

Dental Hygiene Restorative Clinical Examination 2026 CANDIDATE MANUAL



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PREPARING FOR THE RESTORATIVE EXAMINATION

General Information

The purpose of the American Board of Dental Examiners **Dental Hygiene Restorative Examination** is to evaluate a candidate's ability to utilize professional judgment and competency in providing restorative procedures as allowed by state statute.

Official Resources. Candidates are responsible for reading and understanding the **Candidate Manual** in conjunction with the [Candidate Guide](#) and noted materials published by the American Board of Dental Examiners. Candidates bear all risk of any misunderstanding resulting from the use of or reliance on unofficial information or materials.

- **Candidate Guide.** Refer to the [Candidate Guide](#) for information regarding exam eligibility, education requirements, identification requirements, candidate conduct/misconduct policies, computer-based testing accommodations, and more available at [ADEXtesting.org](#).
- **Candidate Manual** (criteria, performance expectations) clinical examination review presentations, and examination forms are available at [ADEXtesting.org](#).
- **Test Prep.** Dental Hygiene Restorative Clinical examination review video is accessible via the [Test Prep](#) page or the [ADEX Testing Media YouTube](#) page.
- **Site Info Sheet.** Site-specific information pertaining to the exam site host, such as school-provided supplies, rental equipment, infection control protocols, etc. can be found in the *Site Info Sheet* for the respective exam site host on the [ADEXtesting.org](#) website.
- Submit any **exam-related questions** via [Contact Us](#) prior to the exam or onsite to American Board of Dental Examiners personnel.

Clinical Scheduling Requests. Scheduling requests may be submitted via the “My Registration” button of your [Candidates.ADEXtesting.org](#) profile or via [Contact Us](#) prior to the **Registration Deadline** for a given exam for consideration. Scheduling requests are **not guaranteed**.

Scheduling request options may include:

- Specific clinical examination day
- Specific clinic entrance time (AM/PM)

Examination Schedules. Approximately one (1) month prior to the clinical exam, individual examination schedule will be posted to the [Candidates.ADEXtesting.org](#) online portal.

Clinical Evaluation. The examination consists of the placement, carving, and finishing of one (1) Class II amalgam and one (1) Class II composite restoration on a typodont. The assignment consists of one mesioclusal (MO) and one distocclusal (DO) maxillary and mandibular molar preparation.

Equipment and Materials

The Acadental ModuPRO® One (MP_R320) typodont with corresponding gum tissue is the only model accepted for the American Board of Dental Examiners Dental Hygiene Restorative Examination.

Armamentarium. Candidates must provide the following:

- Acadental ModuPRO® One (MP_R320) Typodont
- Box or container for transport of typodont to evaluation area
- Restorative armamentarium (instruments sterilization not required)
- Handpiece(s)
- Metal or plastic air/water syringe tip(s)
- Dental materials or equipment for restorative procedures not supplied by the school

American Board of Dental Examiners requires and accepts only **A4 or A4B composite shades** and only **A1 flowable**. Opaque shades are not acceptable.

Composite surface sealer, flowable or unfilled resin/glaze(s) may not be applied to any surface of the finished restoration. A 2.00 is the maximum score possible for Occlusal, Margins and Proximal if an Examiner determines surface sealer, unfilled resin, glaze or flowable has been applied to any surface of the finished restoration.

Polishing agents are allowed. The use of petroleum jelly products (i.e. Vaseline®, etc.) is not allowed.

Site Provided Equipment and Supplies. The exam site host (school) provides expendable materials for the Candidate to use during the examination (see grid). The school is responsible for any deviation from this list. The materials provided are the brands used by the school. Candidates may utilize their own amalgamator and curing light (with curing light shield or protective eyewear), and preferred product brands.

Do not assume that exam site hosts (schools) will have extra instruments or equipment available for rent. Site-specific information can be found in the **Site Info Sheet** for the respective exam site host on the ADEXtesting.org website. Contact the exam site host (school) directly with any questions regarding site-specific equipment connections, rental availability, etc.

Note that **water** use is restricted to a disposable cup and not accessible via the operatory unit air/water syringes/handpiece.

Equipment Malfunctions. School personnel are available throughout the examination to resolve malfunctions of operatories and school equipment. Candidates should familiarize themselves with available school equipment during the clinic tour. Neither American Board of Dental Examiners nor school personnel will be responsible for time lost due to the malfunction of any personal equipment.

Notify the Chief Examiner immediately of any malfunction of school equipment. The Chief Examiner may assign a time compensation if the problem is not resolved within five (5) minutes. An appeal cannot be based on loss of clinic time if the incident is not reported to the onsite Chief Examiner.

