



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (PQE) UNDER DENTAL ACT 2018

HANDBOOK FOR CANDIDATES



**PROFESSIONAL
QUALIFYING
EXAMINATION (PQE)
UNDER DENTAL ACT 2018:**

**HANDBOOK FOR
CANDIDATES**

The guidelines were endorsed by the
Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)
at the 17th MDC Meeting on 7 April 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

No.	Content	Page
1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) Requirements for Registration with the Malaysian Dental Council	
1.2	Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) Requirements for Application of Temporary Practicing Certificate (TPC) as a Dental Surgeon	
2.0	Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE)	1
2.1	The Examination Format	2
2.2	The Frequency	3
2.3	The Examination Fees	4
2.4	The Passing Requirement	4
3.0	Application for Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE)	
3.1	Assessment for Eligibility	4
3.1.1	Submission of a completed application form and supporting documents	
3.1.2	Confirmation of eligibility from the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)	
3.2	Parts of Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE)	5
3.3	The Operational Procedures of the Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE)	7
4.0	The Rules and Regulations of The Examination	
4.1	Pre-Examination	10
4.2	During the examination	10
Appendices		
A	Flowchart of Application for Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE)	11
B (i)	Application Form for Eligibility Assessment to Sit the Professional Qualification Examination (PQE) for Registration with Malaysian Dental Council	12
B (ii)	Application Form for Eligibility Assessment to Sit the Professional Qualification Examination (PQE) To Fulfil Application of Temporary Practicing Certificate	16
C	Flowchart of the Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) for Eligible Candidates	20
D	Flowchart of the Examination Procedures	21

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) Requirements for Registration with the Malaysian Dental Council

According to the Section 29 (2) Dental Act 2018, Malaysian citizens who graduate from a university that is not from an accredited local training institution, must pass the Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) conducted by the Dental Qualifying Committee (DQC) before they can apply to register as a dental practitioner.

1.2. Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) Requirements for Application of Temporary Practising Certificate (TPC) as a Dental Surgeon

According to the Section 40 (1) Dental Act 2018, a non- Malaysian citizen may apply to the Dental Registrar for a temporary practicing certificate to practice dentistry in Malaysia if he fulfils the following conditions:

a) he is registered outside Malaysia as a dental surgeon or the equivalent of a dental surgeon;

b) he -

i) has passed the Professional Qualifying Examination; **or**

ii) holds a qualification granted by an accredited local training institution and has been certified by the Dental Qualifying Examination Committee to have fulfilled the requirements of the Professional Qualifying Examination;

Passing of PQE is one of the criteria for the issuance of TPC as Dental Surgeon. The applicant will also need to fulfil other requirements as specified in Guidelines for Application of Temporary Practising Certificate Dental Act 2018 [*Act 804*].

2.0 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (PQE)

The Dental Qualifying Committee shall, for the purposes of paragraph 29(2)(c) of the Dental Act 2018, conduct a Professional Qualifying Examination which consists of the following parts:

- a) Part I which shall be in respect of a theory examination;
- b) Part II which shall be in respect of a pre-clinical examination; and
- c) Part III which shall be in respect of a clinical examination.

The aims of the PQE are to:

- protect the public by ensuring that dental practitioners meet established standards of competence and ethical conduct;
- verify that candidates possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies required for professional dental practice as stated in the Competencies of New Dental Graduates, Malaysia;
- ensure new dental practitioners will demonstrate appropriate professional behaviour;
- maintain consistency in the desired level of achievement through standard setting; and
- enhance the credibility and reputation of the dental profession among stakeholders.

The objectives of the PQE are to:

- assess candidates' understanding of fundamental concepts and principles;
- evaluate practical skills and application of knowledge in real-world scenarios;
- assess candidates' understanding of ethical considerations and professional conduct;
- establish a benchmark for minimum acceptable levels of competence;
- demonstrate that dental practitioners in Malaysia have undergone a rigorous assessment process; and
- contribute to public trust in the competence of dental practitioners in Malaysia.

