



**EXAMINATION BOARD OF ASSOCIATION OF
MALAYSIAN OPTOMETRISTS**

**CANDIDATES HANDBOOK FOR PROFESSIONAL
QUALIFYING ASSESSMENT (PQA)**

2022

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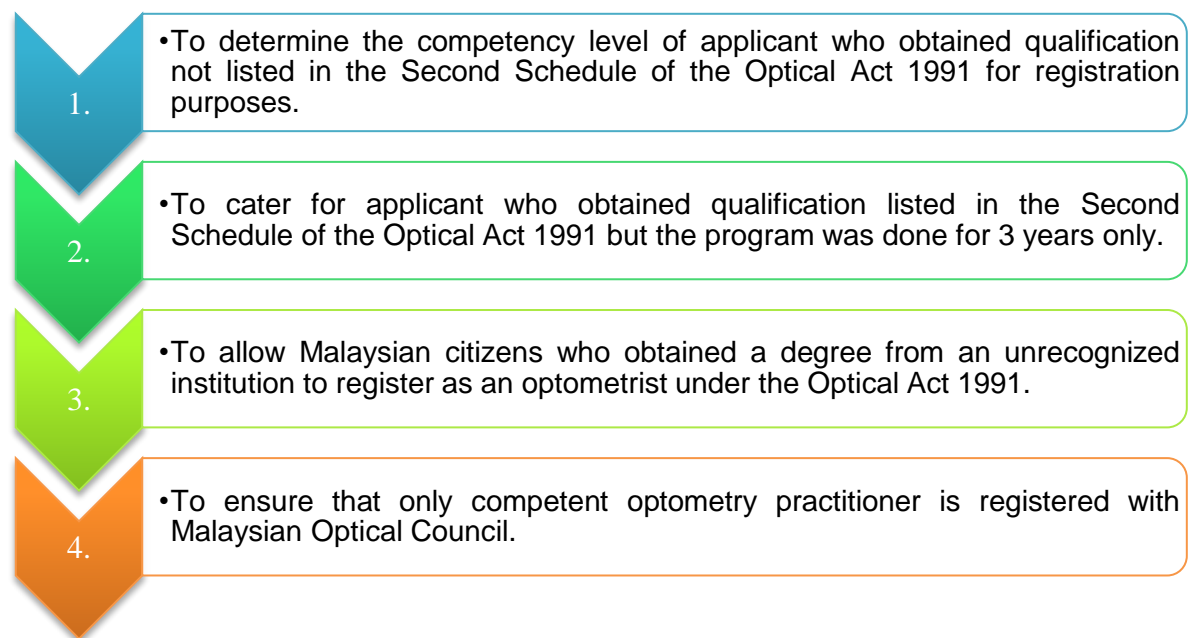
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1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Optical Act 1991, to practice optometry in Malaysia, an individual is required to register with Malaysian Optical Council. To be eligible for registration, an individual needs to possess a recognized bachelor in optometry degree as listed in the Second Schedule of the Optical Act 1991. Pursuant to the Section 42(2)(e) of the Optical 1991, an individual needs to sit and pass a Professional Qualifying Assessment (PQA) if one holds a basic optometry degree which is not recognized for registration. This handbook provides the required information for the PQA candidates prior to the examination.

2. PQA OBJECTIVES



3. WHO SHOULD SIT FOR PQA

1. Candidates who obtained qualifications listed in the Second Schedule of the Optical Act 1991, but the program is only conducted for three (3) years.

