

REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT WRITTEN EXAMINATION OUTLINE (2023)

1. ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC RECORDS (15%) – This area assesses the candidate’s ability to review information about a patient’s history and oral conditions as they relate to dental treatment. This area also assesses the candidate’s ability to assist with diagnostic records and chart information related to dental treatment. These activities are performed under the supervision of a dentist.

Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
1A. Patient Information and Assessment (8%)	T1. Review patient medical and dental history to identify conditions that may affect dental treatment.	K1. Knowledge of common medical conditions and medications that may affect treatment K2. Knowledge of dental conditions that affect treatment. K3. Knowledge of types of oral health conditions that may affect treatment. K4. Knowledge of types of medical conditions that may require premedication for dental treatment. K5. Knowledge of the relationship between allergic reactions or sensitivities and dental materials. K6. Knowledge of methods for gathering information regarding patient medical and dental history.
	T2. Obtain patient’s blood pressure and vital signs to determine current status.	K7. Knowledge of standards regarding blood pressure ranges based on patient age. K8. Knowledge of signs of elevated or dangerous blood pressure readings. K9. Knowledge of vital signs that should be obtained before treatment. K10. Knowledge of techniques for taking patient blood pressure and vitals.
	T3. Perform mouth mirror inspection of oral cavity to identify obvious lesions, existing restorations, and missing teeth.	K11. Knowledge of types of basic oral structures and dental anatomy. K12. Knowledge of types of occlusions and malocclusions. K13. Knowledge of signs of plaque, calculus, and stain formations in the oral cavity. K14. Knowledge of the effects of dietary habits on oral health. K15. Knowledge of effects of substance use on oral health. K16. Knowledge of the effects of smoking or tobacco use on oral health. K17. Knowledge of methods for performing mouth mirror inspections.

1. ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC RECORDS (15%), continued – This area assesses the candidate’s ability to review information about a patient’s history and oral conditions as they relate to dental treatment. This area also assesses the candidate’s ability to assist with diagnostic records and chart information related to dental treatment. These activities are performed under the supervision of a dentist.

Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
1B. Diagnostic Tests and Records (7%)	T4. Use caries detection materials and devices to gather information for dentist.	K18. Knowledge of types of devices and materials for detecting caries. K19. Knowledge of procedures for using caries detection devices and materials.
	T5. Obtain intraoral images of patient’s mouth and dentition to be assist with milling of computer-aided design (CAD) restorations.	K20. Knowledge of techniques for taking intraoral diagnostic imaging. K21. Knowledge of techniques for patient management during imaging. K22. Knowledge of factors that impact digital imaging and quality.
	T6. Prepare patient for radiographs or cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) to assist the dentist in determining oral conditions.	K23. Knowledge of types of radiographic imaging (i.e., panoramic, bitewing, FMX). K24. Knowledge of procedures for taking digital or conventional radiographs. K25. Knowledge of methods for patient management during radiograph procedures. K26. Knowledge of factors that impact radiographic imaging and quality.
	T7. Chart evaluation information to document oral conditions related to treatment.	K27. Knowledge of types of dental terminology and morphology. K28. Knowledge of universal numbering and Palmer quadrant notation systems. K29. Knowledge of methods for charting oral conditions.

2. DENTAL PROCEDURES (50%) – This area assesses the candidate’s ability to provide registered dental assistant services related to patient treatment. This includes services related to placing direct and indirect provisional restorations, implementing preventative procedures, and performing tasks associated with specialty procedures. This area also assesses the candidate’s ability to educate the patient about oral health and maintenance. These activities are performed under the supervision of a dentist.

Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
2A. Treatment Preparation (15%)	T8. Identify types and stages of treatment to prepare for dental procedures.	K30. Knowledge of types and stages of dental treatment. K31. Knowledge of methods for preparing tray and equipment set-up for dental procedures. K32. Knowledge of types of materials used in dental procedures.
	T9. Prepare instruments to facilitate use in dental treatment.	K33. Knowledge of types of dental instruments and their associated uses. K34. Knowledge of methods for preparing, handling, and storing dental instruments.
	T10. Select components and materials to be used in dental treatment.	K35. Knowledge of types of dental components and their functions. K36. Knowledge of types of materials used in dental treatment and their functions. K37. Knowledge of methods for selecting dental components and materials.
	T11. Isolate oral cavity to preserve integrity of restorative area.	K38. Knowledge of types of materials used to isolate restorative area. K39. Knowledge of types of techniques for isolating restorative area. K40. Knowledge of methods for isolating tooth or cavity preparations.
	T12. Place bases and liners to reduce irritation and microleakage.	K41. Knowledge of types of base and liner materials and their uses. K42. Knowledge of procedures for applying or placing bases and liners.
	T13. Place matrices and wedges to create a seal and form contacts during restorative procedures.	K43. Knowledge of types of wedges and their uses. K44. Knowledge of techniques for placing wedges during restorative procedures. K45. Knowledge of types of matrix bands and their uses. K46. Knowledge of techniques for placing matrix bands during restorative procedures.