2.1 The Examination Format

NO.	PARTS	COMPONENT			NOTES
		1	2	3	
1.	Part I Theory (190 minutes)	One Best Answer (OBA) / Single Best Answer (SBA) - electronic • 90 minutes • 50 questions	Short Answer Questions (SAQ) • 100 minutes • 10 questions based on scenario-based /		Part I and Part II can be taken independently (It is not necessary to pass Part I before being allowed to

			applied knowledge		take Part II examination)
2.	Part II Pre - clinical (360 minutes)	Restoration of a large carious lesion of a molar resin tooth according to ICDAS 5 (on a standardised tooth) – 90 minutes i. Cavity preparation ii. Restoration	Porcelain fused to metal (PFM) crown preparation of upper incisor resin tooth and secondary impression – 90 minutes	Root canal treatment of a single rooted premolar tooth (on a standardised resin tooth) from access to obturation – 180 minutes	
3.	Part III Clinical (110 minutes) (simulated patients and facilities will be prepared by the university conducting the examination following questions will be supplied by MDC)	OSCE – 110 minutes • 10 minutes / station with 1 minute interval to read question before each station.			Have to pass Part I and II for eligibility to take Part III.

2.2 The Frequency

Part I and Part II of the PQE shall be carried out not more than four times a year and Part III of the Professional Qualifying Examination shall be carried out at least twice a year, except if there is no candidate.

2.3 The Examination Fees

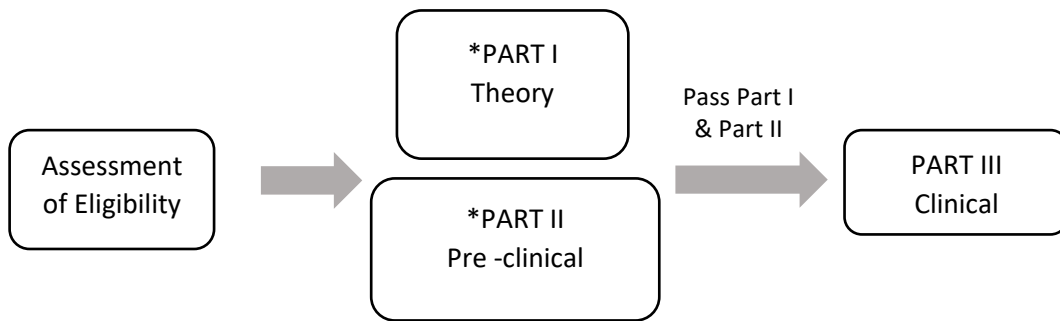
Each attempt for each part of PQE is not more than RM 10,000.00, as stipulated in the Second Schedule of the Dental Regulations 2021.

2.4 The Passing Requirement

A candidate must pass Part I and Part II to be eligible for Part III of the PQE. A candidate shall pass all parts of the PQE within a period of three (3) years from the date of sitting for Part I of the Professional Qualifying Examination.

3.0 APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (PQE)

An application for the PQE examination will involve the following processes:



***Part I and Part II can be taken independently
(It is not necessary to pass Part I before being allowed to take Part II examination)**

3.1 Assessment for Eligibility

The eligibility process is as follows and the flowchart of application for Professional Qualifying Examination as in **Appendix A**.

3.1.1 Submission of a completed application form and supporting documents

Submit the completed application form **Appendix B (i) or Appendix B (ii) according to category of application** to the Dental Registrar, Malaysian Dental Council.

All documents issued in a language other than English must be submitted together with an English translation that is officially certified.

3.1.2 Confirmation of eligibility from the MDC

The Dental Registrar will notify the decision in writing to the applicant within 30 days from the date of receipt of an application that is complete with required documents as stated in the application form.

There are three possible outcomes:

a) Successful application:

Applicant is eligible to proceed to take Part I: Theory Examination and Part II: Pre -clinical Examination. Eligibility to take Part III: Clinical Examination is dependent of having successfully passed both Part I and Part II of the PQE within a stipulated time frame. Eligibility will not expire provided the applicant has not violated the Dental Act 2018 on Restriction on Registration [Section 32 (1)].

Pursuant to subsection 14(2) of the Dental Act 2018, the Council may, in cases where the standard of the applicant's prior training is not deemed equivalent, require the applicant to undergo further training or clinical attachment before being permitted to sit for the PQE.

b) Incomplete application:

Applicant is required to submit additional information for further assessment.

c) Unsuccessful application:

- i. Applicant will be notified of the ineligibility to take the PQE with reason(s).
- ii. If applicant wishes to appeal, a written appeal is to be submitted to the MDC within 30 days of receipt of the notification.

