A Candidate's Guide to
Licensing Examination 2026 (Second Sitting)
of the Dental Council of Hong Kong

Under Section 8 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance ("DRO"), Cap. 156, a person may apply for full registration as a registered dentist in Hong Kong with the Dental Council of Hong Kong ("the Council") if –

(a) the person has been awarded –
  (i) a bachelor degree in dentistry awarded by a university in Hong Kong specified in Schedule 1 of the Ordinance; and
  (ii) a certificate of experience under section 8C of the Ordinance;

(b) the person –
  (i) has passed the Licensing Examination; and
  (ii) has been awarded a certificate of experience under Section 8D of the DRO; or

(c) the person –
  (i) has worked under full-time employment as a person with limited registration in one or more Schedule 4 institutions or as a person with special registration in one or more Schedule 5 institutions for at least 5 years in aggregate;
  (ii) is certified by the institution, or by all the institutions, to have satisfactorily served as a dentist during the employment period by reference to the criteria specified by the Council; and
  (iii) satisfies the condition specified in Schedule 10 of the DRO.

Note: (1) The University of Hong Kong is specified in Schedule 1 of the DRO.
(2) Institutions under Schedule 4 and Schedule 5 are Department of Health, Hospital Authority, The University of Hong Kong, The Prince Philip Dental Hospital and 35 organisations (comprising 34 non-governmental organisations participating in designated publicly-funded dental programmes and 1 training institution for dental care professionals).

The eligibility criteria for taking the LE are that at the time of the application, an applicant –

(i) has satisfactorily completed not less than 4 years' full time dental training of a type approved by the Council; and

(ii) is the holder of a dental degree or a dental qualification acceptable to the Council.

Applicants who could not fulfil the eligibility criteria must apply with reasons and supporting documents for the Council's consideration.

Under Section 7A(3) of the DRO, the Council may refuse to allow a person to take the LE if the person has, in any one part of the LE, failed 5 times.

The Council has issued the "Competences for the Hong Kong Dentists" which acts as a blueprint on standards requiring for LE of the Council. Copy of this document is available at the website of the Council (https://www.dchk.org.hk).

All applicants are required to read this Candidate's Guide before submitting the application.

Details of the LE are described below.

I. EXAMINATION FORMAT

The Examination comprises three separate parts.

Part I

(1) This Written Test consists of 2 multiple-choice-question papers for 8 subjects. All parts of Paper 1 and Parts A and B of Paper 2 will be taken in the morning session while Parts C to E of Paper 2 will be taken in the afternoon session. The questions are set in "single best answer" type format. Each question contains 5 choices of answer. Candidates are required to choose the best answer out of the choices given. The test will cover the following subjects –

(a) Paper 1

	Subject	No. of questions	Time allowed
Part A	Applied Basic Sciences*	20	20 minutes
Part B	Medicine and Surgery in relation to Dentistry	20	20 minutes
Part C	Dental Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Medical Emergencies in relation to Dentistry	20	20 minutes

* This part covers science subjects relating to the practice of dentistry such as biology, pathology, etc.

(b) Paper 2

	Subject	No. of questions	Time allowed
Part A	Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology	50	1 hour
Part B	Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics	50	1 hour
Part C	Conservative Dentistry	50	1 hour
Part D	Periodontology, Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health	50	1 hour
Part E	Prosthodontics	50	1 hour

(2) Answer sheets will be provided and these will require pencil markings to be made in boxes to accord with instructions that will be issued at the time of examination. Candidates should bring several sharpened HB or B pencils and a high quality eraser to the examination.

(3) For both Papers 1 and 2, candidates who fail in one or more parts will be allowed to re-sit those unsuccessful part(s) only, while retaining partial results for the successful ones. Candidates will be allowed to retain partial results in Part I Written Test for four diets or four years, whichever event occurs first. This condition applies to the partial pass result obtained in Part I of the LE in 2015 or thereafter. This condition also applies to the valid partial pass result obtained in Part I of the LE in 2013 and/or 2014 under the old result retention policy. This condition does not apply to partial pass result obtained in the LE(s) in 2012 or before. However, the retention of a pass is subject to the condition set out in the first paragraph of this Guide.

(4) Candidates are required to pass Part I of the LE before proceeding to Part II or to Part II and

Part III. Upon obtaining a pass in Part I, candidates are allowed to apply for sitting the LE in the same diet for –

(i) only Part II ; or

(ii) both Part II and Part III irrespective of the result of Part II.
For candidates who wish to apply for sitting Part III only in any diet of the LE, they must first obtain a pass in Part II.

(5) During the Part I examination, all announcements will be made in English.

