



Saudi Dental Licensure Examination (SDLE)



Applicant Guide



General Rules

Saudi Dental Licensure Examination

Congratulations on finishing your BDS! We share the excitement and pride you feel at this moment of your life. Your future career is bright and holds many opportunities from being a great dentist to pursuing your postgraduate studies. We wish you all the success in your future endeavors and dreams.

At this stage, you must take the Saudi Dental Licensure Examination (SDLE) if you want to practice in Saudi Arabia or get admitted to a postgraduate training program at the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS).

What is the SDLE?

The SDLE is an exam that assesses your readiness to practice and proceed to postgraduate training. It is a six-hour MCQ examination with scheduled breaks. It consists of 300 MCQs which may include up to 20 pilot questions. These questions have four options from which you will choose one answer.

The examination shall contain recall questions that test knowledge and questions with scenarios that test other skills (interpretation, analysis, decision making, reasoning and problem solving).



What is a test blueprint, and what is its purpose?

A test blueprint is a document that reflects the content of the SDLE. The blueprint is the plan used for “building” the SDLE. The blueprint was established by the SDLE steering committee which consists of representatives from Saudi Dental College Deans. The purpose of the blueprint is to ensure including questions related to what you are expected to know before entry into supervised clinical practice. (Note : See Appendix A: *for test blueprint*.)

Application and Eligibility

How to apply for the SDLE?

To apply for the SDLE, you must have a recognized primary degree (BDS or equivalent) from an accredited health science program and commenced training in the internship year.

Applying for the SDLE

When applying for the examination, you must apply through the e-application.

Once your application is processed, a scheduling permit with your eligibility period will be issued. You will receive an email with instructions for accessing your permit.

After obtaining the scheduling permit, you may visit the specified website to schedule a test date. Scheduling may not be available more than three months in advance.

From June 2017, the SDLE will be offered in seven testing windows in Saudi Arabia and internationally as per the table below. No testing windows will be available in February.

First Test window	June	Fifth Test window	October/November
Second Test window	July	Sixth Test window	December
Third Test window	August	Seventh Test window	January
Fourth Test window	September/October		



Exam Preparation Resources : (Note :See Appendix B : *for suggested reference*)

SDLE Sample Questions :

Here is an example of the kind of multiple-choice questions you will find in the SDLE:

- 1- A dentist was exposed to a needle stick injury during suturing of an extraction wound.

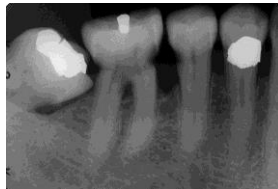
Which of the following is the first recommended step in management?

- A. Report the incident immediately
- B. Complete a follow-up evaluation
- C. Wash the site with soap and water
- D. Recheck medical history of the patient

Answer : C

- 2- What is the type of caries in the periapical radiograph along the mesial and distal surfaces of tooth 46? “see image”

- A. Root
- B. Occlusal
- C. Incipient
- D. Recurrent



Answer: A

- 3- A 45 year-old woman was seen in a private clinic for periodontal problems. On a routine radiographic examination she had multiple radio-opaque and radiolucent lesions in the anterior mandible. The teeth were vital on a vitality test, and there was no bone expansion or pain.

Which of the following is the best management of choice?

- A. Oral surgeon referral for resection of lesions
- B. Endodontist referral for root canal treatment
- C. No intervention and periodic patient follow ups
- D. Physician referral to check for systematic problem

Answer: C



- 4- A patient presents to the clinic complaining of a missing upper anterior tooth and mal-alignment of an adjacent tooth. Clinical examination showed that: tooth #12 is missing, tooth #11 is facially protruded, and teeth #11 and #13 have proximal and lingual caries.

What is the best treatment option to restore tooth #12?

- A. Implant
- B. Conventional fixed partial denture
- C. Resin bonded fixed partial denture
- D. Porcelain laminate veneers with lingual composite

Answer: B

- 5- A patient with severe trismus requires an operative procedure to be performed on a large carious lesion of a mandibular molar. The dental surgeon wants to anesthetize the inferior alveolar and lingual nerves using the Vazirani-Akinosi mandibular nerve block technique.

What is the most appropriate needle gauge used in this technique?

- A. 25 long
- B. 27 short
- C. 30 long
- D. 30 ultra-short

Answer: A

- 6- A patient presented to the clinic complaining from a popping sound in front of his left ear upon opening and closing his mouth. On examination, the dentist recognized a midline deviation towards the left side during opening and closing movements.

What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Traumatic Occlusion
- B. Parafunctional Habit
- C. Myofacial Pain Dysfunction
- D. Temporomandibular Joint Disorder

Answer: D



Exam Day

Instructions for examination day :

- You will be continuously monitored by video, physical walk-throughs and the observation window during your test. All testing sessions are video and audio recorded.
- You must bring valid (unexpired) and acceptable ID(s) (Saudi ID, Resident ID, or Passport) and exam schedule printed out to the examination hall, and present it at the registration desk.
- Any clothing or jewelry items allowed to be worn in the test room must remain on your person at all times. Removed clothing or jewelry items must be stored in your locker.
- You may not leave the examination hall before thirty minutes have elapsed and always accompanied by an invigilator if you wish to return.
- You must conduct yourself in a civil manner at all times when on the premises of the testing center. Exhibiting abusive behavior towards the Test Center Administrator (TCA), or any other staff member of the test center, may result in legal prosecution.
- To protect the privacy of all testers, the TCA can neither confirm nor deny if any particular individual is present or scheduled at the test center.
- Repeated or lengthy departures from the test room for unscheduled breaks will be reported by the TCA.
- You must return all materials issued to you by the TCA at the end of your test.
- You are required to sign out on the test center roster each time you leave the test room. You must also sign back in and show your ID to the TCA in order to be re-admitted to the test room.
- Persons not scheduled to take a test are not permitted to wait in the test center.