3.2 Parts of PQE

The PQE consists of the following parts:

(a) Part I which shall be in respect of a theory examination:

- i. One Best Answer (OBA) which consists of 50 questions to be answered within 90 minutes
- ii. Short Answer Questions (SAQ) which consists of 10 scenario-based / applied knowledge to be answered within 100 minutes

(b) Part II which shall be in respect of a pre -clinical examination on a patient simulator, which consists of three (3) components which are:

- 1) Restoration of a large carious ICDAS Code 5 lesion (on a customised resin tooth) with composite resin to be completed within 90 minutes.
 - i) Isolation with dental dam and cavity preparation
 - ii) Lining (if indicated)
 - iii) Composite restoration

- 2) Porcelain fused to metal (PFM) crown preparation and impression with elastomeric material of an upper permanent central incisor resin tooth mounted in a patient simulator. The candidate needs to show the completed crown preparation and finished impression to the examiner. The procedures need to be completed within 90 minutes.
- 3) Root Canal Treatment (RCT) on a single rooted premolar tooth (on a customised resin tooth) to be completed within 180 minutes. The following stages will be assessed:
 - i) Isolation with dental dam and access cavity
 - ii) Working length (radiographic image and record)
 - iii) Obturation (radiographic image and tooth)
 - iv) Coronal gutta percha removal

This examination will be conducted in a single day with sufficient time allotted between components for the preparation of examination stations and rest for the candidates.

The candidates are required to complete all three components on customised typodont models in manikin heads of patient-simulated units. The candidates will be provided with instructions for the tasks of each component.

These instructions will outline all the procedures required to be carried out and examined for each component including stages to be shown to the examiners. The candidates are required to complete all three components within the stipulated time. The materials and instruments for the three (3) components will be provided at the examination venue.

(c) Part III which shall be in respect of a clinical examination:

For this examination, candidates are required to complete a ten-station OSCE within 110 minutes (10 minutes/station) with one minute interval in between stations to read the question before entering the station. Each station is set up in a cubicle with a different task relating to a clinical scenario or clinical skill demonstration.

The tasks will include the use of standardised simulated patients, photographs (clinical and radiographic images), and other related resources. Each station will have an examiner to directly assess the whole task. This examination is a half-day examination

and the candidates will be scheduled to either a morning or afternoon session. A briefing of the examination process will be provided prior to the start of examination.

3.3 The Operational Procedures for the PQE

The following section outlines the procedures and requirements for candidates undertaking the PQE. Candidates are advised to read these procedures carefully and comply with all stated requirements. The flowchart illustrating the overall procedures is provided in **Appendix C**.

1.0 REGISTRATION AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

1.1 Registration

1.1.1 The candidate must register with the examination centre (institution hosting the examination) at least three (3) months before the date of examination by submitting a completed application together with the respective examination fee and letter of eligibility to take the examination. Dates and a list of examination venues will be available on the MDC official website.

1.1.2 Candidates for the Part III examination will be required to include a Certificate of Passing of the PQE for Part I and II for registration.

1.2 Notification of Examination Registration

Acknowledgement of receipt of the examination registration by the respective examination centre will be notified within five (5) working days.

1.3 Confirmation of Examination

1.3.1 Confirmation of examination date and venue will be sent to the candidate at least six (6) weeks before the examination date.

1.3.2 If a candidate wishes to withdraw from the examination, a written notice of withdrawal is to be submitted to the respective examination centre. The candidate will be required to re-register for future examination.

1.4 Examination process

The flow chart for the examination procedure for Part I, II and III is provided in **Appendix D**.

1.5 Notification of Examination Results

- 1.5.1 The results of the examination will be notified to the candidate by the DQC within four (4) weeks from the date of the examination.
- 1.5.2 The DQC shall issue the successful candidate a Certificate of Passing for the respective parts of the PQE.
- 1.5.3 Candidates who have passed both Part I and II of the PQE may proceed to register for the Part III examination.
- 1.5.4 A candidate who failed may submit an appeal for reassessment of examination results to the MDC together with an appeal fee of RM1,000 for each part within fourteen (14) days from the date of the notification of the result.
- 1.5.5 Candidates who fail any part of the PQE are permitted to retake the examination without limitation on the number of attempts, provided the retake occurs within three years from the date of the seating for Part I PQE. Additionally, candidate who has failed one or two components of the Part II PQE will be allowed to take a re-sit of the failed component/s. Candidates are required to re-register for the exam as outlined in para 1.1.1.

