



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila



PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Resolution No. 01

Series of 2021

PREScribing GUIDELINES IN THE CONDUCT OF
PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE TEST OF THE OPTOMETRISTS LICENSURE EXAMINATION

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8050 or the Revised Optometry Law of 1995 empowers the Professional Regulatory Board of Optometry (Board) to formulate and oversee, in consultation and coordination with the Professional Regulation Commission, guidelines for the proper conduct of licensure examinations and the registration of optometrists;

WHEREAS, Section 22 of Resolution No. 01 (s. 2008)¹ or the Rules and Regulations Governing the Examination and Registration of Optometrists and the Regulation of the Practice of Optometry (IRR) provides for the subjects and percentage weight wherein the Optometrists Licensure Examination (OLE) is grouped to Written (theoretical) and Clinical Skills Assessment (performance);

WHEREAS, the IRR provides for a clinical competency examination developed, prepared, and scored/graded by the Board as the clinical examination component of the licensure examination, with the corresponding percentage weights:

b. Clinical Skills Assessment (Performance).....	30%
1. Subjective Clinical Procedures.....	20%
2. Objective Clinical Procedures.....	20%
3. Contact Lens Practice.....	20%
4. Binocular Vision and Low Vision Clinical Skills	20%
5. Ophthalmic Laboratory and Dispensing.....	20%

WHEREAS, to pass the examination, an examinee must obtain a general average of at least seventy-five (75%) percent in all subjects with no rating below fifty (50%) percent in any subject. The General Weighted Average Rating shall be composed of seventy (70%) percent of the theoretical examinations average rating and thirty (30%) percent of the practical examinations rating;

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing public health emergency, using actual patients during the OLE would require close contact between the examinee and a patient which would hazardously expose the examinees, the Board, the examination personnel and volunteers to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, supplementary guidelines are needed since the practical phase of OLE would need clinician-patient as well as examiner-clinician interactions;

WHEREAS, during the November 24, 2020 meeting with the academe, it was proposed that no actual patients will be required to minimize the number of people in the examination areas thereby mitigating the possibility of exposure to or spread of COVID-19

WHEREAS, the proposal was reiterated by the Philippine Association of Deans of Schools and Colleges of Optometry in its letter addressed to the Board dated March 5, 2021;

WHEREAS, along with the precautionary measures to avoid transmission of COVID-19, the Board recommends to suspend temporarily the requirement for actual patients during Practical Performance Test (PPT);

¹ Rules VII and VIII thereof were amended pursuant to Resolution No. 11 (s. 2016)

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Officer-In-Charge
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WHEREAS, in view of the temporary suspension of requirement for actual patient during PPT, there is a need for schematic eye as it resembles the anatomic features;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board **RESOLVES** as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, that while the COVID - 19 threat has not yet been totally eradicated in the country, the use of actual patients in the Clinical Skills Assessment or the PPT of OLE is temporarily suspended and will be replaced by schematic eye.

RESOLVED FURTHER, upon declaration of appropriate agencies that COVID-19 is no longer a threat in the country, the Board will resume the practice of examining actual patients during the PPT of the OLE;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that in addition to Memorandum No. 68 (s. 2020) or the Updated Standard Guidelines On the Strict Health Protocols to Be Observed in the Conduct of Licensure Examinations During the Covid-19 Pandemic, hereto attached as Annex "A" and made integral part of this Resolution, the following shall be strictly observed:

1. The number of examinees on the examination site, morning and afternoon session, will be limited to control the flow of movement. The PRC-NCR shall be responsible in assigning the examinees and post the same on the website for information purposes.
2. The PPT shall have three (3) rotations. For each rotation, a maximum of eighty (80) minutes to complete the subjects for the practical performance test is provided.
3. Examinees who are done with the PPT are not allowed to loiter in the premises and will be advised to leave the examination venue.
4. In the area of examination or room assignment, acrylic barriers or its equivalent shall be set in place to separate the examiner from the examinee during PPT.
5. Examination areas should be sanitized after the exit of each batch of examinees and the instruments used by the examinees should be disinfected after each use.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately following its full and complete publication in the Official Gazette or any major daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines. This shall be observed beginning April 2021 Optometrists Licensure Examination - Practical Performance Test.