Prohibitions

Before the examination:

- Seeking, providing, and/or obtaining unauthorized access to examination materials, providing false information or making false statements on or in connection with application forms, scheduling permits, or other exam-related documents.
- Applying for an examination for which you are not eligible.
- Communicating or attempting to communicate about specific test items, cases, answers, and/or exam results with an examiner, potential examiner, or formal or informal test developers at any time before, during, or after an examination.

During the examination:

- Taking an examination for which you are not eligible
- Taking an examination for someone or engaging someone to take an examination for you giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized assistance during the examination or attempting to do so
- Making notes of any kind while in the secure areas of the test center, except on the writing materials provided at the test center for this purpose
- Failing to adhere to any exam policy, procedure, or rule, including instructions of TCA
- Verbal or physical harassment of test center staff or other examination staff, or other disruptive or unprofessional behavior during the registration, scheduling, or examination process



- Possessing any unauthorized materials, including photographic equipment, communication or recording devices, and cell phones, in the secure testing areas
- Any other electronic communication device, not herein mentioned, are prohibited in the examination hall irrespective if they are turned off, and no provision will be made to store them
- Communicating or attempting to communicate about specific test items, cases, and/or answers with another examinee, or formal or informal test preparation group at any time before, during, or after an examination.

After the examination:

- Altering or misrepresenting examination scores.
- Any reproduction by any means, including, but not limited to, reconstruction through memorization, and/or dissemination of copyrighted examination materials by any means, including the internet.
- Communicating or attempting to communicate about specific test items, cases, and/or answers with another examinee, potential examinee, or formal or informal test preparation group at any time before, during, or after an examination.
- Failure to cooperate fully in any investigation of a violation of the SCFHS rules.



Frequently Asked Questions

1- How many times can I retake the SDLE?

- All eligible candidates may take SDLE up to four times in one calendar year starting from the first attempt to obtain a pass score.
- SCFHS classification and registration rules and regulations apply to candidates who fail the SDLE for two years after graduation date.
- After obtaining a pass score in the SDLE each candidate is eligible for two further attempts to improve their mark for the purpose of attaining a better opportunity for residency selection.
- After one calendar year of the second attempt mentioned above each candidate is eligible for one further attempt annually to improve their mark for the purpose of attaining a better score for residency selection.

2. How is the examination conducted?

SDLE is conducted using computer based testing. The testing period is 6 hours. The time for each set of 150 items is 180 minutes. After finishing the first set of 150 items a 30 minute scheduled break can be taken. Upon leaving the testing area candidates are required to sign-out and when entering again sign-in and go through security check.

3. How are SDLE results announced?

SDLE contains 300 multiple-choice questions with the possibility of including up to 20 unscored items. Results are not provided instantly. During the window closing period, psychometric analysis is conducted and results are announced within 2-6 weeks of the end of a test window. Two reports will be provided to every candidate, statement of results and a feedback report on performance in comparison to other test-takers.



4. How is the SDLE pass score established?

The SCFHS brings together a panel of Saudi dentists to define an acceptable level of performance and establish the pass score for the SDLE through a standard setting exercise. The panel then recommends its pass score to the Central Assessment Committee (CAC) for approval.

In April 2017, the SCFHS conducted a rigorous standard setting exercise with a diverse panel of 14 dentists. Following the standard setting exercise, the panel recommended a pass score of 542 on the reporting scale of 200-800. This pass score was reviewed and approved by the CAC.

This will apply as of June 2017. If you took the SDLE prior to June 2017, your final result remains valid as per the approved validity period.



Appendix A: Saudi Dental Licensure Examination Blueprint

Domains									
Section	Weight%	Weight of Items	Basic	Diagnosis	Clinical Management	Pathology & Microbiology	Prevention	Dental Material & Instruments	Adverse Effect/Complication
<i>Head and Neck Anatomy and Histology</i>	4%	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physiology/Biology/Development</i>	8%	24	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Dental Anatomy and Occlusion</i>	5%	16	10	-	6	-	-	-	-
<i>Dental Public Health</i>	5%	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Infection Control/Patient safety</i>	5%	14	2	-	8	-	4	-	-
<i>Bioethics, Professionalism, Behavioral Science..</i>	4%	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
<i>Endodontics</i>	9%	26	-	6	6	6	-	4	4
<i>Operative Dentistry</i>	10%	32	-	8	8	4	4	4	4
<i>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</i>	9%	26	6	6	6	2	-	2	4
<i>Oral medicine and Diagnostic sciences</i>	8%	24	2	12	2	8	-	-	-
<i>Special needs/medically compromised patients</i>	4%	12	-	2	8	-	-	-	2
<i>Pediatric dentistry</i>	7%	20	-	4	6	2	4	2	2
<i>Periodontics</i>	7%	20	-	4	6	2	2	4	2
<i>Prosthodontics</i>	8%	24	-	6	10	-	-	6	2
<i>Orthodontics</i>	3%	10	-	4	2	-	2	-	2
<i>Local anesthesia/Sedation</i>	5%	14	4	-	6	-	-	-	4
Total	100%	300	(27%)80	(17%) 52	(27%) 80	(8%) 24	(5%) 16	(7%) 22	(9%) 26

Note: 1- Blueprint distributions of the examination may differ up to $\pm 3\%$ in each category.
2- See the SCFHS website for the most up-to-date information.