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Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
2B. Direct and Indirect Restorations (10%)	T14. Place temporary filling material to protect tooth during transitional treatment.	K47. Knowledge of types of temporary filling materials and their uses. K48. Knowledge of techniques to mix, place, and contour temporary filling material.
	T15. Apply etchant to prepare tooth surface for direct and indirect restorations.	K49. Knowledge of types of etchants and their uses. K50. Knowledge of indications and contraindications for the use of etching agents. K51. Knowledge of techniques for applying etchants.
	T16. Place bonding agent to prepare tooth surface for restoration.	K52. Knowledge of types of bonding agents and their use. K53. Knowledge of indications and contraindications for the use of bonding agents. K54. Knowledge of techniques for applying bonding agents.
	T17. Fabricate indirect provisional restorations to protect tooth during restoration processes	K55. Knowledge of types of materials used for indirect provisional restorations. K56. Knowledge of techniques for fabricating indirect provisional restorations.
	T18. Adjust indirect provisional restorations to ensure proper fit.	K57. Knowledge of methods for evaluating occlusion, margins, and contact discrepancies of indirect provisional restorations. K58. Knowledge of techniques for adjusting indirect provisional restorations.
	T19. Cement indirect provisional restorations to provide coverage of tooth preparation.	K59. Knowledge of types of cements and their use. K60. Knowledge of techniques for placing and removing indirect provisional restorations. K61. Knowledge of techniques for mixing provisional materials.
	T20. Place and adjust direct provisional restorations to ensure proper fit.	K62. Knowledge of methods for evaluating occlusion, margins, and contact discrepancies of direct provisional restorations. K63. Knowledge of techniques for adjusting direct provisional restorations.
	T21. Finish direct provisional restorations to provide a smooth surface or prevent irritation.	K64. Knowledge of techniques for finishing direct provisional restorations. K65. Knowledge of the effects of improper or incomplete finishing of direct restorations.

T22. Remove excess cement from surfaces of teeth to prevent irritation.	K66. Knowledge of instruments used to remove cement from teeth surfaces. K67. Knowledge of signs of irritation associated with residual cement.
T23. Assist in the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen to provide analgesia or sedation when ordered by a dentist.	K68. Knowledge of procedures for the use and care of equipment used to administer oxygen and nitrous oxide and oxygen. K69. Knowledge of signs of medical emergencies associated with the use of nitrous oxide.

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Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
2C. Preventative and Aesthetic Procedures (10%)	T24. Perform coronal polishing to remove plaque and extrinsic stains from surfaces of teeth.	K70. Knowledge of techniques for performing coronal polishing. K71. Knowledge of indications and contraindications for performing coronal polishing.
	T25. Apply pit and fissure sealants to prevent dental caries.	K72. Knowledge of types of pit and fissure sealants and their uses. K73. Knowledge of factors that impact retention of pit and fissure sealants. K74. Knowledge of indications and contraindications for using pit and fissure sealants. K75. Knowledge of techniques for applying pit and fissure sealants.
	T26. Perform in-office bleaching to whiten teeth.	K76. Knowledge of types of bleaching agents and their use. K77. Knowledge of indications and contraindications for using bleaching agents. K78. Knowledge of techniques for applying bleaching agents.

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Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
2D. Patient Education (10%)	T27. Educate patients about oral hygiene to promote dental health.	K79. Knowledge of the effects of poor oral hygiene and care related to dental health. K80. Knowledge of methods for educating patients about oral hygiene.
	T28. Provide patients with pre- and post-treatment instructions to promote patient compliance	K81. Knowledge of symptoms patients may encounter after treatment. K82. Knowledge of techniques for pain management after treatment. K83. Knowledge of methods for educating patients about pre- and post-treatment instructions.
	T29. Educate patients about dietary recommendations to promote oral health	K84. Knowledge of the effects of foods and beverages on oral health. K85. Knowledge of methods for educating patients about dietary recommendations related to oral health and dental treatment.

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Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
2E. Specialty Procedures (5%)	T30. Test pulp vitality to identify baseline pulp health or level of pain.	K86. Knowledge of the relationship between pain responses and pulp vitality. K87. Knowledge of methods for testing pulp vitality.
	T31. Dry canals with absorbent points to assist with endodontic treatment.	K88. Knowledge of techniques for using absorbent points to dry canals.
	T32. Place periodontal dressings to protect extraction and periodontal surgical sites.	K89. Knowledge of types of periodontal dressings and their use. K90. Knowledge of the relationship between dressing medicaments and post-surgical healing. K91. Knowledge of signs of dry socket that require the attention of a dentist. K92. Knowledge of signs of infection or irritation associated with periodontal and surgical dressings. K93. Knowledge of techniques for applying dressings to surgical sites.
	T33. Place archwires to move teeth to dentist’s prescribed position.	K94. Knowledge of the types of archwires and their functions. K95. Knowledge of methods for placing archwires. K96. Knowledge of types of instruments used to place orthodontic archwires.
	T34. Place ligatures to connect archwires to orthodontic brackets.	K97. Knowledge of types of ligatures and their functions. K98. Knowledge of techniques for placing ligatures based on dentist’s instructions. K99. Knowledge of types of instruments used to place orthodontic ligatures.
	T35. Remove post-extraction and post-surgical sutures as directed by dentist.	K100. Knowledge of techniques for removing post-surgical sutures.
	T36. Adjust removable prosthetic appliances extraorally to verify fit or retention.	K101. Knowledge of types of removable prosthetic appliances and their functions. K102. Knowledge of methods for verifying removable prosthetic appliance fit or retention. K103. Knowledge of techniques for adjusting prosthetic appliances extraorally.

