. These interactions are scored by trained examiners using a standardized rating tool and pre-defined competencies.
- -->Rigorous training procedures, together with the highly standardized environment in which the exam takes place, promotes objective examiner scoring behaviour which in turn leads to highly reliable examinee results.

IGOEE examinees are being tested at the competency level of a recent graduate of a Canadian optometric program.

The OSCE will assess an examinee's:

- Knowledge integration
- Clinical skills
- Behaviour
- Attitude
- Values

---> The OSCE stations for this evaluating examination are based on two of the Competency-Based Performance Standards for Entrance to Practice and represent common workplace examples of the content areas.

---> Role 1: Provide Comprehensive Eye and Vision Care

---> Examinees will be assessed on their ability to meet their patients' eye and vision care needs with the objective of achieving appropriate outcomes and maintaining or improving their patients' quality of life.

---> Role 2: Collaborate

- --> Examinees will need to demonstrate their ability to work within an integrated healthcare system by collaborating with other healthcare professionals and service providers to facilitate the management of the overall health needs and to encourage the well-being of their patients.
- ---> Examinees should manage each presenting case as they would in a real life practice setting. There are no hidden surprises or tricks.

OSCE OVERVIEW

---> OSCE stations will assess content from the following areas:

- Refractive errors and presbyopia
- Diabetes
- Binocular vision
- Retinal vascular disease
- Cataract glaucoma or glaucoma suspects
- Anterior segment disease
- Macular disease

Standardized Patients

- --->The patients used in the stations have been trained to portray a real patient.
- --->A standardized patient is an actor trained to replicate a patient's signs and symptoms in a reliable and consistent manner.
- ---> Examinees should treat them as they would a real patient in a real clinical environment.

OSCE Short Cases Stations Overview

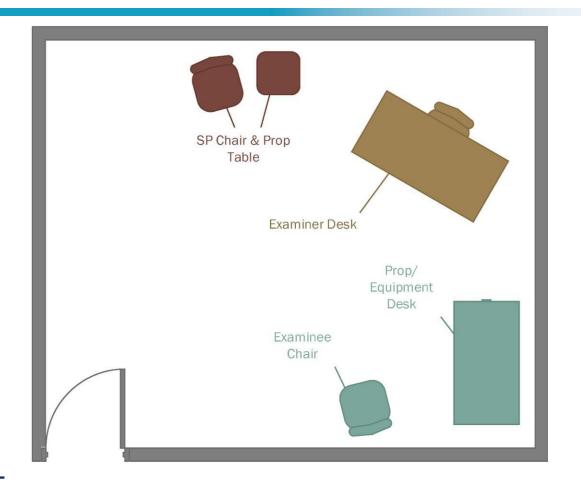


Room Setup

--->Inside the 9 OSCE stations, examinees will find the following:

- 1. Standardized Patient
- 2. Examiner
- 3. Hand Sanitizer
- 4. Digital Clock
- 5. Floor Tape (indicating a line not to pass) / Protective barriers
- 6. Props related to the station scenario that are for examinee use or comment on
- 7. Station Examinee Instructions

Sample Short Case Room Set Up





SHORT CASES OSCE COMPONENTS & TIMING



The nine short case OSCE stations consist of three distinct components as indicated in the image above. Each component will be explained in the following slides.

---> The administration and timing of the station components are directed by a series audio announcements.



2 min.

Examinee Instructions

---> Examinee Instructions (2 minutes): The time allocated for examinees to read the Examinee Instructions before entering the room.

---> At the start of the exam the following announcement will be heard:

" The Exam will now commence. You may begin reading your instructions."

During this component examinees read and familiarize themselves with the requested station challenge as outlined in the Examinee Instructions posted on the outside of the room.