Expendable Restorative Materials provided by Exam Site Host (School)		
2x2 gauze squares	Drinking Cups	Sanitizing materials
Air syringe tips	Face masks	Typodont mounting posts
Amalgamator/Tricherator	Facial Tissue	Soap
Amalgam scrap container(s)	Gloves, nonlatex (S,M,L,XL)	Surface disinfectant
Barrier covers/tape	Instrument trays, disposable	Tray covers
Cotton-tip applicators	Paper towels	Trash bags

American Board of Dental Examiners provides Examiners with the following instruments and materials. (Examiners do not use candidate instruments for grading.)

- Johnson & Johnson Reach® Waxed Dental Floss
- Front surface #4 or #5 mouth mirror
- UNC 1-12 mm periodontal probe
- Hu-Friedy 2R/2L pigtail explorer
- Screwdriver

Typodont Criteria

The typodont must meet the following criteria:

- Acadental ModuPRO® One (MP_R320) typodont with full dentition (32 teeth)
- Only the two (2) assigned, exam-marked Class II molar preparations are present
- All remaining teeth are virgin (i.e. no sealants)
- Adjacent teeth are anatomically correct and properly placed
- Tooth preparations and adjacent teeth are secure

Onsite Question and Answer Session/Clinic Tour

An onsite Question and Answer (Q&A) Session is held prior to the scheduled examination. The Chief Examiner or Exam Technical Coordinator (ETC) will verify candidate identification and distribute exam materials.

The optional Clinic Tour will familiarize candidates with the exam site host (school) clinic layout, emergency protocols, infection control policies, proper disposal of biohazardous materials, and equipment operation.

Exam-marked Preparations. The preparation assignment for each group is announced at the end of the onsite Question and Answer (Q&A) Session.

“No Show” Candidate. A Candidate may opt to withdraw from the exam, forfeiting their examination attempt and registration fees, for the following reasons. Withdrawal for any other reason constitutes failure of the exam.

- Candidate does not have required items or is not dressed in proper clinic attire at assigned clinic time
- Candidate is late for the start of clinic set-up time
- Restoration fractures during restorative procedures

Day of the Exam

Clinic Entrance and Operatory Set Up

Candidates will be notified when to enter the clinic and will have 30 minutes to complete set up of their operatory unit, instruments and typodont. All candidates must exit the clinic after the 30-minute set up time period is complete.

Two (2) exam-marked standardized preparations are available at each operatory. During set up, carefully review the preparation combination to ensure that both teeth correctly match that of the group assignment. Notify the Chief Examiner immediately of any discrepancies.

- **Assigned Molar Preparations.** Remove the original teeth from the typodont and insert the assigned, exam-marked preparations. Secure the tooth preparations and teeth adjacent to the preparations. To avoid breaking or stripping the screw, do not over-tighten it. A screwdriver may be used during setup but must be stowed during the examination.
- **Typodont.** Affix **Candidate ID Label** to top side of typodont [maxillary arch]. Position the typodont on the rod post to properly mimic a natural treatment position.
- **Composite/Flowable.** The Chief Examiner will verify that each candidate has the correct composite (A4 or A4B) and flowable (A1) shades.
- **Personal Belongings.** Stow all personal belongings, screwdriver and any non-exam materials. Only the **Candidate Manual** and [Candidate Guide](#) are permitted in clinic. Handwritten notes, illustrations or other non-sanctioned materials are prohibited.

Typodont Check-In Procedures. The Chief Examiner will evaluate that the typodont meets American Board of Dental Examiners criteria, that the two (2) assigned exam-marked teeth are properly placed, and tighten any tooth that is not secured in the typodont.

- If the typodont is accepted and the teeth are properly placed, the Chief Examiner will complete the *Restorative Assignment Sheet* listing the assigned teeth, surfaces, and restorative materials for each preparation. The restorative material is randomly assigned.
- If the typodont does not meet American Board of Dental Examiners criteria, the reason is listed on the *Restorative Assignment Sheet* and an *Instructions to Candidate Form (ITC)* is completed and the candidate will be registered as a “No Show”.

The candidate has the option of continuing the examination and re-submitting a typodont that meets the criteria. Resubmissions are not eligible for time compensation.

Restorative Examination Procedures

- The Chief Examiner will announce when candidates may re-enter the clinic; the examination begins upon clinic entry. One-and-a-half (1.5) hours are allowed for the examination.
- Appropriate protective eyewear, gloves and mask must be worn during all procedures.

