



**Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK)  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England**

**REGULATIONS OF THE EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE  
DIPLOMA IN DENTAL HYGIENE  
(to take effect from 9 May 2000)**

**Introduction**

Candidates for the Diploma in Dental Hygiene awarded by the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) of the Royal College of Surgeons of England must comply with the following regulations and pass the required examinations or gain exemption under the conditions stated in the special regulations.

A candidate who passes the examination shall be entitled to the designation of Diplomate of Dental Hygiene. (DipDH) and shall receive a Diploma signed by the Dean and Registrar of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK). The form of the Diploma shall be as follows.

“The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) of the Royal College of Surgeons of England hereby grant the Diploma in Dental Hygiene to.....  
having completed the required course of study and passed the necessary examination.”

The Diploma is recognised by the General Dental Council for admission to the Roll of Dental Auxiliaries as a Dental Hygienist.

## Eligibility

Candidates must::

- a) Normally have been engaged in a recognised course of study extending over two academic years in a recognised School of Dental Hygiene.
- b) Provide evidence of completion of their satisfactory training signed by the Director of the School including:
  - i) An end of first year assessment of the candidate presided over by the external examiner.
  - ii) A continuous assessment record in the form of a clinical logbook completed during the candidate's training.
  - iii) A project undertaken by the candidate during the second year of the course.

## Examination Regulations

The final examination will be as follows:

- a) Written Paper

The written component will comprise two papers each of two hours duration. Each paper will be based on the clinical aspects of the course and applied basic science. The format of this paper is laid down in the Guide to Candidates and may change from time to time.

- b) Clinical Examination

The clinical examination will not require the candidate to carry out any practical procedures under examination conditions. The candidate will be expected to present **two** patients whom they have treated, to the external examiner. This presentation should include complete clinical records and radiographs. The examination will be for 30 minutes, of which 15 to 20 minutes will be spent on questions related to the patients. The external and internal examiners will ask questions relating to the student's clinical knowledge and understanding of the patients' treatment. The format of the clinical examination is laid down in the Guide to Candidates and may change from time to time.

The marks for the written and practical examinations will be assessed separately and candidates will have to pass each part of the examination independently.

Candidates who fail either part of the final examination will be deemed to have failed the examination overall.

## **Examination and Fees Information**

### 1. Timing

Examinations for the Diploma in Dental Hygiene will be held at such times as are agreed by the Dental Examinations Committee but will normally be once per year (see Re-examination). Candidates wishing to submit applications for this examination must submit application forms by the closing date published by the Examinations Department.

Application forms are available from, and should be submitted to:

The Examinations Office  
FGDP(UK)  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England  
35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London  
WC2A 3PE

### 2. Applications for admission to the examination must be accompanied by:

- a. A statement of satisfactory completion of training by the candidate, signed by the Director of the School. This must include;
  - i) The candidate passing the end of first year assessment presided over by the external examiner.
  - ii) Completion of a continuous assessment record in the form of a clinical logbook completed during the candidate's training.
  - iii) A Project undertaken by the candidate during the second year of the course.

The continuous assessment record and the project should be available for scrutiny by the external examiner at the time of the practical examination.

The format for each section of the examination is laid down in the Guide to Candidates, and may change from time to time.

- b. Fee payable for admission to the examination.

3. Special Regulations Candidates

These candidates must submit the above and any other documentation required by the General Dental Council.

4. Candidates withdrawing from an examination must do so in writing.

The entrance fee may be returned less administrative charges of 20 per cent, or transferred to the next examination where written notice is received by the College prior to the closing date for receipt of applications.

Half the entrance fee may be returned or transferred to the next examination where written notice is received not less than 21 days before the commencement of the examination. After that date, no refund or transfer will normally be made to candidates who withdraw from the examination or fail to attend for any reason whatsoever.

No allowance will be made for postal or other delays.

5. Ineligible Candidates

Candidates who submit an application form, but are subsequently found to be ineligible to enter for the examination will have their fee returned less administrative charges of 20 per cent.

