

Objective Structured Practical Examination (O S P E)

The Objective Structured Practical Examination (OSPE) is an approach to the assessment of competence in practical skills in a planned or structured way with attention to the objectivity of the examination.

The student is assessed at a series of stations with one or two aspects of competence being tested at each station. The examination can be described as 'focused' examination with each station focusing on or two aspects of competence.

The following **guidelines** are offered **for** conduct of **OSPE**:

1. Produce a grid showing what is to be tested in OSPE. Down the left hand side the competencies such as physical examination, Interpretation of graph, reading a laboratory report, problem solving etc. Along the top note the areas which should be represented.
2. Fix duration for each station. Make sure that the task expected of the student can be accomplished within the time.
3. Decide on the number of stations. Are there linked stations?
4. Decide on the number of examiners available as observers. Brief them about their role and use of checklists.
5. Get help from people who have used it.
6. Ask colleague to review the stations.
7. Plan and prepare for the examination well in advance.
8. Mobilise resources required. To help you in this use a checklist.
9. Plan the layout of the examination. Note position of each station. Ensure directions to candidates are clear. Put direction arrows to indicate the direction of movement of candidates. Ask someone not involved to walk around the circuit.
10. Check the audibility of the change signal.
11. Keep an OSPE file which will contain all the resources required.

Advantages:

1. All students face the same tasks
2. Tests a wide range of skills thus reducing the sampling error. This increases the reliability of the examination.
3. Use of checklists by examiners reduces subjectivity in marking.
4. All students start and finish at the same time.