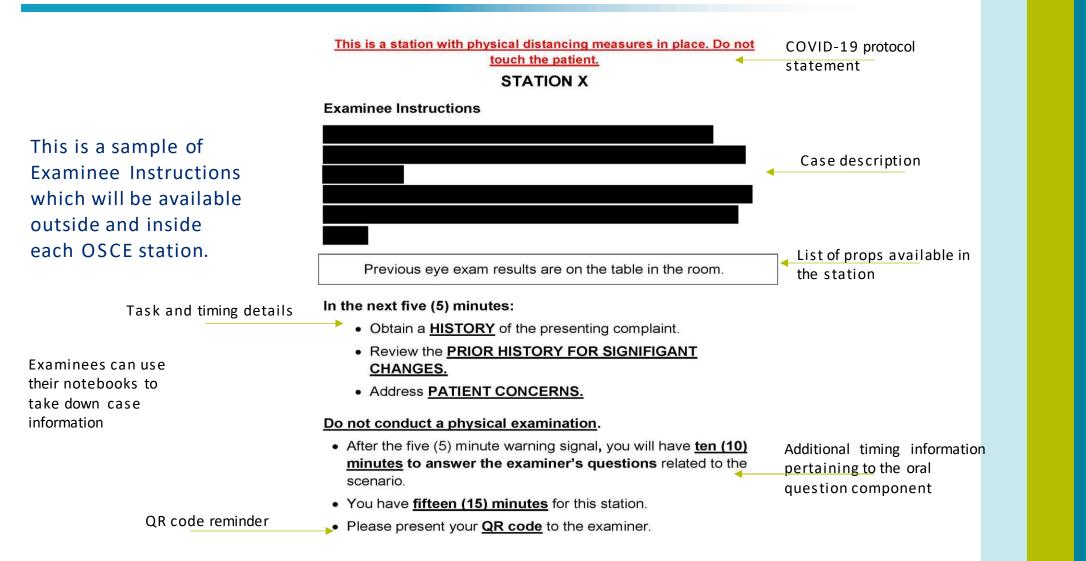
Examinee Instructions

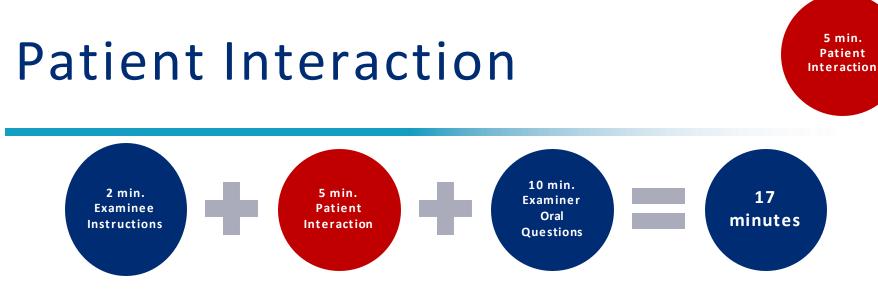
2 min. Examinee Instructions

- ---> A copy of the Examinee Instructions is also available in the room for examinee reference at any point during the interaction.
- ---> The Examinee Instructions may include information about the patient such as their name and age.
- ---> Examinees may make notes in the booklet provided to them on exam day.
- ---> An announcement will indicate when examinees may enter the station to begin their interaction with standardized patient.

Examinee Instructions

2 min. Examinee Instructions





- → Patient Interaction (5 minutes): The time allocated for examinees to interact with the standardized patient to complete the station tasks.
- ---> At the start of the Patient Interaction, the following announcement will be heard to instruct the examinee to enter the room.

"You may enter the station and begin your activity for Round (number)."

- → Upon entering the room, examinees will remain within the designated area and present their QR code for scanning by the examiner.
- ---> Once examinees have been successfully scanned, they will immediately begin the interaction with the standardized patient.

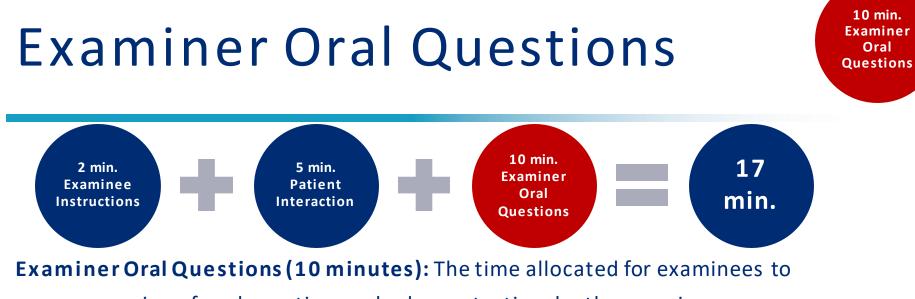
5 min. Patient Interaction

During the patient interaction, examinees will **not** be required to perform a physical

examination but will be assessed on the following:

- History and data collection
- Communication skills
- Planning
- Implementation
- Organization
- Time management
- Evaluation (of patient understanding)
- → Before the end of the patient interaction component, examinees are given a one minute warning to indicate the need to wrap up the interaction. The following announcement will be heard before the end of the Patient Interaction:

"You have one minute remaining with the patient."



answer a series of oral questions asked one at a time by the examiner.