- Operator position and typodont should reflect a position that is similar to the treatment of a patient in a clinical setting.
- Do not place instruments or any other armamentarium on the patient chair.
- Candidates may not leave the clinic for any reason during the examination. If finished early, the candidate may leave the clinic but will not be allowed to re-enter until the clean-up time is announced.
- There will be a "Five Minutes Remaining" announcement prior to the end of the one-and-a-half (1.5) hour clinic time and a "Stop Working" announcement at the completion of the one-and-a-half (1.5) hours.
- As a reminder, the Chief Examiner must be notified immediately of any malfunction of school equipment. Time compensation may be given for issues not resolved within five (5) minutes.
- All Candidates must stop working after the announcement. For each minute worked after the announcement, a 0.02-point penalty will be deducted per preparation.
- Typodonts will be transported to another area for evaluation. Examiners independently evaluate and assign three grades to each of the restorations. The hard tissue and soft tissue surrounding the restoration and adjacent teeth are evaluated for damage.

Post-Examination Clean up. Candidates are allowed 20 minutes to dispose of biohazardous materials and prepare the operatory for the next session.

Removal of Restored Preparations from Typodont. After grading is completed, the typodont is returned to the candidate. Remove the two (2) exam-marked restorations and place them in the small envelope identified with Candidate ID Number. Return the prep envelope, any unused Candidate ID Labels, and any applicable *ITCs*, to the appropriate American Board of Dental Examiners personnel. Official examination results will be withheld if all items are not returned.

American Board of Dental Examiners strictly prohibits the photographing of preparations, restorations or any aspect of the examination.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Scoring Information. Each category (Occlusal, Margins, and Proximal) of this examination is graded independently by three Examiners on a 5 to 1 scale according to the Grading Criteria Chart located in the manual. A final value of 3.00 or higher is required to pass the Restorative examination. The value of 3.00 is defined to reflect minimally competent performance for all scoring criteria and can be interpreted as corresponding to 75% in states where the passing level is legislated as 75%.

The recorded score for each category is based on the middle (median) score of the three (3) scores assigned for each category. Using the median score corrects for a score assigned by one (1) Examiner that varies from the consensus of the other Examiners. The median grade for each category is then weighted as follows:

Occlusal = 30%
 Margins = 35%
 Proximal = 35%

The two (2) restorations are graded separately, and any additional point deductions are applied at that time. The average of the two (2) determines the final grade.

Failure of the examination will result when:

- The incorrect restorative material is placed in the tooth (for example composite is assigned, and amalgam is placed).
- The natural treatment position of the typodont is intentionally altered on the rod post.

Tissue Management. It is to the Candidate's benefit to submit gum tissue that is free of hard and soft tissue lacerations. If validated by two Examiners at Check-Out, 0.10 will be deducted for **each** site of tissue damage to the hard or soft tissue (prepped or adjacent teeth).

- Damage to soft tissue is trauma in excess of 3 mm.
- Damage to hard tissue is trauma in excess of 1 mm on assigned preps or adjacent teeth.

Preliminary Results Reporting

Candidates are notified of their preliminary examination **results via text** (844). If not received, check the "spam" filter of your SMS/RCS text messaging app. Or edit the phone number displayed in the "My Account–Personal Info" section of your online Candidates.ADEXtesting.org profile. If necessary, contact the onsite ETC to resend the preliminary results text.

If unsuccessful, any applicable criterion (reason for failure) will be displayed. Discussion with examiners or staff regarding performance or reasons for failure is prohibited.

To register for the onsite retake exam session, utilize the "**Schedule Retake - Today**" link provided in your preliminary examination results text. Complete payment using a valid credit or debit card—Visa or Mastercard. Once complete, contact the onsite ETC to receive your assigned retake time and examination schedule.

Optional Onsite Retake Examination

Onsite fee-based retake session is available at each exam site for eligible candidates and generally scheduled on the last day of the examination. An onsite retake is considered a separate examination and is included in the total number of examination attempts. Candidates are permitted up to four (4) attempts to pass the Clinical Examination at two (2) separate exam locations prior to remediation (Clinical + onsite Retake = two attempts per exam location).

One of the finished restorations must score 3.00 or higher to be eligible for an onsite retake. Only the restoration that scored below 3.00 is performed during the onsite retake session. If re-attempted at another location, the candidate will perform both maxillary and mandibular (2) preparation assignments.

The onsite retake assignment consists of the same tooth, surface and restorative material, which must be completed within one (1) hour.

Performance Evaluation. A final value of 3.00 or higher is required to pass the Restorative examination.

Notification of Results. Candidates will be notified via email once official examination results are posted to your online profile, generally within 72 hours of the last date of the scheduled clinical examination. Candidate portal can be accessed via Candidates.ADEXtesting.org.

The American Board of Dental Examiners is a testing agency, not a licensing authority. Successful completion of an examination does not constitute licensure in any state or jurisdiction. It is illegal to render patient treatment until a license or certificate is issued by the state or jurisdiction. Contact the respective licensing authority directly for information regarding licensure or certification. See [Candidate Guide](#) and [Scores](#) page of ADEXtesting.org website for results reporting information.

