

## **Skill Examinations**

Candidates for the National Optician's Practical Skill Examination will be required to perform the following selected examinations as assigned. Each examination, spectacles and contact lens, require 60 minutes to complete.

### **SPECTACLES Examination**

1. Measurement of Pupillary Distance and Segment Height
2. Neutralization of Spectacles

### **CONTACT LENS Examination**

1. Corneal Curvature Measurement (Keratometry)
2. Contact Lens Images and Conditions of the Eye
3. Evaluation of a Contact Lens Using a Slit Lamp
4. Slit Lamp Operation

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# *National Optician's Practical Examination*

## **Spectacles & Contact Lens Examinations**

## **Candidate Checklists**

## CHECKLISTS

The following checklists have been developed using best practices. It is highly recommended that you review the checklists, as well as the tutorial **carefully** prior to taking the simulated Spectacles and the Contact Lens examination(s). The term “given” in a checklist indicates that the step will already be completed for you. It is not necessary to perform the step.

### Tutorial Focus Points

The tutorial provides you with important information on the mechanics of the simulated Spectacle and Contact Lens examinations. Use the tutorial to become familiar with the following:

- General information about the procedures and processes encountered in the exam
- Methods for starting, moving through, and completing the various tasks
- The selection and use of buttons in the Skill Examination screens
- Adjusting various instrument/equipment using the computer interface
- Recording and submitting final results

### SPECTACLE EXAMINATION MEASUREMENT OF PUPILLARY DISTANCE AND SEGMENT HEIGHT

MEASUREMENT OF PUPILLARY DISTANCE AND  
SEGMENT HEIGHT

#### PERFORM PUPILLARY DISTANCE MEASUREMENT

- Position Pupilometer (Given)
- Set dials for both distance and near

#### RECORD RESULTS

- Record results
- Submit Results

#### MEASURE SEGMENT HEIGHT

- Measure segment height for three specific frames

#### RECORD RESULTS

- Record results for specific frames
- Submit results

**Passing Score:** 70%

**Tolerance Ranges:**

Interpupillary Distance	+/- .50 mm
Segment Height	
Progressive	+/- 1.0 mm
Bifocal	+/- 1.5 mm
Trifocal	+/- 1.5 mm

### SPECTACLE EXAMINATION NEUTRALIZE SPECTACLES

RECORD PRESCRIPTION FOR EACH LENS ON TWO SETS  
OF SPECTACLES, IDENTIFY PRISM (IF PRESENT) IN  
EACH LENS FOR BOTH SETS OF SPECTACLES, RECORD  
RESULTS IN MINUS CYLINDER FORM

#### VIEW LENSES

- Focus eyepiece
- Place spectacles on the stage (Given)
- Center lens on the stage
- Adjust axis dial
- Adjust power drum
- Read the lens to identify axis, power & bifocal add
- Identify prism power and direction if present

#### RECORD RESULTS

- Record results for both lenses on two sets of frames
- Submit results

**Passing Score:** 70% on both sets of spectacles

**Tolerance Ranges:**

Sphere	+/- 0.25 mm
Cylinder	+/- 0.25 D
Bifocal Add	+/- 0.25 D
Prism	+/- 0.25 D
Axis	+/- 3 degrees

## CONTACT LENS EXAMINATION EVALUATION OF CONTACT LENS USING A SLIT LAMP

VIEW AND IDENTIFY CONTACT LENS FITS USING A  
SLIT LAMP

### PERFORM OBSERVATION

- View
- Identify

### RECORD RESULTS

- Identification of lens fits
- Submit results

*Passing Score:* 70%

## CONTACT LENS EXAMINATION CORNEAL CURVATURE MEASUREMENT (KERATOMETRY)

MEASURE THE CORNEAL CURVATURE ON A MANUAL  
KERATOMETER AND RECORD THE RESULTS

### CHECK CORNEAL CURVATURE

- Focus the eyepiece
- Position the keratometer
  - Horizontally
  - Vertically
  - Distance from the patient
  - Rotate the Drum
  - Adjust axis
- Adjust horizontal and vertical powers

### RECORD RESULTS

- Record results
- Submit results

*Passing Score:* 100%

### *Tolerance Ranges:*

Horizontal Power	+/- .25 D
Vertical Power	+/- .25 D
Horizontal Axis	+/- 5 degrees
Vertical Axis	+/- 5 degrees

## CONTACT LENS EXAMINATION CONTACT LENS IMAGES & CONDITIONS OF THE EYE

CORRECTLY IDENTIFY IMAGES COMMON TO OPTICIANRY

### PERFORM OBSERVATION

- View
- Identify

### RECORD RESULTS

- Identification of images
- Submit results

*Passing Score:* 70%

## CONTACT LENS EXAMINATION SLIT LAMP OPERATION

IDENTIFY VARIOUS PATHOLOGIES AND ILLUMINATIONS  
USING A SLIT LAMP

### ADJUST SLIT LAMP

- Position slit lamp to proper focus
- Position slit lamp horizontally
- Position slit lamp vertically
- Set the illumination
- Adjust slit lamp angle
- Select filter setting

### RECORD RESULTS

- Record and submit results for varied pathologies and illuminations

*Passing Score:* 70%

## HOW THE SPECTACLE AND CONTACT LENS SKILL EXAMINATIONS ARE SCORED

There are two possible results for the task included in the Skill Examination:

Pass: You have successfully completed all tasks.

Fail: You did not successfully complete the required tasks; you must retake only those tasks.

To pass any individual task, satisfactory scores must be achieved on the accuracy of results. To successfully complete the entire Skill Examination, an individual must pass all tasks as assigned.

To evaluate the accuracy of results, the tolerance ranges indicated for each of the required categories have been established by a panel of opticianry experts. To receive a "satisfactory" score on accuracy of results, all required results for the task must fall within the tolerance ranges. Otherwise, a "fail" will be assigned for the specific task.

### Non-Scored Items:

In addition to scored items, all candidates receive sample questions. While they are not identified or scored, these items are being tested for possible inclusion in future examinations.

### Examination Timing:

#### *Spectacles*

Initial Simulated Examination - 60 Minutes

#### *Spectacles Retest(s)*

1. Measurement of Pupillary Distance and Segment Height - 15 Minutes
2. Neutralization of Spectacles - 45 Minutes

#### *Contact Lenses*

Initial Simulated Examination - 60 Minutes

#### *Contact Lens Retest(s)*

1. Corneal Curvature Measurement - 10 Minutes
2. Contact Lens Images and Conditions of the Eye - 20 Minutes
3. Evaluation of a Contact Lens Using a Slit Lamp - 10 Minutes
4. Slit Lamp Operation - 20 Minutes

## SPECTACLE AND CONTACT LENS SKILL EXAMINATIONS

**It is highly recommended to prepare for the exam in the following manner:**

1. Review the Optician's Skill Examination tutorial carefully.
2. Review the tutorial again the day before the exam.
3. Read, understand, and commit to memory the Candidate Checklists provided.
4. Understand the theory behind each task.
5. Practice the skills with co-workers or another optician.
6. Consult with co-workers or an optician to critique your skills.

### **Taking the exam:**

1. Take your time.
2. Read the instructions, scenario, and expected results carefully and completely.
3. Be methodical in performing each task.
4. Read dials carefully.
5. Double-check your findings.
6. Restart the task if you are dissatisfied with your final results.
7. Always record your results and press the submit button when satisfied with your data or results.

National Optician's Practical Examination Checklist last update November/2013

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