Part II

(1) The Practical Test is designed to test the candidate's manual dexterity and professional competence. The test comprises the following sections, the sequence of which will be announced at the commencement of the examination –

(a) Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics

This section consists of a practical test of not more than a one-hour duration, which may comprise one or both of the following:

(i) The preparation of a plastic tooth on a phantom head for a cavity preparation on a primary tooth or a first permanent molar and may be a class II or III cavity preparation for the restoration with either silver amalgam, composite or other restorative materials. Alternatively, candidates may be required to prepare a plastic tooth for the placement of a stainless steel crown.

(ii) The design of an orthodontic appliance or device such as a Hawley retainer, an Adam's clasp, finger springs or other orthodontic removable appliances. Candidates will be provided with the necessary wires to fabricate the designated appliances on a study cast provided.

A full set of instruments will be provided including conventional and high speed handpieces, burs, hand instruments and other necessary materials. Candidates may bring their own hand instruments, loupes and burs if they wish, but this must be clearly identified so that the instruments and burs provided can be returned upon completion of the tasks.

The exact nature of the assignment will be indicated at the start of the test.

(b) Prosthodontics

This section consists of a practical test of not more than a one-hour duration in which the candidates are required to design a removable partial denture.

Candidates will be given casts of a patient's dentition together with a brief dental history of the patient. A dental surveyor, design charts and pencils will be provided.

Candidates will be required to survey the casts and design a removable partial denture compatible with the patient's oral condition and the history provided. The design should be drawn on the chart provided and any modifications to the patient's teeth which are needed to make the design workable should be indicated.

(c) Conservative Dentistry

This section consists of a practical test of not less than a one-hour duration carried out on a phantom head.

Candidates will be required to prepare a plastic or (mounted) natural tooth for receiving an

intra- or extra-coronal dental restoration, or (stages of) root canal therapy. Examples of task to be performed include preparations for full gold veneer crown, ceramometal (i.e. porcelain-fused-to-metal crown), all-ceramic crown, ¾ gold crown, porcelain labial veneers, mesio-occlusal-distal cavity, endodontic access, or root canal preparation and/or obturation. A silicone index/stent of the unprepared tooth will be provided, where applicable. The exact nature of the task will be indicated at the start of the test.

A full set of instruments (assumed sterile) will be provided including conventional and high speed handpieces, burs and hand instruments. Candidates may bring their own hand instruments and loupes if they wish, or their own selection of burs, but endodontic rotary files are not allowed.

(d) Periodontology and Dental Public Health

This section consists of a simulation of subgingival scaling and subgingival scaling/root planing.

A basic set of hand instruments and powered scalers will be provided, but candidates are welcome to bring their own hand instruments and loupes, which they may be accustomed to using clinically.

The designated areas for instrumentation will be given to candidates at the start of the examination and candidates will have 50 minutes to execute the procedures assigned in the order of approach specified.

Completion of the task does not necessarily guarantee pass. Candidates will be tested on the proper use of appropriate instruments in the designated areas on the phantom head, the safety of their techniques and their skill and thoroughness of performance.

(e) Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

This examination will be held in a Simulation Laboratory. The following four oral surgery aspects that a general dental surgeon should be familiar with are tested in this examination of about an hour duration. The candidates will have to rotate around different stations:

1. Theoretical and practical aspects of local anaesthesia
   Candidates will be examined on their knowledge of local infiltration and nerve blocks necessary for dental extractions.

2. Knowledge of instruments used for extractions
   Candidates will be expected to describe and apply the use of extraction forceps and elevators.

3. Suturing techniques
   Competence in suturing skills will be tested. Candidates will be required to perform specific suturing techniques indicated at the start of the examination. The suture material and instruments will be provided. Candidates are allowed to use their own instruments, but not their own suture material.

4. Raising a surgical flap
   Knowledge of soft tissue management will be tested in raising a surgical flap in a simulation setting. The exact nature of the task will be indicated at the start of the examination.

A full set of hand instruments (assumed sterile) will be provided.

Candidates may bring their own hand instruments and loupes if they wish but these must be clearly identified, so that the instruments provided can be returned upon completion of the tasks.

(2) All or any of the above may be accompanied by a viva voce examination.

(3) Candidates who fail in one or more sections in the Part II practical examination will be allowed to re-sit those unsuccessful section(s) only, while retaining partial results for the successful ones. Candidates will be allowed to retain partial results for four diets or four years, whichever occurs first. This condition applies to the partial pass result obtained in Part II of the LE in 2015 or after. This condition also applies to the valid partial pass result obtained in Part II of the LE in 2013 and/or 2014 under the old result retention policy. This condition does not apply to partial pass result obtained in the LE(s) in 2012 or before. The retention of partial results in Part II, however, is subject to the condition set out in the first paragraph of this Guide.

