1 THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

1.1 The Membership Examination in Primary Dental Care of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh assesses the skills and applied knowledge of the General Dental Practitioner who has been practicing for five years or more. The expected standard is that of a practitioner who has undertaken extensive postgraduate training, comparable with a three year full time training programme, to a level measurably beyond the level of the UK graduating dentist.

1.2 All parts of the examination are conducted in English.

1.3 There are two parts of the examination comprising:

Part 1 – Written Paper,
Part 2 – Unseen Cases Structured Oral Examination,

1.3.1 In order to pass the examination, the candidate must pass both parts (or have exemption from one or other part from a previous sitting). There is no cross-compensation between both parts of the examination.

2 THE EXAMINATION

2.1 Part 1 - Written Paper

There will be one written paper of multiple short answer (MSA) questions, of three hours duration. The examination is standard set using the Angoff method. Two examiners are assigned to mark each question independently. The overall mark achieved by a candidate for the written paper will be compared with the standard set pass mark and the candidate will be awarded a pass or a fail for the written paper based on their achieved overall mark.

2.2 Part 2 - Unseen Cases – Structured Oral Examinations

- This component of the examination is designed to assess a candidate’s skills in diagnosis, treatment planning and clinical judgement.
- There will be eight simulated clinical cases (oral examination of 20 minutes each). The candidate will have 20 minutes to evaluate each simulated case prior to the case oral examination for each case. The candidate will be provided with study casts, relevant radiographs, patient details and history. The candidate will be permitted to make notes, which may be taken into the oral examination.

There will be two circuits of the examination, each of four cases. There will be a break between circuits.
3  GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Candidates should note that no practical work will be required during the examinations.

3.2 Any candidate failing the examination may request confidential advice concerning any additional training which may be beneficial before attempting the examination again.