Let a copy hereof be further furnished the U.P. Law center, the PRC Central and Regional Offices, the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization, the academe, and the Commission on Higher Education for dissemination to all schools, colleges and universities offering the course of optometry.

Done in the City of Manila this April 12, 2021.


BERNARDITA APILADO-GARCIA
Chairperson


IRENE CHRISTINE C. PELINO
Member


MARIO T. FLORES, JR.
Member

ATTESTED:


ATTY. OMAIDAH E. GANDAMRA
OIC, PRB Secretariat Division

APPROVED:



TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.

Chairman



YOLANDA D. REYES

Commissioner



JOSE Y. CUETO, JR.

Commissioner

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE
DAILY TRIBUNE : April 16, 2021
Effective Date : Immediately

INETRIM GUIDELINES IN THE CONDUCT OF PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The strict health protocols in Memorandum No. 68 (s. 2020) shall be strictly observed in the Practical Examination of the Optometrist Licensure Examination (OLE).

II. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- a. The entrance will be at the South Gate (with foot bath) of the venue while exit shall be at the North Gate.
- b. All examinees and examination personnel shall undergo temperature scanning. The protocol under Memorandum No. 68 shall be observed.
- c. The floors are marked by arrows to guide them in the direction going to the building where the practical exam will be held. There is an area after entry where the examinees and PRC personnel will wash and dry their hands.
- d. The venue for the 2021 OLE Practical Examination is at Centro Escolar University (CEU) in Manila:

Location	Examination
Generosa de Leon Science Building (GDLSC) where the Vision and Eyecare Center (VECC) is located, 1 st floor	Objective and Contact Lens sections
Essilor Sight Center, Room 210, 2 nd floor (waiting area: Room 204)	Subjective Examination and Binocular and Low Vision Clinical Skills
Specialty Clinic, Room 208, 2 nd floor (waiting area: Room 205)	Ophthalmic Lab

- e. The following protocols shall be strictly observed at the VECC:
 - i. Alcohol dispensers are provided at the entrance and exit gate.
 - ii. The floors are marked by guided arrows to guide the examinees of the flow going to the examination areas.
 - iii. Waiting area for the examinees are provide outside the VECC with 1.5 meters' distance seating. The chairs are arranged alternately that one that will not be used will be marked by an X.
 - iv. There are 20 cubicles at the VECC, only ten of them are allotted to the examinees to observe safe distancing. The cubicles that will not be utilized will be marked by an X.
 - v. The cubicles for Contact lens fitting are fitted with individual wash areas (with liquid soap, tissue, alcohol) and infographics on proper handwashing that are prominently displayed.
 - vi. Each cubicles are provided with alcohol, tissue papers and trash bins.
 - vii. After each rotation, disinfection will be conducted, windows will be opened. All instruments will be cleaned and disinfected. First aid kit is provided.
 - viii. Three tables with acrylic barriers will be provided inside the clinic for PRC personnel.

- f. At the 2nd floor:
- i. The waiting areas on the 2nd floors are rooms 204 for objective exam and 205 for ophthalmic lab. Only 10 examinees will occupy each room and will also be disinfected after each rotation. Physical distancing of 1.5 meters shall be strictly observed.
 - ii. For Subjective examination, only 10 examinees will occupy Essilor Sight Center with 4 separate cubicles and 6 tables with acrylic barriers. Physical distancing of 1.5 meters must be observed. A separate tables for PRC are provided with acrylic barriers. Alcohol dispensers for each cubicle and table and at the entry and exit are also in placed. The floor is marked by guide arrows for the flow of movement going in and out of the room. Disinfection of the room and opening of windows is required after each rotation. All instruments will be cleaned and disinfected. First aid kit is provided.
 - iii. For Ophthalmic Lab, Room 210 shall have 8 tables with acrylic barriers. Observe 1.5 meters' physical distancing is a must. Room 208 shall have 4 tables with acrylic barriers (1.5meters distance). Only 10 examinees will occupy the ophthalmic lab room. A separate table for the examiner with acrylic barriers will be provided inside Room 210 and 1 table with acrylic barriers for PRC personnel in Room 208. Alcohol dispensers at entry and exit are provided. Disinfection of the room after each rotation and opening of windows will be implemented. All instruments will be cleaned and disinfected. A First aid kit is provided.
 - iv. The arrows on the floors for direction going to the restrooms on the 1st and 2nd floor will be placed and infographics on hand washing will be prominently seen by examinees.
 - v. Security personnel will be assigned on the 1st and 2nd floor.