No	Category	Clinical Attachment	PQA
1	Candidates undergone Pre-registration Scheme, sat for PQE in the UK and passed.	Not required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not required• Eligible to register with MOC
2	Candidates undergone Pre-registration Scheme, sat for PQE in the UK but failed.	Not required	Required

3	Candidates undergone Pre-registration Scheme, but did not sit for PQE in the UK	Not required	Required
4	Candidates did not undergo Pre-registration Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Need to undergo clinical attachment for one year at any institution recognized by MOC. ii. Need to fulfil logbook given by MOC. 	Required

2. Candidates who obtained qualifications **NOT LISTED** in the schedule:

- i. If it is a 4 years program, candidates are not required to undergo clinical attachment. Candidates need to undergo PQA only.
- ii. If it is a 3 years program, hence the terms and conditions below are applicable:

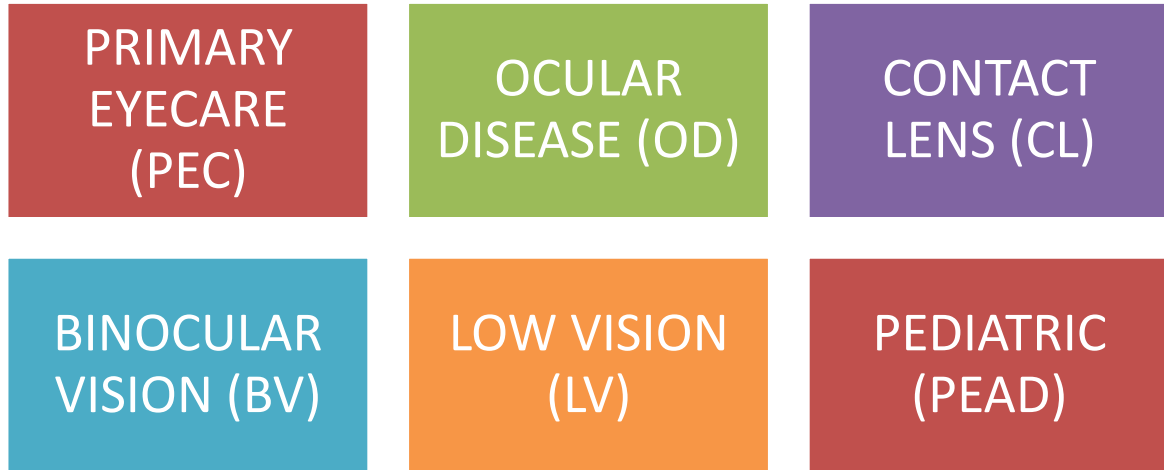
No	Category	Clinical Attachment	PQA
1	Candidates have undergone Pre-registration Scheme	Not required	Required
2	Candidates did not undergo Pre-registration Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Need to undergo clinical attachment for one year at any institution recognized by MOC. ii. Need to fulfil logbook given by MOC. 	Required

4. PQA IMPLEMENTATION

1. Those with qualifications from a 3-year program from institutions listed in the Second Schedule of the Optical Act 1991 are required to undergo clinical attachment and sit for PQA, if they enrol in the optometry program after MOC enforces PQA.
2. Those with qualifications from a 3-year program from institutions NOT LISTED in the Second Schedule of the Optical Act 1991 are required to undergo clinical attachment before they sit for PQA, effective immediately after their application for registration is received by MOC.

5. PQA COMPONENTS

Each candidate will be tested in six (6) components or fields of optometry practice:



Each component will be tested via theory and practical examination accordingly. The learning outcomes are as follows:

Component	Learning outcomes for the theory examination for each component. The candidate should be able to:	Learning outcomes for the practical session for each component. The candidate should be able to:
Binocular Vision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the concept of binocular vision (BV). 2. detect the abnormalities in BV. 3. make correct diagnosis of BV problems. 4. plan the correct management of the BV problem. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. perform basic tests in BV. 2. show the ability to manage BV problem correctly.
Low Vision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the concept of low vision (LV). 2. detect the abnormalities in LV. 3. make correct diagnosis of LV problems. 4. plan the correct management of the LV problem. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. manage LV case competently according to the case. 2. outline the most suitable LV aids based on the case.
Ocular Disease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. discern the various types of ocular diseases. 2. describe various ocular diseases management. 3. plan the optometric management of various ocular diseases and emergencies. 4. articulate the pathophysiological process of common ocular diseases. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. diagnose various types of ocular diseases competently according to the case. 2. manage ocular disease cases competently according to the case. 3. discriminate the need for urgent/non-urgent referrals.
Contact Lens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the criteria and purpose of various types of contact lens (CL). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. fit various types of CL on patients competently according to the case given.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> differentiate the specific use of CL for each eye condition. plan the correct management of CL prescription and after care explain CL complications. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> identify the fitting characteristics of CL effectively. interpreting result of various ocular data relating to ocular diseases. manage CL cases accordingly.
Primary Eye Care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> explain the concept of a comprehensive eye examination. interpret the result of the assessments competently. make correct diagnosis. plan the correct management on various cases in primary eye care. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> perform primary eye care routine on patient competently according to the case. diagnose and manage primary eye care cases efficiently.
Pediatric	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> identify common issues of ocular abnormalities in paediatric. diagnose and plan pediatric management. categorize the normal and abnormal growths of the visual system 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> detect abnormalities in the pediatric population. manage paediatric cases competently according to the case given.

6. GENERAL RULES

- Only candidates who apply to be registered and are confirmed qualified by MOC are allowed to sit for PQA.
- The date and venue of the PQA will be determined by MOC and will be informed to all potential candidates prior to PQA.
- This guideline will be given to all candidates and need to be adhered to.
- All individuals involved in the PQA examination should declare their health status and be fully vaccinated. The vaccination certificate must be submitted to the institution before the examination date. Those who are in quarantine or unwell are strictly not allowed to sit for the examination (they will be given new examination dates once an MC has been submitted and verified).

7. PQA EXAMINATION

7.1 FORMAT*

The PQA is scheduled to be held in two days, where:

- DAY 1 – Theory examination.**
- DAY 2 – Practical examination.**

Component	Day 1 (Theory examination)	Day 2 (Practical examination)
Binocular Vision	60 mins	30 mins
Low Vision	60 mins	30 mins
Ocular Disease	60 mins	30 mins

Contact Lens	60 mins	60 mins
Primary Eye Care	60 mins	90 mins
Paediatric	60 mins	30 mins

***Subject to any changes**

***It is mandatory for the candidate to pass both the theory and practical examinations of each component.**

7.2 INSTRUMENT

1. All instruments required for the examination will be provided by the institution that holds the PQA.
2. However, candidates may bring their own basic instruments such as retinoscope, occluder, PD ruler, pen torch, trial lens set, trial frame and near target.
3. Candidates are required to bring their own stationaries such as a ballpoint pen, pencil, and calculator (calculators in the mobile phone are not allowed to be used).
4. Candidates are allowed to choose between phoropter or trial frame during the application stage by selecting in the applicable tick-box in the application form. Both phoropter and trial frame will be made available.

7.3 CANDIDATES

1. Candidates will be briefed by Chief Examiner at the PQA venue prior to the examination to ensure they understand the process and the rules of the assessment.
2. To ensure that candidates are familiar and comfortable using the instruments in the venue of the PQA, AMO will arrange a visit to the institution prior to the assessment. Candidates are allowed to familiarize themselves with the instruments by visiting the institution in a pre-arrange time before the actual examination (the maximum time allowed for the visit is 1 hour, including the briefing and familiarization with instruments).
3. The Institution reserve the right to rearrange the date and time of the examination if the number of candidates is insufficient for the test to be conducted.

8. APPLICATION

1. To sit for the PQA, the candidates must submit TWO copies of the following documents to the Association of Malaysian Optometrists (AMO):
 - a. Application form for PQA (Appendix 2).
 - b. Letter issued by MOC to sit for PQA.
 - c. Certified copy of the Bachelor in Optometry degree.
 - d. Certified copy of post-graduate degree(s), if any.
 - e. Additional documents for Malaysians:
 - i. Certified copy of identity card (on an A4 size paper).