---> At the start of the examiner oral questions component, the following announcement will be heard:

"There are 10 minutes remaining in this station."

---> At this point, the examinee is required to immediately stop all interaction with the standardized patient. The examiner will say

"Please stop. You have ten minutes to answer (number) questions".

10 min. Examiner Oral Questions

--->Questions will be read verbatim by the examiner to the examinee.

---> Examinees may request the examiner to reread a question as many times as required, however examinees may not ask the examiner to return to a previously asked question.

10 min. Examiner Oral Questions

For some questions, examinees may be given props such as images used to support the examinee in answering some oral questions.

- --->Some visual props may be displayed on a tablet.
- --->Examinees will be directed by the examiner as to when they may access specific props.



--->At the end of the ten minutes, the following announcement will be heard, indicating the end of the station:

"Time is up. Examinees, please exit the station, Move to the next station and begin reading your instructions"

Examinees will be asked to leave the station immediately and move to the next station to begin reading the Examinee Instructions for the next station.

When Can An Examiner Intervene?

- Other than providing the prompts or to remind the examinee of COVID-19 safety protocol, an examiner is expected to intervene under the following exceptional circumstances:
 - To redirect the examinee if they feel the examinee needs to refocus on the requested station challenge. For instance, an examinee begins to perform a physical assessment during a station that states that no physical assessment is necessary. The examiner is expected to use the verbatim prompt, "Please reread your instructions."
 - ✓ When the examiner deems that the standardized patient's safety is compromised by an inappropriate or harmful maneuver or action. For instance, the examinee inflicts real pain on the standardized patient during the physical assessment.
 - ★ Examiners have been trained not to interact with examinees outside of asking them the scripted questions. Examinees should not interpret this as unfriendly or intimidating.

Reminders

- ---> Examinee instructions are posted outside & inside each station.
- ---> Read the examinee instructions carefully and pay attention to the statement that explains the task.
- ---> Examiners will score you based on your performance.
- ---> **Do not** engage in physical contact with the examiner or standardized patient.
- ---> Treat the standardized patient as a real patient.
- ---> Examinees must remain in the station until they hear the announcement to leave.
- ---> Group leaders and support staff are there to support and guide examinees from station to station.
- ---> Try to relax and stay focused on the examination.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Long Cases

The following slides contain information specific to the Long Cases OSCE portion of the exam.

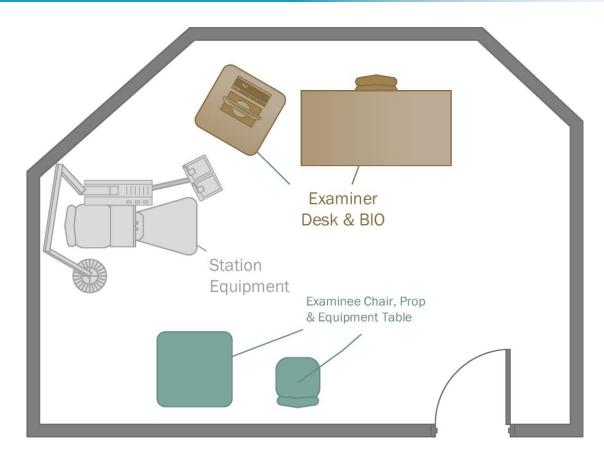


Room Setup

--->Inside the OSCE station examinees will find the following:

- 1. Standardized Patient
- 2. Examiner
- 3. Hand Sanitizer
- 4. Digital Clock
- 5. Protective barriers
- 6. Props related to the station scenario that are for examinee use or comment on
- 7. Station Examinee Instructions
- 8. Optometric Equipment related to the station scenario

