Scope of the Speech-Language Therapy Qualifying Examinations

Examination format: Two 3-hour written papers. Two 20-minute viva examinations.

*Candidates must pass both written exams and both viva exams to obtain a pass in the Qualifying Examination.*

To pass, candidates are required to demonstrate evidence of theoretical knowledge and clinical reasoning expected of a new graduate at entry-level to the profession, across all clinical areas assessed.

Written Paper A: Communication and Swallowing Impairment in Adults (3 hours)

i. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate sound reasoning with due regard to theoretical concepts and research evidence. Three detailed case studies of adults with swallowing, language, and speech problems accompanied by a series of questions on assessment, intervention and management procedures. The case studies may be a mix of routine and complex cases (75%).

ii. Short answers on assessment and treatment of adult voice disorders (10%).

iii. Short answer questions on anatomy and physiology (15%).

Written Paper B: Communication and Swallowing Impairment in Children (3 hours)

i. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate sound reasoning with due regard to theoretical concepts and research evidence. Three detailed case studies of children with swallowing, language, and speech problems accompanied by a series of questions on assessment, intervention and management procedures. The case studies may be a mix of routine and complex cases (75%).

ii. Short answers on assessment and treatment of child fluency disorders (10%).

iii. Short answer questions on grammatical analysis, phonetic transcription and interpretation (15%).
The written papers will be held on two separate days.

**Viva Examinations (20 minutes x 2)**

Two viva examinations will be held in sequence on the same day. These will test the candidate’s ability to demonstrate entry-level competency to assess and diagnose communication and/or swallowing impairment in children and adults, to plan short-term and long-term intervention goals, to provide feedback and information counselling and make appropriate referrals in managing the relatively complex cases presented.

The primary profiles of impairment assessed in the 2 cases presented will be:
Adult viva: speech, language, and swallowing impairment
Child viva: speech and language impairment

**Format for the Viva Examinations**

*Candidates will be required to wait in a holding room until their scheduled interview time.*

The candidate reviews the summary case-history information provided (5 minutes preparation).

This is then followed by an interview with 2 examiners with content area expertise (15 minutes).

From the case information provided, the candidate will be asked to identify and discuss:

i. Key gaps in assessment information
ii. Further assessment required
iii. Diagnosis
iv. Appropriate short and long-term intervention goals
v. Management issues

The candidate is required to demonstrate a minimum of entry-level clinical reasoning and professionalism, communication and lifelong learning skills. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate sound reasoning with due regard to theoretical concepts and research evidence.
Recommended Reading List

Language


Speech


Feeding and Swallowing


Fluency


Voice


Anatomy and Physiology


Linguistics and Phonetics


Evidence-Based Practice


Others