- f. Additional documents for non-Malaysians:
 - i. Certified copy of passport.
 - ii. Certified copy of appointment letter from Higher Education Provider.
- g. Examination fees of **FIVE THOUSAND** ringgit (RM 5000.00) payable in bank draft only, must be made in the name of '**ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIAN OPTOMETRISTS**'. Please write your name and identity card number/passport number behind the bank draft.
2. If your printed names in any of the submitted documents differ, please submit a Statutory Declaration.
3. If the original documents are not in either Bahasa Malaysia or English, you need to submit the translated versions in either Bahasa Malaysia or English along with certified copies of the document in its original language. Translated documents are only acceptable if carried out by qualified translators or officers of appropriate embassy.
4. Candidates are advised to keep a copy of the form they submitted for future reference.
5. Candidates will be informed regarding the date, venue and time for the PQA before the examination by AMO through the website.
6. Should the candidate fail the PQA and wish to re-sit for the component that they failed, the fee for each component is as stated below:

Component	Fee (RM)
Primary care	1630.00
Contact lens	2070.00
Binocular vision	2070.00
Low vision	1140.00
Paediatric	1140.00
Ocular disease	1140.00

7. All applications must be submitted to:

ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIAN OPTOMETRISTS (AMO)

Address : No 27A, Jalan Niaga Bestari 7, Puncak Bestari, 42300 Puncak Alam, Selangor.

Email : secretariat@amo.org.my

Contact Number : +(60)11-26102040

Website : www.amo.org.my

8. Application can be submitted **IN PERSON**.

9. Candidates are strongly advised to respond immediately to our notification for any shortcomings, if any.



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING ASSESSMENT (PQA)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

EXAMINATION RULES

1. Candidates must bring along their **identity card** and **invitation letter** to sit for exam to the examination room.
2. Candidates are advised to have their **fingernails cut short** for the examination.
3. Candidates are required to register their attendance **30 minutes** before the examination starts.
4. Candidates **shall not be allowed to sit** for the examination if he/she comes **15 minutes after** the examination has started. No added time will be given.
5. Candidates are not allowed to bring in any notes or reference books into the examination room.
6. Candidates are not allowed to bring in any communication devices including cell phone
7. Candidates are required to dress appropriately, decently and professionally with proper shoes. Dress code for male candidate is sleeved shirt with long trousers. Dress code for female candidate is sleeved top with dress/skirt below the knee or trousers.
8. Candidates are required to bring along their own stationary such as ball point pen, pencil, eraser and calculator.
9. Optometry instruments will be made available in each of the examination room. However, candidates are **allowed** to bring along their personal optometry instruments such as retinoscope, occluder, PD ruler, pen torch, trial lens set, trial frame, or near target.

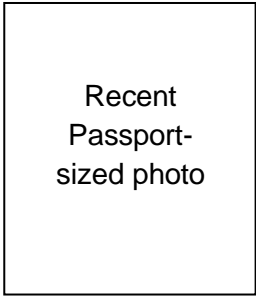
REMINDER

Candidates **MUST** abide by the rules stated above. Failure to do so shall result in disqualification of the candidate to sit or continue with the examination.



EXAMINATION BOARD OF ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIAN OPTOMETRISTS

Application To Sit for The Professional Qualifying Assessment for Registration of Optometrists Under Section 19(2) Optical Act 1991



- 1. Full Name of Applicant:
2. Citizenship status:
3. Date of Birth :
4. (a) Residential Address:
(b) Postal Address:
5. Particulars on Qualification:
6. Marital status: Single / Married / Divorced*
7. Contact Information:
8. Preferred refraction tool: Phoropter* / Trial frame and Trial lens set*
9. Vaccination Status for COVID-19 : First Dose / 2 dose Completed / Booster Dose Completed
10. Payment Details:

Date

Signature of applicant

FLOW CHART: Application For Registration As Optometrist For Candidate Who Has Qualification Not Listed In The Second Schedule, Optical Act 1991