The Council may refuse to admit to an examination or to proceed with the examination of any candidate who infringes any of the regulations, or who is considered by the Examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

Candidates should be aware that in the United Kingdom. The Department of Health, The Scottish Office and The Welsh Office have issued guidance regarding fitness to practise medicine and dentistry in relation to Hepatitis B. Candidates should be aware that the centre where they sit the examinations may require a copy of a certificate from a United Kingdom source showing their current Hepatitis B status. A candidate who cannot provide such certification may be prevented from sitting the examinations. No refund of examination fees is allowed under such circumstances.

**Appeal and complaints procedures:**

Candidates must submit a complaint within 30 days of the examination to the Dental Examinations Department of the FGDP(UK). A copy of the procedural document may be obtained from the Examinations Office.

No candidate may appeal on the basis of the result of the examination. However they may complain regarding the conduct of the examination.

### **Re-examination**

Unsuccessful candidates will be eligible to re-sit the examination at a future date, a minimum of 3 months later. A further certificate of satisfactory completion of continuous assessment will be required and a further fee will be payable.

### **Syllabus**

The syllabus for this examination is defined in the General Dental Council's Curriculum for Dental Hygienists which can be obtained from:

The General Dental Council  
37 Wimpole Street  
London W1M 8DQ

### **Special regulations**

Candidates who have trained overseas and wish to present for the Diploma in Dental Hygiene following a shortened period of training in a recognised school of Dental Hygiene must produce evidence of all previous relevant training, together with advice from the General Dental Council regarding recommended further training.

Candidates with other qualifications should contact the General Dental Council for advice.

## AMENDMENT TO EXAMINATION REGULATIONS FROM Nov/Dec 2002

1. Candidates sitting the Dental Hygiene examination only will be required to take the Dental Hygiene Written Paper 1, the Combined Written Paper and the Dental Hygiene Practical and Viva.
2. Candidates for Dental Therapy only will be required to take the Dental Therapy Written Paper 1, the Combined Written Paper and the Dental Therapy Practical and Viva.
3. Candidates for both Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy will be required to take all three papers, and both Practicals and Vivas.
4. Candidates taking both the Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy examinations who pass the Dental Hygiene Written Paper 1, the Combined Written Paper and the Dental Hygiene Practical and Viva, but fail any other part of the Therapy Examination, will be allowed to qualify as a Dental Hygienist.
5. Candidates taking both the Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy examinations who fail any part of the Dental Hygiene examination, will be required to retake the whole examination. It is not possible to qualify as a Dental Therapist without also passing the Dental Hygiene examination.

## **Guide to Candidates**

### General

The examination for the Diploma in Dental Hygiene is designed to test the ability of candidates to treat the patients under prescription from a registered dentist. The range of skills which will be tested in the examination will include only those which are the permitted statutory duties of enrolled (registered) dental hygienists in the United Kingdom.

### First Year Examination

The first year examination should test the understanding of basic sciences as well as clinical skills. It should assess the student's progress, in particular the practical element of the course completed in the first 12 months. There will be a practical component to this examination.

If a student is not successful in this first year examination, a re-sit examination following remedial instruction must be taken and passed before they can progress to the final Diploma in Dental Hygiene examination.

### Final Examination

The examination at the end of the two academic years training is divided into two components.

The first component is a written examination in two parts. This comprises two written papers, which will assess any part of the dental hygiene syllabus. Six questions will have to be answered in two hours in each paper and candidates will be expected to present their information in short note form.

The second part of the examination will consist of a clinical and oral examination. This will last approximately 30 minutes and will concentrate in the first part on an oral assessment of the candidate's knowledge and understanding of the procedures carried out for the patients presented by the candidate. The latter part of this 30 minute examination will comprise a structured oral which will assess all parts of the dental hygiene syllabus. At least six different areas of the syllabus will be tested during the 30 minute practical and oral examination.

### Log Book

A logbook should record the clinical work undertaken during the course and should include a series of competency based assessments that students have to complete as they progress through the course.

The log book should record the number of patients treated by a candidate, together with the types of procedures carried out over the length of the course. It should also record the candidate's performance in each task assessed by his/her clinical tutor.

A record of theoretical assessments completed during the course should also be included.

### The Project

A Project is undertaken by the candidate during the second year of the course which will be in an aspect of elementary research or the practice of dental hygiene or oral health education.