Sample Room Setup – Long Cases





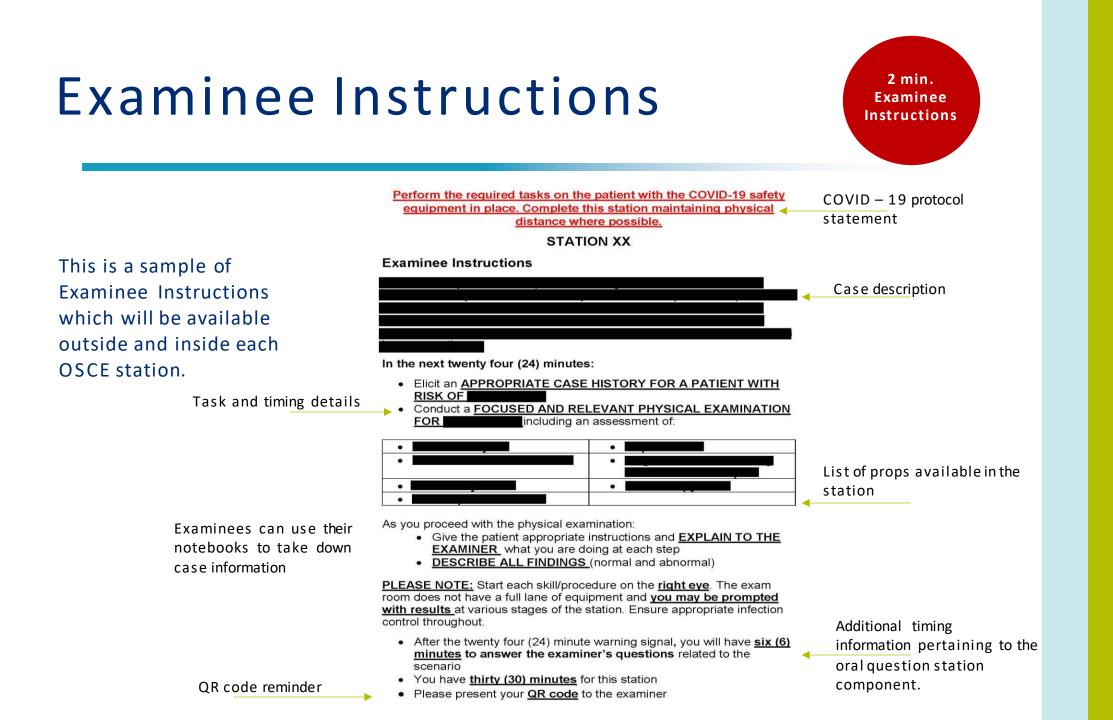
OSCE Components & Timing

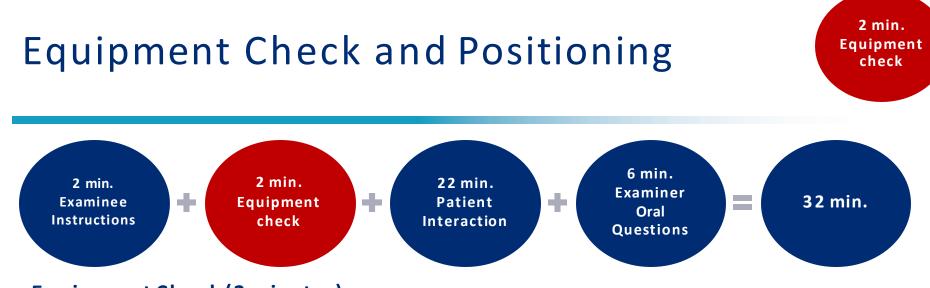


- --->The three long case OSCE stations consist of four distinct components as indicated in the image above.
- ---> Each component will be explained in the following slides.
- --->The administration and timing of the station components are directed by a series audio announcements.



- ---> Examinee Instructions (2 minutes): The time allocated for examinees
 - to read the Examinee Instructions before entering the room.
- --->At the start of the exam the following announcement will be heard:
- " The Exam will now commence. You may begin reading your instructions."
- --->During this component, examinees read and familiarize themselves with the requested station challenge as outlined in the Examinee Instructions posted on the outside of the room.





--> Equipment Check (2 minutes):

---> The time allocated for examinees to check the equipment and position themselves correctly before beginning the interaction.

