

Skill Examinations

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

SPECTACLES Examination

1. Measurement of Monocular Pupillary Distance
2. Measurement of Objective Segment Height
3. 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

National Commission of State Opticianry Regulatory Boards

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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 located at www.NCSORB.org 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
- 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 MONOCULAR PUPILLARY DISTANCE

MEASUREMENT OF MONOCULAR PUPILLARY DISTANCE

PERFORM MONOCULAR PUPILLARY DISTANCE MEASUREMENT

- Position Pupilometer (Given)
- Measure the monocular distance PD
- Measure the monocular near PD

RECORD AND SUBMIT RESULTS

- Record results for distance PD
- Record results for near PD
- Submit Results

Passing Score: 100%

Tolerance Ranges:

Interpupillary Distance +/- .25 mm

MEASUREMENT OF OBJECTIVE SEGMENT HEIGHT

MEASURE OBJECTIVE SEGMENT HEIGHT

- Measure objective segment height for three specific frames

RECORD AND SUBMIT RESULTS

- Record results for specific frames
- Submit results for specific frames
-

Passing Score: 70%

Tolerance Ranges:

Segment Height
Progressive +/- 1.0 mm
Bifocal +/- 1.0 mm
Trifocal +/- 1.0 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 (Given)
- 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 AND SUBMIT RESULTS

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

Passing Score: 75%

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 each lens that is placed on the patient

RECORD AND SUBMIT RESULTS

- Identify each lens fit
- Submit results for each lens fit

Passing Score: 80%

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 AND SUBMIT 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 each image presented
- Identify each image presented

RECORD AND SUBMIT RESULTS

- Submit results for each image presented

Passing Score: 70%

CONTACT LENS EXAMINATION SLIT LAMP OPERATION

ADJUST SLIT LAMP TO VIEW VARIOUS PATHOLOGIES
AND ILLUMINATIONS

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 AND SUBMIT RESULTS

- Record and submit results for various pathologies and illuminations as viewed through the slit lamp

Passing Score: 70%

HOW THE SPECTACLE AND CONTACT LENS 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, a passing score must be achieved. To successfully complete the entire Skill Examination, an individual must pass all tasks as assigned. Passing percentages for the tasks range from 70 – 100%.

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 passing score all required results for the task must fall within the published 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 Monocular Pupillary Distance - 10 minutes
2. Measurement of Objective Segment Height - 10 Minutes
3. Neutralization of Spectacles – 40 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 EXAMINATION PREPARATION

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

1. Review the National Optician’s Practical Examination tutorial carefully.
2. Review the tutorial again the day before the exam.
3. Read, understand, and commit to memory the Candidate Checklist.
4. Understand what is expected of 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 August/2015

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