OSCE eye exam checklist

An OSCE eye exam checklist runs from visual acuity and fields to pupils, eye movements and fundoscopy, with each eye tested separately. This is our own practice list.

The checklist, step by step

1. Wash your hands, introduce yourself, confirm identity, explain and gain consent. Ask about vision, pain, glasses and any eye disease.
2. Look at the eyes and the lids for redness, swelling, drooping and eye position.
3. Check visual acuity in each eye on its own, with the patient's glasses on.
4. Check the visual fields by confrontation, one eye at a time.
5. Pupils: look at size and shape. Test each for the reaction to light, in the same eye and the other, and compare the two.
6. Eye movements: ask the patient to follow your finger in an H shape. Ask about double vision and watch for jerking.
7. Fundoscopy: dim the room, explain the light, and ask the patient to look at a distant spot.
8. Use your right eye for the patient's right eye, and your left for the left. Look for the red reflex.
9. Find the optic disc, and look at the colour, edge and cup. Follow the vessels in each quarter and look at the macula last.
10. Say what you would do if you suspect an urgent problem, such as raised pressure or a red eye with pain.
11. Thank the patient and wash your hands.

What candidates commonly forget

- Testing one eye at a time.
- Explaining that the light will be bright.
- Using the correct eye for the examiner.

- Looking at the macula last.
- Describing the disc and vessels in words.

How to use this list

This is our own practice checklist. Exam bodies mark in their own way. Use it to build a routine, then say each step aloud as you do it. You can also practise with an AI patient on this site, and try one station free with no sign-up. For a general station frame, see the general OSCE checklist.

Common questions

Do I need to dilate the pupils?

Say whether you would, and why. Drops have conditions, so follow the task and your local rules. The NHS diabetic eye screening page explains why screening uses drops.

What conditions might this station use?

Glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease are common examples. NICE has guidance on the first two.

Is this a marking sheet?

No. It is our own list for practice.

Sources

- NHS: Diabetic eye screening
- NICE: Glaucoma (NG81)
- NICE: Age-related macular degeneration (NG82)
- NHS: Glaucoma

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.