---> At the start of the equipment check component, the following announcement will be heard to instruct the examinee to enter the room.

"You may enter the station. You have 2 minutes to prepare for the exam."

Equipment Check and Positioning

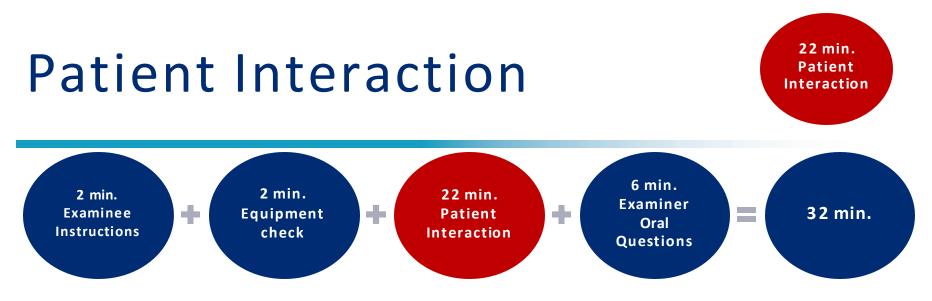
2 min. Equipment check

---> Equipment Check (2 minutes):

--->After examinees have presented their QR code to the examiner and been scanned into the station , they will immediately begin checking the equipment and positioning themselves correctly in preparation for the physical assessment.

→ Examiners will not score examinees or answer any questions during the equipment check period.

--->The examinee cannot begin the patient interaction until the announcement has been made to do so.



---> PatientInteraction (22 minutes):

- ---> The time allocated for examinees to interact with the standardized patient to complete the station tasks.
- ---> At the start of the patient interaction component, the following announcement will be heard to instruct the examinee to begin the station challenge.

"You may now begin your activity for round (number)."

---> After the starting announcement, examinees will have 22 minutes to interact with the standardized patient and complete the required task(s) listed on the examinee instructions.

22 min. Patient Interaction

- ---> Examinees should take some time to introduce themselves to the patient.
- ---> During the patient Interaction, examinees will be assessed on the following:
 - History and data collection
 - Physical examination skills
 - Communication skills
 - Planning
 - Implementation
 - Organization Time management
 - Evaluation of patient understanding

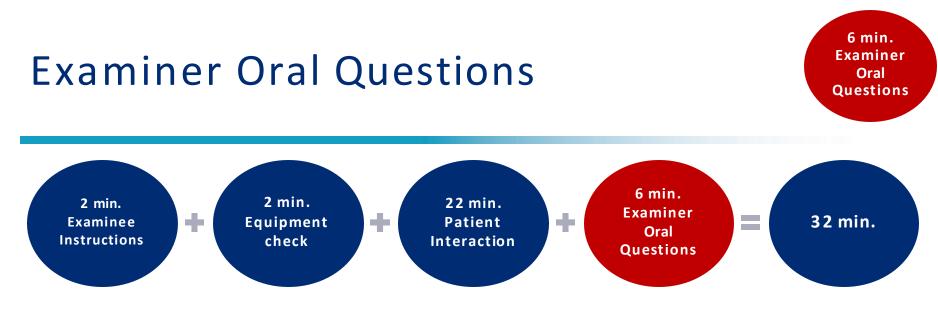
22 min. Patient Interaction

- ---> Examinees are required to explain to the station examiner exactly
 - what they are doing during the assessment of the patient.
- --->Remain focused and do not forget that the examiner will be scoring clinical skills and process.
- ---> Successful examinees will be able to demonstrate their clinical ability with the patient in a natural, focused, professional manner.
- ---> Examiners may move around the room to get the best view while examinees demonstrate their skills.

22 min. Patient Interaction

- --> Examiners may also provide examinees information such as visuals, patient information, patient records or other necessary information related to the interaction.
- --->Before the end of the patient interaction component, examinees are given a one minute warning to indicate the need to wrap up the interaction.
- --->The following announcement will be heard before the end of the patient interaction component:

"You have one minute remaining with the Patient."



- ---> Examiner Oral Questions (6 minutes):
- ---> At the start of the examiner oral questions component, the following announcement will be heard:

"There are 6 minutes remaining in this station."