3. INFECTION CONTROL AND HEALTH AND SAFETY (25%) – This area assesses the candidate’s ability to maintain a safe and sanitary work environment and to adhere to infection control protocols and standard precautions.

Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
3A. Patient Safety and Prevention of Disease Transmission (15%)	T37. Provide patient with safety precautions to ensure protection during dental treatment.	K104. Knowledge of methods for using safety precautions with patients. K105. Knowledge of types of safety equipment for protecting patients. K106. Knowledge of techniques for protecting patients during diagnostic tests and imaging.
	T38. Use pre-procedural barriers, air evacuation systems, and rinse techniques to prevent the spread of disease through aerosol, droplets, and splatter.	K107. Knowledge of equipment for providing protective barriers and air evacuation systems. K108. Knowledge of techniques for using barriers, air evacuation systems, and rinses. K109. Knowledge of types of infectious diseases and their modes of transmission.
	T39. Sanitize hands according to protocols to prevent the transmission of diseases.	K110. Knowledge of techniques for sanitizing hands during dental treatments. K109. Knowledge of types of infectious diseases and their modes of transmission.
	T40. Wear personal protective equipment to prevent contamination	K111. Knowledge of techniques for using personal protective equipment. K109. Knowledge of types of infectious diseases and their modes of transmission.
	T41. Adhere to infectious disease prevention protocols to reduce risk of disease transmission.	K112. Knowledge of techniques for preventing the spread of infectious diseases. K113. Knowledge of types of disinfecting and sterilizing agents used to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. K109. Knowledge of types of infectious diseases and their modes of transmission.
	T42. Identify signs of medical emergencies to address situations that require immediate intervention.	K114. Knowledge of signs of allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. K115. Knowledge of signs of medical crisis or emergency. K116. Knowledge of methods for obtaining emergency medical assistance. K117. Knowledge of methods for administering emergency first aid and CPR.

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Section	Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
3B. Equipment Disinfection and Cross-Contamination Prevention (10%)	T43. Disinfect treatment area and equipment to prepare for or complete dental treatment.	K118. Knowledge of methods for disinfecting treatment areas and equipment.
		K119. Knowledge of barrier techniques for protecting treatment areas and equipment.
		K120. Knowledge of methods for monitoring dental waterlines and water quality.
		K121. Knowledge of methods for disinfecting evacuation lines.
	T44. Sterilize instruments to prevent patient-to-patient disease transmission.	K122. Knowledge of types of disinfecting and sterilizing agents used to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
		K123. Knowledge of types of sterilization processes and related equipment.
T45. Adhere to disposal safety protocols to discard of contaminated materials or sharps.	K124. Knowledge of procedures for sterilizing instruments.	
	K125. Knowledge of techniques for storing instruments before and after sterilization.	
	K126. Knowledge of techniques for the safe disposal of contaminated materials.	
		K127. Knowledge of techniques for the safe disposal of sharps.

4. LAWS AND REGULATIONS (10%) – This area assesses the candidate’s knowledge of laws and regulations regarding licensing requirements, scope of practice, professional conduct, and professional responsibilities.

Task Statements	Knowledge Statements
T46. Comply with laws regarding consent to respect patients’ right to make informed treatment decisions.	K128. Knowledge of laws regarding patient consent.
T47. Comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws to respect patient right to privacy in dental health care delivery.	K129. Knowledge of laws related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
T48. Report instances of suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation to protect vulnerable populations.	K130. Knowledge of signs of child abuse or neglect. K131. Knowledge of signs of dependent adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation. K132. Knowledge of signs of elder adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation. K133. Knowledge of methods for reporting child, elder, or dependent adult abuse.
T49. Comply with laws about record-keeping to document, store, and dispose of patient charts or records.	K134. Knowledge of legal standards for patient record-keeping and documentation. K135. Knowledge of laws regarding the storage and disposal of patient charts or records.
T50. Comply with laws about professional conduct to maintain professional integrity.	K136. Knowledge of laws regarding professional conduct.
T51. Comply with laws about scope of practice to maintain professional boundaries.	K137. Knowledge of laws regarding scope of practice.