

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS



HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS Examination Content

Glaucoma A

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Examination Format

Certificate: **Glaucoma A**

Clinical Portfolio:

The portfolio, which must be submitted to the College Higher Qualifications Co-ordinator no later than the advertised deadline, is to include 6 records to show differing aetiologies of glaucoma and different modalities of optic disc/retinal observations and visual field assessment. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate that they have used methods of at least one method of contact applanation Tonometry. Each case should include clinical images (where available), all relevant investigations including visual field plots. Candidates are expected to provide a discussion of 500-1000 words for each case, and should support this with reference to scientific literature. Where candidates are including cases conducted in part by other clinicians, candidates must indicate clearly which examination/s they have undertaken.

Candidates are reminded that Certificate A requires a level of knowledge and experience sufficient to working in a referral requirement service. The case records should, therefore, be discussed with particular reference to detection and diagnosis.

Examples of case records by different authors can be found in the College library. These are for reference only.

Further details regarding general presentation and content of the portfolio are to be found on page 4 of this guide. Please remember in particular that copies of original records must be included in the portfolio.

Two complete copies of the case records and all documentation should be submitted.

Assessment is in the form of a 1 hour viva.

Written Examination:

The written examination will take the form of a 1.5 hour paper consisting of 30 short answer questions covering any aspect of the syllabus.

Station Examination:

The station examination (1 hour) consists of 4 stations as shown below.

Station 1 Disc assessment of both eyes using slit lamp (patient).

The candidate will be asked to assess the optic discs of both eyes of two patients using a slit-lamp BIO technique. The candidate is expected to: grade the vertical cup:disc ratio, measure disc height, sketch both optic discs and the relevant peri-papillary area (annotating the diagram where appropriate and recording the features/signs of relevance to glaucoma). The candidate should also record their overall assessment of the disc status in each eye. (20 minutes)

Station 2 Visual field interpretation (slide recognition).

Candidates will be shown three pairs of visual field plots from the HVFA. The candidate must assess and interpret each plot, making accurate observations. Candidates must record the key

features of these plots, providing written comments on both the overall visual field status and their management decision from the perspective of a primary care optometrist. Candidates will be assessed on their written answers. (20 minutes)

Station 3 Measurement of Goldmann intraocular pressure (patient).

The candidate will be expected to carry out Goldmann applanation tonometry on both eyes of a patient and will be expected to demonstrate their ability to calibrate the instrument. A slit lamp with the Goldmann tonometer will be provided. (10 minutes)

Station 4 Assessment of anterior segment (patient).

The candidate will be expected to assess the anterior chamber angle and to carry out gonioscopy on one eye only of a patient and record their findings. Candidates will be expected to examine the anterior segment in one eye only of the patient, to draw and annotate any relevant findings and to record the anterior chamber depth using a recognised technique. Candidates will then be asked to carry out gonioscopy on one eye only and to record a grading of the angle superiorly, inferiorly, nasally and temporally, noting any important features. (10 minutes)

Equipment List

Certificate in Glaucoma A

Candidate Equipment

Candidates should provide their own selection of gonio and BIO lenses. Volk 90 D BIO lenses and Goldmann one or three mirror gonioscopes will be available on request.

Centre Equipment

- Goldmann tonometer
- Tonometer calibration equipment
- Haag-Streit type slit-lamp
- Appropriate ophthalmic drugs including:
 - Benoxinate/Other local anaesthetic
 - Fluorescein
 - Tissues
 - Saline
 - Coupling media for gonioscopy