III. ROTATIONS

- a. The number of examinees per day will be maximum of 60 examinees.
 - a. 1st batch of 30 examinees in the morning from 8AM to 12 Noon.
 - b. 2nd batch of 30 examinees in the afternoon from 1PM to 5PM.
- b. Each batch of 30 examinees will be subdivided into 3 sub-groups. For a total of 60 Examinees per day. This will be the picture of the 4 days' practical examination.
- c. Each sub-group will take their practical exam for 80 minutes and will rotate to different examiners for the other subjects to be taken.

Illustration:

	1 st Rotation	2 nd Rotation	3 rd Rotation
Morning			
• 10 Examinees for Dr. Garcia	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)
• 10 Examinees for Dr. Flores	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)
• 10 Examinees for Dr. Pelino	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)

	4 th Rotation	5 th Rotation	6 th Rotation
Afternoon			
• 10 Examinees for Dr. Garcia	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)
• 10 Examinees for Dr. Flores	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)
• 10 Examinees for Dr. Pelino	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)	(80 Minutes)

VI. EXAMINATION

a. PRIOR TO ENTERING THE EXAMINATION ROOM

- i. Examinees should present their requirements to the proctor assigned their Notice of admission. Quarantine Certificate from the LGUs or Swab result in the absence of quarantine certificate, health forms and informed consent form.
- ii. Upon entering the examination area each examinee will be given a list of procedures to be performed. All the data or findings have to be recorded. Questions written in the paper has to be recorded as well.
- iii. The Examiner must wear the proper PPEs and bring:
 - 1. Disposable Hazmat
 - 2. Face Shield
 - 3. Face Mask
 - 4. Hair Cap
 - 5. Shoe Cover
 - 6. Alcohol 70%
 - 7. Paraphernalia
- iv. The Examinee must wear proper PPEs and bring:
 - 1. Disposable Hazmat
 - 2. Face Shield
 - 3. Face Mask
 - 4. Hair Cap
 - 5. Shoe Cover
 - 6. Alcohol 70%
 - 7. Required Instruments


b. EXAMINATION PROPER

- i. No patient is required in the examination room. Instead, a schematic eye shall be required for use.
- ii. Each examinee will be given a test sheet with instruction of the procedure that will be performed.
- iii. The performance of procedure and evaluation will be directly observed by the examiner.
- iv. Each examinee is distanced at 2 meters each.

- v. The allowable distance for the examiner to communicate with the examinee is at 2 meters also.
- vi. There are 5 areas/subjects for practical examination with the corresponding clinical skills to be assessed:
 - 1. Subjective Examination (20%)
 - Preliminary Examination (Case History)
 - Subjective Refraction
 - Visual Field, Color Vision and Amsler Chart
 - Analysis and Prescription
 - Specialty Areas
 - 2. Objective Examination (20%)
 - Ophthalmoscopy and Fundus Evaluation
 - Retinoscopy
 - Biomicroscopy
 - Autorefraction
 - 3. Binocular and Low Vision Clinical Skills (20%)
 - A. Low Vision Refraction
 - B. Accommodation Test and Evaluation
 - C. Heterophoria Measurement
 - D. Vergence Test at Far and Near
 - E. Vision Therapy
 - 4. Contact Lens Practice (20%)
 - A. Keratometry and Radiuscope
 - B. Contact Lens Materials
 - C. Contact Lens Evaluation
 - D. Contact Lens Modification
 - 5. Ophthalmic Laboratory Examination (20%)
 - A. Worksheet
 - B. Ophthalmic Materials
 - C. Benchwork
 - D. Grinding and Edging

Total Score/Average: 100%

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