2.0 REFUND POLICY

2.1 Eligibility for Refund

- **Full Refund:** Candidates are eligible for a full refund if they withdraw their registration at least thirty (30) days before the scheduled exam date.
- **Partial Refund:** Candidates may be entitled to a 50% refund under exceptional extenuating circumstances such as serious illness and death of an immediate family member. Applications for a refund will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the respective examination centre.
- **No Refund:** No fee will be refunded should a candidate fail to attend or wish to withdraw from the examination.

2.2 Non-Refundable Fees

- **Fee for evaluation of qualification to sit for PQE** is non-refundable.

2.3 Changes to the Refund Policy

- **Policy Updates:** MDC reserves the right to update or modify this refund policy at any time. Any changes will be communicated to the candidates via email or posted on our website

2.4 Refund Request Process and Contact Information

- **Request Submission:** To request a refund, candidates must submit a written request via email to the examination centre, including their full name, registration details and reason for cancellation.
- For further inquiries, please contact the respective examination centre for further assistance.

4.0 THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE EXAMINATION

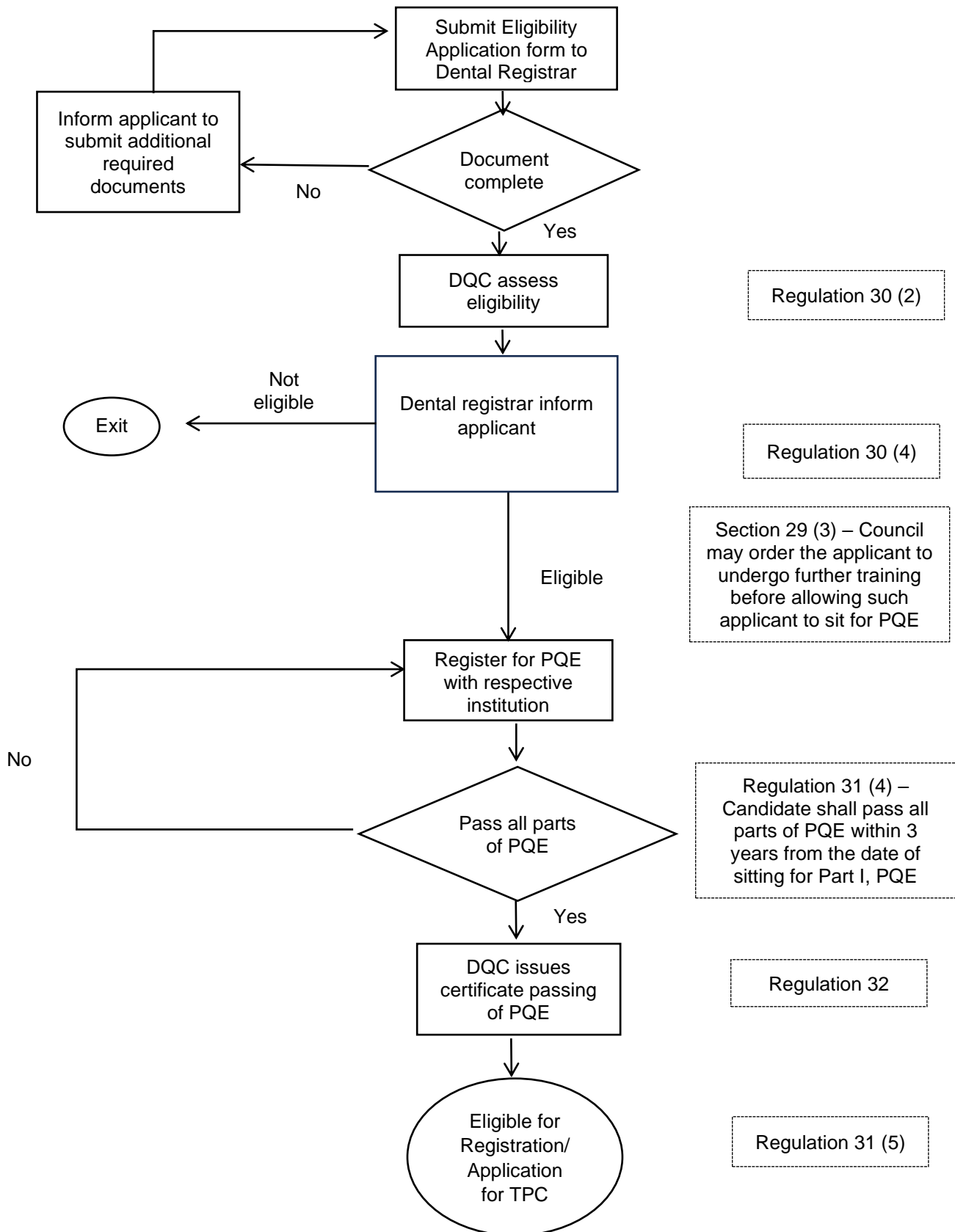
4.1 Pre-Examination:

- a. Candidates are required to be present and assemble in front of the examination venue at least 45 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination.
- b. Candidates are required to show a letter of approval from MDC to sit for PQE, receipt of payment of examination fee and personal identification document (IC/ Passport) for verification at the registration counter.
- c. After verification, candidates will be provided an examination slip with details of index number and assigned seat/station number.
- d. Candidates can identify the seating position allocated in the examination hall (refer examination hall floor plan).
- e. Candidates will not be allowed to enter the examination hall, 30 minutes after the official commencement of the examination time in the event of late arrival to the examination venue. However, no extra time shall be given to complete the examination.
- f. It is compulsory for all candidates to be seated in the exam hall/ holding room during pre- examination briefing and post-examination briefing.

4.2 During the examination:

- a. Examination slips and personal identification document (IC/ Passport) should be placed at the top corner of the table next to the aisle (Part I and Part II).
- b. No books, paper, pencil cases or any electronic devices such as PDA, mobile phones, smart devices such as smart watches, smart ear plugs and all other forms of telecommunication devices are allowed into the examination hall. A comprehensive search may be conducted
- c. Personal belongings are kept in candidates' own bags. Bags are to be placed in designated places outside the examination hall.
- d. Candidates are only allowed to bring pens and pencils into the examination hall.
- e. Candidates are not allowed to bring food or drinks except water in transparent containers into the examination hall.
- f. Candidates are not allowed to leave the examination hall during the first and the last 30 minutes of the examination.
- g. Candidates who wish to go to the toilet during the course of an examination (only if absolutely necessary), must seek the permission of the invigilator, and will be escorted to the toilet situated outside the examination venue. However, no additional time will be added to complete the examination including missed station(s) in OSCE.

**FLOWCHART OF APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION,
MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL**

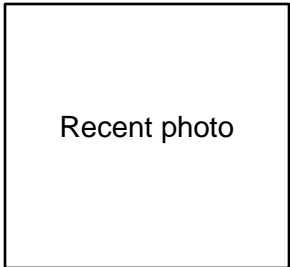


Reference No.:
(For office use only)

**APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT TO SIT THE
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION (PQE)
MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL (MDC)**

(Registration with Malaysian Dental Council)

Part I: Details of Applicant



1. Full name:.....

2. NRIC No.:

3. Citizenship:

4. Date of birth:..... 5. Gender: male female

6. (a) Residential address:
.....
.....

(b) Postal address (if different from above):
.....
.....

7. Telephone No.:..... 8. Mobile phone no.:.....

9. E-mail:.....

Part II: Particulars of Qualifications

Basic Dental Qualification

1. Description (in full):.....

2. Name of institution:.....

3. Country in which the qualification is granted:.....

4. Date of Qualification:.....

Part III: Professional Registration History (if any)

- 1. Regulatory Body:.....
- 2. Registration No.:.....
- 3. Duration of Registration:.....

Part IV: Method of Payments

The application must be accompanied with a bank draft/ money order for the sum of RM 300.00 (non-refundable and non-transferable) payable to the Dental Registrar, Malaysian Dental Council with the following details:

- a) Name of Bank/ post office:
- b) Reference No:
- c) Date:.....