(4) A full set of instruments will be issued to all candidates attending this part (Part II) of the examination. Descriptions of instruments provided may be found on the website of the Council. Candidates will be allowed to use their own hand instruments, loupes and burs. However, for infection control reasons, they must be placed in a provided disinfectant beforehand. The Council is not responsible for any damage to any instruments. All instruments that belong to the Simulation Laboratory must be returned upon completion of the tasks.

(5) Candidates may use English or Cantonese during this part of the examination and must state their choice on their application forms. No last minute change of language preference will be allowed.

(6) Candidates shall not put on, or bring into the laboratory, any clothing or articles, such as name badges or logos, that will reveal their identity, their country of origin and/or the dental school that they attended. They shall only be identified by their respective candidate number.

(7) Candidates are required to dress decently for the examination. No T-shirts, jeans or open-toe footwear are to be worn. Examiners may refuse to admit candidates who do not follow this instruction.

(8) Candidates are expected to follow established precaution against aerosols and the universal infection control procedures in any simulated clinical test in Part II of this examination. Adequate and proper use of personal protective equipment ("PPE"), which will be provided on site, is mandatory. Candidates could also bring their own PPE to the examination. Other aspects of infection control that might be assessed during the examination will include but not limited to proper handling of instruments, safe injection practice and handling of sharps. Any breach of infection control procedures may be marked against the final score.

Part III

(1) The Clinical Examination consists of 3 sections, namely (i) Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, (ii) Conservative Dentistry, Periodontology, Prosthodontics, and (iii) Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, and is designed to test the candidate's ability to apply his professional knowledge to clinical situations particularly in diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment in the following –

(a) The restoration of teeth
(b) The diagnosis and treatment of periodontal conditions
(c) Aspects of prosthodontic treatment provision
(d) The surgical management of patients
(e) The diagnosis, treatment planning, and management of infants, children, and adolescents

The Clinical Examination may be accompanied by a viva voce examination. The section testing the subject of Conservative Dentistry, Periodontology, Prosthodontics will be in a format of structured simulated viva voce examination. No live patients will be involved in the examination.

(2) Candidates will be allowed to retain partial results for four diets or four years, whichever event occurs first. This condition applies to the partial pass result obtained in Part III of the LE in 2015 or after. This condition also applies to the valid partial pass result obtained in Part III in the LE in 2013 and/or 2014 under the old result retention policy. This condition does not apply to partial pass result obtained in the LE(s) in 2012 or before. The retention of partial results in Part III, however, is subject to the condition set out in the first paragraph of this Guide.

(3) Candidates may use English or Cantonese during this part of the examination and must state their choice on their application forms. No last minute change of language preference will be allowed.

(4) Candidates shall not put on, or bring into the examination room, any clothing or articles, such as name badges or logos, that will reveal their identity, their country of origin and/or the dental school that they attended. They shall only be identified by their respective candidate number.

(5) Candidates are required to dress decently for the examination. No T-shirts, jeans or training shoes are to be worn. Examiners may refuse to admit candidates who do not follow this instruction.

II. RECOMMENDED BOOKLIST

(1) Welbury R, Duggal MS, Hosey MT
Paediatric Dentistry, 5th Edition
OUP Oxford, 2018

(2) Cameron AC, Widmer RP, Editors
Handbook of Pediatric Dentistry, 5th Edition
Elsevier, 2021

(3) Duggal MS, Curzon MEJ, Fayle SA, Toumba KJ, Roberston AJ
Restorative Techniques in Paediatric Dentistry: An Illustrated Guide to the Restoration of Carious Primary Teeth, 2nd Edition
Taylor & Frances Ltd, 2002

(4) Andreasen JO, Andreasen FM, Andreasen L
Textbook and Color Atlas of Traumatic Injuries to the Teeth, 4th Edition
Wiley-Blackwell, 2018

(5) Scully C, Welbury R, Flaitz C, de Almeida OP, Editors
Color Atlas of Orofacial Health and Disease in Children and Adolescents, 2nd Edition
CRC Press, 2001

(6) Little SJ and Mitchell L
An Introduction to Orthodontics, 5th Edition
Oxford University Press, 2019

(7) Fejerskov O, Kidd E
Dental Caries: The Disease and its Clinical Management, 2nd Edition
Oxford: Blackwell Munksgaard, 2008

(8) Mjör IA
Pulp-Dentin Biology in Restorative Dentistry
Chicago: Quintessence Publishing, 2002

(9) Banerjee A, Watson TF
Pickard's Manual of Operative Dentistry, 9th Edition
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011