REFERENCES

Ferracane, J. (2001). *Materials in Dentistry; Principles and Applications (2nd ed.)*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins.

Fuller, J., Denay, G. & Hall, S. (2001). *Concise Dental Anatomy and Morphology (4th ed.)*. Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa.

Nelson, Stanley J. (2015). *Wheeler's Dental Anatomy, Physiology and Occlusion (10th ed.)*. St. Louis, MO: W. B. Saunders.

RESOURCES

Acadental ModuPRO® One (MP_R320) Typodont
Acadental.com

RESTORATIVE GRADING CRITERIA

	5	4	3	2	1
OCCUSAL (30%)	Replicates proper anatomy restoring harmonious form. No pitting or voids.	Slight variation of harmonious form. Major grooves, fossae and ridges present. Slight surface irregularities (pitting or voids).	Anatomy functional. Moderate variation of harmonious form. Anatomy improved with minimal finishing and/or polishing. Moderate surface irregularities (pitting or voids).	Anatomy critically alters function. Marginal ridge contour/height improper. Pits, grooves, fossae and/or ridges inadequately placed. Critical surface irregularities (pitting or voids). Placement of glazing/unfilled resin.	Anatomy grossly alters function. Marginal ridge contour/height incorrect; height > 1 mm (+/-). Pits, grooves, fossae and/or ridges not present. Gross surface irregularities or defects (pitting, voids and/or fractures). Uncured resin.
MARGINS (35%)	Minimal variation of cavosurface margin (+). Scarring of tooth structure (one area).	Slight variation of cavosurface margin (+/-). Scarring of tooth structure (multiple areas).	Cavosurface margin (+/-); improved with minimal finishing and/or polishing. Flashing present (multiple areas); removed with minimal polishing. Moderate scarring of tooth structure. Integrity of restoration not compromised.	Cavosurface margin open > .5 mm (not correctable). 1 mm excess; not correctable with minimal polishing. Critical damage affects integrity of tooth structure and/or restoration. Placement of glazing/unfilled resin.	Gross variation of cavosurface margin open > 1 mm (not correctable). Greater than 1 mm excess; not correctable with minimal polishing. Gross damage affects integrity.
PROXIMALS (35%)	Replicates harmonious form. Flosses with proper resistance. No pitting or voids.	Slight variation of proximal contour, shape and/or position of contact area. Flosses with proper resistance. Slight surface irregularities (pitting or voids).	Moderate variation of proximal contour, shape and/or position. Gingival-occlusal embrasures are functional. Flosses with near proper resistance (may shred floss). Moderate surface irregularities (pitting or voids).	Critical variation of proximal contour, shape and/or position. Tight contact (breaks floss). Visibly open contact with resistance. Critical surface irregularities (pitting or voids). Placement of glazing/unfilled resin.	Gross variation of proximal contour, shape and/or position of contact area. Floss will not pass through contact area. Open contact (visibly open with no resistance). Gross surface irregularities (pitting, voids and/or fractures). Uncured resin.

RESTORATIVE ASSIGNMENT SHEET SAMPLE

CANDIDATE ID: _____

SUBMISSION: _____

RESTORATIVE ASSIGNMENT SHEET

TYPODONT EVALUATION

TYPODONT was: ☐ Accepted

TYPODONT was: ☐ Rejected

Criteria: _____

TYPODONT ASSIGNMENT

The following is your MAXILLARY assignment:

☐ Amalgam ☐ Composite

The following is your MANDIBULAR assignment:

☐ Amalgam ☐ Composite

TOOTH

SURFACE

TOOTH

SURFACE

Candidates: Do not make adjustments to this form. Immediately notify Chief Examiner of any discrepancies.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

Group Designation (refer to individual Examination Schedule): __

Prep Assignment: Maxillary Tooth/Surface_____

Mandibular Tooth/Surface_____

_____ **Setup Time (30-minutes)**

- Place assigned exam-marked preps in typodont
- Position typodont on rod post
- Attach plastic cover for amalgam scraps
- Set up examination armamentarium
- Questions? See Chief Examiner

_____ **Clinical Examination Start Time (1.5-hours)**

- Refer to *Candidate Assignment Sheet* for materials assignment
- *ITC* form at operator? See Chief Examiner

_____ **Clinical Examination Stop Time**

- Place typodont in container labeled with Candidate ID Number
- Leave clinic area

_____ **Post-Examination Clean-up (20-minutes)**

- Properly clean operator and surrounding area
- Biohazardous materials disposal in designated containers

_____ **Pick up Typodont Time**

- Supervised removal of restored exam-marked preps
- Return preps, any unused Candidate ID Labels, and any *ITC* forms to American Board of Dental Examiners personnel