- ---> At this point, the examinee immediately stops all interaction with the standardized patient.
- ---> The examiner will say "Please stop. You have six minutes to answer (number) questions".
- ---> Once this statement has been read, the examiner reads each question, pausing after each to allow the examinee to answer.

6 min. Examiner Oral Questions

- --->For some questions, examinees will be directed to related props such as images to assist in answering the question.
- ---> Examinees may request the examiner to reread a question however many times they require. Examinees are not permitted to ask the examiner to return to a previously asked question.
- --->At the end of the six minutes, the following announcement will be heard, indicating the end of the station:

"Time is up. Please exit the station and wait for further direction."

---> Examinees must immediately exit the station where they will be directed to a holding room by a hall monitor.

When Can An Examiner Intervene?

- Other than providing the prompts or to remind the examinee of COVID-19 safety protocol, an examiner is expected to intervene under the following exceptional circumstances:
 - To redirect the examinee if they feel the examinee needs to refocus on the requested station challenge. For instance, an examinee begins to perform a physical assessment during a station that states that no physical assessment is necessary. The examiner is expected to use the verbatim prompt, "Please reread your instructions."
 - ✓ When the examiner deems that the standardized patient's safety is compromised by an inappropriate or harmful maneuver or action. For instance, the examinee inflicts real pain on the standardized patient during the physical assessment.
 - ★ Examiners have been trained not to interact with examinees outside of asking them the scripted questions. Examinees should not interpret this as unfriendly or intimidating.

Important Information

---> Examinees should note that they may be expected to perform the following optometric procedures on standardized patients:

- Dilated fundus exam
- Binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy
- Tonometry
- Gonioscopy with fundus lenses
- → Failure to identify your inexperience in these procedures could place the patient at risk. If you are unsure, please contact a member of Touchstone Institute staff prior to, or on the day of the exam.

Red Flag Incident Report

Red Flag Incident Report

A red flag incident report is used if an examinee has performed an optometric maneuver unsafely and/or has caused harm to the standardized patient.

If an examinee performs an optometric maneuver in a manner deemed unsafe or harmful to the standardized patient, examiners are expected to implement red flag incident protocol and complete the related report form.

Red Flag Incident Report

Red Flag Incident Report

- The following steps will be taken immediately:
 - The examiner will be prompted on their red flag incident report to instruct the examinee to discontinue maneuver/procedure immediately.
 - Examinee will continue with the oral question portion at the announcement when it is time.
 - Both examiner and standardized patient will fill out a red flag incident report form.
- The red flag incident report form will be reviewed by Touchstone Institute's Assessment Oversight Committee along with the video recording.
- The red flag incident report form and the video recording will be forwarded to FORAC for review.

Equipment Sanitization

- --->Frequent environment sanitization has been implemented to ensure safe OSCE protocols.
- ---> Time has been allotted to sanitize the optometric equipment in station after each round.
- --->During this period, examinees will be directed to a designated break room. Examinees may notify a staff member and use the washrooms during this time.
- --->An announcement will be made to indicate when examinees can move to their next station.

Important Reminders

- ---> Examinee instructions are posted outside & inside each station.
- --->Read the examinee instructions carefully and pay attention to the statement that explains the task.
- ---> Examiners will score you based on your performance.
- --->Verbalize each step of any physical assessments.
- --->Treat the standardized patient as a real patient.

Important Reminders

- --> Examinees must remain in the station until they hear the announcement to leave.
- ---> Group leaders and support staff are there to support and guide examinees from station to station.
- ---> Try to relax and stay focused on the examination.
- Prior to cleaning the equipment/instruments, please verbalize your intention to the examiner BEFORE beginning. The examiner will then direct you further.
- Prior to administering any medication or topical eye preparation, please verbalize your intention to the examiner **before** beginning. The examiner will then direct you further.

Conclusion

---> On the next slide, examinees have the opportunity ask questions by to clicking on the question button.

---> Questions can be asked up to 3 days before the exam.

---> Questions submitted within 3 days of the exam will not be answered.



Question Link

Click here to ask a question



Thank You

Our Vision

Public confidence in professional competence.

Our Mission

To excel in providing competency assessment and education services that meet professional and societal needs.



COMPETENCY EVALUATION EXPERTS