(10) Klineberg I, Jagger RG, Editors
Occlusion and Clinical Practice: An Evidence-Based Approach
Edinburgh: Wright, 2004

(11) Bergenholtz G, Horsted-Bindsley P, Reit C.
Textbook of Endodontology, 2nd Edition
Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009

(12) Rosenstiel SF, Land MF, Walter R
Contemporary Fixed Prosthodontics, 6th Edition
St. Louis, MI: Mosby Elsevier, 2022

(13) Carr AD, Brown DT
McCracken's Removable Partial Prosthodontics, 13th Edition
St. Louis: MI: Mosby Elsevier, 2015

(14) Zarb G, Hobkirk J, Eckert S, Jacob R
Prosthodontic Treatment for Edentulous Patients: Complete Dentures and Implant-Supported Prostheses, 13th Edition
St. Louis, MI: Mosby Elsevier, 2013

(15) Michael G. Newman, Perry R. Klokkevold, Satheesh Elangovan, Yvonne Kapila, Fermin A. Carranza, and Henry Takei
Newman and Carranza's Clinical Periodontology and Implantology, Edition 14
St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier, 2023

(16) Lang NP, Berglundh T, Giannobile WV, Sanz M, Editors
Lindhe's Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, 7th Edition (2 volumes)
Wiley-Blackwell Munksgaard, 2021

(17) Pine C, Harris R
Community Oral Health
Chicago, IL: Quintessence Publishing, 2007

(18) Cawson RA, Langdon JD, Eveson JW
Surgical Pathology of the Mouth and Jaws, 2nd Edition
London: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000

(19) Soames JV, Southam JC
Oral Pathology, 4th Edition
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005

(20) Toghill PJ, Editor

Examining Patients: An Introduction to Clinical Medicine, 2nd Edition
London: Edward Arnold, 1995

(21) Scully C, Flint SR, Porter SR, Bagan JV, Moos KF
Oral and Maxillofacial Diseases, 4th Edition
London: Informa Healthcare, 2010

(22) Scully C
Scully's Medical Problems in Dentistry, 7th Edition
Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2014

(23) Scully C
Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine: The Basis of Diagnosis and Treatment, 3rd Edition
Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2013

(24) Hupp JR, Ellis E III, Tucker MR, Editors
Contemporary Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 5th Edition
St. Louis, MI: Mosby Elsevier, 2008

(25) Ledlar J, Frame JW, Editors
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery: An Objective-based Textbook, 2nd Edition
Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2007

III. TIMETABLE

(1) The LE will usually be held each year and it is intended to hold the LE 2026 (Second Sitting) according to the following schedule –

Part I (Written Test)	:	15 October 2026
Part II (Practical Test) & Part III (Clinical Examination)	:	14 to 18 December 2026

(2) If, at any time, it is found necessary to discontinue this LE, due notice will be given.

IV. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Application for taking Part I – Written Test of the LE 2026 (Second Sitting) for both new and old/re-sit applicants will be accepted during the period from **2 to 22 July 2026**; while application for taking Part II – Practical Test and Part III – Clinical Examination will be accepted during the period from **21 August 2026 to 10 September 2026**. **Late applications will not be accepted**.

V. REMARKS

(1) The Council reserves the right to review and amend this Guide from time to time.

(2) The Council will assess the eligibility of all applicants to sit the LE.

(3) The basic dental qualification that qualifies the applicant to sit the LE would be the qualification to be appeared on his/her entry on the General Register when he/she registers with the Council after having successfully passed the LE.

(4) Information on the LE, such as sample questions, sample structure simulated viva voce case, photographs of typodont and instruments, etc., are available at the website of the Council for candidates' reference.

(5) No photographs, recordings or video recordings are allowed within the examination venue.

(6) There is no maximum number of candidates set for Part I examination.

(7) For Part II and Part III, the Council has absolute discretion to arrange candidate to take part in the examination on another date or diet if the enrollment exceeds the present capacity of examination venue.

(8) The Council does not engage organizations or agencies on matters relating to the Examination such as revision courses. Candidates may contact, at their discretion, any local dental professional organizations, such as Hong Kong Dental Association (website at http://www.hkda.org), to seek assistance on matters relating to practising dentistry in Hong Kong.

(9) Questions arising from its contents should be raised with the Secretary of the Council at 4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. (Tel. No. : (852) 2873 5862 Fax No. : (852) 2554 0577 Email: dchk@dh.gov.hk)

(10) Every effort has been made to ensure that this Guide is as accurate as possible. The Council is not bound to follow exactly the procedures described since this document is meant to be used as a set of guidelines related to the Council's intentions regarding this examination.

Board of Examiners
The Dental Council of Hong Kong
July 2026