

National Examination Changes Due to COVID-19

The following changes have been made to the National Eyeglasses and National Contact Lens examinations due to COVID-19. The changes are in effect until December 31, 2021, and if necessary, will be reviewed after this date.

Eyeglasses Examination

The following change were approved:

- Section 3 – Measurements
Candidates will not be required to measure a pupillary distance using the pupilometer.
Candidates will still be required to measure a pupillary distance using a penlight and ruler.

The removal of measuring the PD with a pupilometer changes the total marks for the eyeglass examination from 236 to 232 marks. The pass mark for the eyeglass examination will be 141/232 or 61%.

Contact Lens Examination

The following changes were approved:

- Section 1 – Keratometry and Rx Interpretation
Candidates will not be required to measure the k-readings of a live model. Instead, candidates will be required to take the measurement of an unknown test ball.
- Section 3 – Verification and Lens Design
Candidates will not be required to measure the base curve(s) of rigid lenses using a radiuscope. Candidates will still be required to measure the power and diameter of rigid lenses.
- Section 4 – Insertion and Removal
This entire section of the examination has been removed.

The CL National Examination was shortened by 40 points out of the total 215. This was a substantial change and so additional investigation was conducted into the relative difficulty of the 40 points that were removed.

Wickett Measurement Systems was hired to do a statistical analysis of historical data from the contact lens examination. The average performance on the 40 removed points was 81% whereas it was 69% on the remaining 175 points. As such, the revised exam is more challenging for candidates and so the pass mark needed to be revised to make it a fair assessment and ensure that candidates sitting this examination are being tested to the same level as past examinations.

Linear equating, mathematical and classification balancing approaches were used to establish the revised pass mark.

The pass mark for the contact lens examination will be 113/175 or 65%.