IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP EXAMINATIONS IN THE SPECIALTY OF ORTHODONTICS (M Orth RCSEd)

Forthcoming Amendments to the Examination Structure

The College wishes to advise of forthcoming proposed amendments to the examination structure relating to the Membership in the Specialty of Orthodontics taking place in 2020. Details of the changes are given below:

Regulations Section 3: Structure of the examination

With effect from January 2020:

The examination will be restructured into two separate parts, with the Written Component of the examination de-coupled from the Oral Components of the examination. Each part will be taken separately, and the two parts of the examination will become as follows:

Part A - Written Component

This remains as a single written paper in Orthodontics of three hours’ duration, consisting of 180 SBA (Single Best Answer) type questions.

- The Written Examination as a stand-alone component will be held at least three times a year, at various centres both in the UK and internationally, according to demand. The first diet is scheduled for January 2020, and dates and locations will be made available on the College website in the near future.

- Candidates may enter themselves for Part A after satisfactorily completing two-years full-time (or part-time equivalent) in appropriate posts, courses and programmes of specialty training at the time of sitting. However, candidates should note that the theoretical aspects of the whole, three-year M Orth curriculum will be tested during this part of the Examination and therefore adequate preparations should be made.

- Candidates would normally be expected to undertake and pass Part A of the examination before proceeding to Part B, however candidates will also be permitted to apply for and sit both parts at the same sitting should they wish to do so, when both the written and clinical components are held concurrently at any centre, either in the UK or Internationally providing they have satisfactorily completed two and a half years of full-time training as required for entry to Part B (see Part B section below).

- Provisional diets where the written and clinical components are likely to be concurrent are Edinburgh (May 2020), Edinburgh & Cairo (September 2020) and Sri Lanka/Dubai (Nov/Dec 2020). Written papers for all other additional centres will be held on the same dates as for these diets. All arrangements are however still to be confirmed, and may be subject to change.

- Candidates who have passed the Written Component of the Membership in Orthodontics Examinations of RCSEd under previous Regulations would be exempted from Part A, and may proceed directly to entry to Part B.

- Candidates will be permitted a maximum of six attempts at the Part A Examination effective from January 2020.
Part B – Clinical Examination

Part B of the restructured Examination will be held in the UK and overseas according to demand, and the diets available are expected to follow closely the current calendar and locations. Part B consists of the current four Components as follows:

• **Component 1** - a two hour diagnostic examination (in two sections) related to treatment planning and patient care with four sets of patient records;

• **Component 2** - a one hour oral examination based on four documented clinical case histories (15 minutes per case) each describing a patient personally treated by the candidate. No marks are awarded for the case presentations, and marks are awarded for the oral examination only;

• **Component 3** - a fifteen minute oral examination on aspects of communication relating to orthodontic treatment;

• **Component 4** - a thirty minute oral examination on any aspect of orthodontics.

• Candidates may enter themselves for Part B after satisfactorily completing two and a half years full-time (or part-time equivalent) in appropriate posts, courses and programmes of specialty training at the time of sitting, provided their programme director has signed their application form to suggest satisfactory progress has been achieved. Award of the Specialty Membership in Orthodontics RCSEd is however dependent on evidence that the candidate has successfully completed three years’ full-time (or part-time equivalent) specialty training.

• Candidates will be permitted a maximum of four attempts at the Part B examination effective from January 2020.

• All sections of Part B should normally be passed at the same time.

• Both Parts of the Examination must be passed within 7 years of first entering and passing either part of the examination, or the pass date of the exempting component if candidates have previously passed the written component of the RCSEd examination and are carrying this over under the new Regulations;

• **Exemption from that part of the examination which relates to the four documented case histories** will only be granted to candidates who have failed the Membership Examination in Orthodontics of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, or the Bi-Collegiate Membership in Orthodontics Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow if their presented material and subsequent performance in the related oral examination has satisfied the examiners. **This exemption may be carried forward for a maximum of three attempts of the examination, within the four attempts permitted;**

Candidates will only be eligible for the award of M Orth (RCSEd) on successfully passing both Part A (or have exemption) and Part B of the Examination within the permitted timeframe and number of attempts as detailed.

The updated Regulations and Guide to Candidates are now also available on the website alongside the current Regulatory documentation: [www.rcsed.ac.uk](http://www.rcsed.ac.uk)

Should you have any queries on these changes, please contact us on dental.exams@rcsed.ac.uk

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