

Test of Competence handout

Thank you for attending one of our events on the new test of competence. I hope that you found it informative. If you have any questions or thoughts about the event or the information that we shared, please get in touch with us at ToC@nmc-uk.org.

As we finalise the new test of competence the details included in the presentation will be updated, so we thought it would be more helpful to provide this high level overview.

This handout provides some of the essential information about the new test of competence. Please share this with colleagues who were unable to attend the event or might find it helpful.

The test of Competence (ToC)

The ToC will remain a two part test that assesses a candidate's competence to be a nurse or midwife in the UK. You can take the ToC if you are applying from overseas or [returning to practice](#). The first part, a computer based test, tests a candidate's numeracy skills and theoretical knowledge. The second part, is a practical examination at one of our test centres.

We are updating the content and structure of the ToC to reflect the new standards for nurses and midwives in the UK.

As well as creating new content for the ToC, where it has been possible, safe and appropriate to do so we updated and reused current content to align with the new standards.

What we are changing

The computer-based test (CBT) – this will be split into two, both of which must be passed:

- Part A: Numeracy – 15 marks in 30 minutes
- Part B: Theory – 100 marks in 2 hours and 30 minutes.

The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) – this will increase from six to ten stations each of which will be assessed against specific criteria and with a holistic judgement for the whole OSCE:

- Four scenario stations will consider candidates' assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation (APIE) skills;
- Four stations will test clinical skills; and
- Two new stations will assess candidates' values and behaviours, and evidence-based practice.

Candidate support

We want to make sure that candidates have a clear picture of the process and know what to expect. We will publish the technical documentation including the test specification and the NMC blueprint. These will give candidates the foundation that the test is built on.

We will also publish the candidate journey which will provide a step by step guide to what to expect. There will be one version for the candidate, and another for their employer or organisation supporting the candidate. Other documents, including an overview of the nature of care in the UK and the Chief Examiner reports, will help provide further context and information.

We want to provide and publish these documents as soon as possible so that candidates have as much time to prepare as possible for the new test this summer.

Keep involved

We have other ways to keep involved with us as we develop the new ToC. Please sign up to our [monthly emails](#) to find out more or join one of our [webinars](#).