Part V: Required Documents

I hereby attach the following documents as proof of having satisfied the requirements for application to sit for PQE as stipulated in Subregulation 30 of Dental Regulation 2021:

No	List of Documents
a)	Certified copy of National Registration Identity Card
b)	Certified copy of dental qualification degree
c)	Certified copy of academic transcript
d)	Certified copy of internship transcript (if applicable)

No	List of Documents
e)	The following information as provided by the registrar of the faculty/ school or as listed in published documents such as programme book: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. duration of training ii. mode of training iii. training module/component iv. student learning time for the programme v. Dental clinical face-to-face (student-patient) contact hours vi. curriculum of the program of study
f)	Certification that qualification is registrable as a dental surgeon in the awarding country (Please provide supporting documents from the awarding university — issued by the Dean or Registrar — or from the relevant regulatory body)
Dental practitioner with previous working experience in other countries is required to provide the following additional documents	
a)	Certified copy of certificate of registration from the regulatory body from the most recent country of practice
b)	Letter of good standing from the dental regulatory body from the most recent country of practice to be sent directly to the Malaysian Dental Council by the regulatory body
c)	Employment History and Supporting Evidence Since Registration as a Dental Surgeon

Note: Please provide an English translation, if the Certificate is in other than Malay or English language.

Part VI: Declaration

I, [full name] hereby declare that the particulars stated in this application are true and correct and the documents attached are copies of original documents which relate to me.

I have not been:

- (a) found guilty of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, or an offence punishable with imprisonment whether imprisonment only or in addition to or in lieu of a fine;
- or

- (b) found guilty by the dental regulatory body, from the country of practice, of infamous conduct in any professional respect or to be otherwise not of good fame and character; or
- (c) removed from the register of dental practitioners maintained in any place outside Malaysia, or from the roll of any dental college or licensing body; as a result of misconduct or disciplinary proceedings.

Signature of applicant:

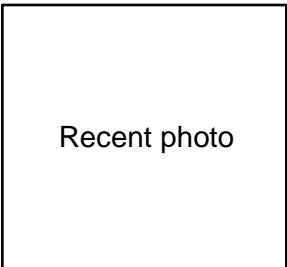
Name of applicant: Date:

Reference No.:
(For office use only)

**APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT TO SIT THE
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (PQE)
MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL (MDC)**

(To Fulfill Application of Temporary Practicing Certificate)

Part I: Details of Applicant



1. Full name:.....
2. Passport No.:
3. Citizenship:
4. Date of birth:.....
5. Gender: male female
6. Marital status: single married (Please provide a certified copy of marriage certificate)
7. (a) Residential address:
.....
.....
- (b) Postal address (if different from above):
.....
.....
8. Telephone No.:.....
9. Mobile phone no.:.....
10. E-mail:.....

Part II: Particulars of Qualifications

a) Basic Dental Qualification

- 1. Description (in full):.....
- 2. Name of institution:.....
- 3. Country in which the qualification is granted:.....
- 4. Date of Qualification:.....

b) Postgraduate Dental Qualification (if any)

- 1. Description (in full):
- 2. Name of institution:
- 3. Country in which the qualification is granted:.....
- 4. Date of Qualification:.....

Part III: Professional Registration History

- 1. Regulatory Body:.....
- 2. Registration No.:.....

Part IV: Method of Payments

The application must be accompanied with a bank draft/ money order for the sum of RM 300.00 (non-refundable and non-transferable) payable to the Dental Registrar, Malaysian Dental Council with the following details:

- a) Name of Bank/ post office:
- b) Reference No:
- c) Date:.....

Part V: Required Documents

I hereby attach the following documents as proof of having satisfied the requirements for application to sit for PQE as stipulated in Subregulation 30 of Dental Regulation 2021:

No.	List of Documents
a)	Certified Copy of Passport
b)	Certified Copy of dental qualification degree
c)	Certified Copy of academic transcript
d)	Certified Copy of internship transcript (if any)
e)	Certified Copy of Postgraduate Qualification (if any)
f)	Certified Copy of academic transcript
g)	The following information as provided by the registrar of the faculty/ school or as listed in published documents such as programme book: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. duration of training ii. mode of training iii. training module/component iv. student learning time for the programme v. Dental clinical face-to-face (student-patient) contact hours vi. curriculum of the program of study
h)	Certification that qualification is registrable as a dental surgeon in the awarding country (Please provide supporting documents from the awarding university — issued by the Dean or Registrar — or from the relevant regulatory body)
Applicant with previous working experience in other countries is required to provide the following additional documents	
a)	Certified copy of certificate of registration from the regulatory body from the most recent country of practice
b)	Letter of good standing from the dental regulatory body from the most recent country of practice to be sent directly to the Malaysian Dental Council by the regulatory body
c)	Employment History and Supporting Evidence Since Registration as a Dental Surgeon

Part VI: Declaration

I, [full name] hereby declare that the particulars stated in this application are true and correct and the documents attached are copies of original documents which relate to me.

I have not been:

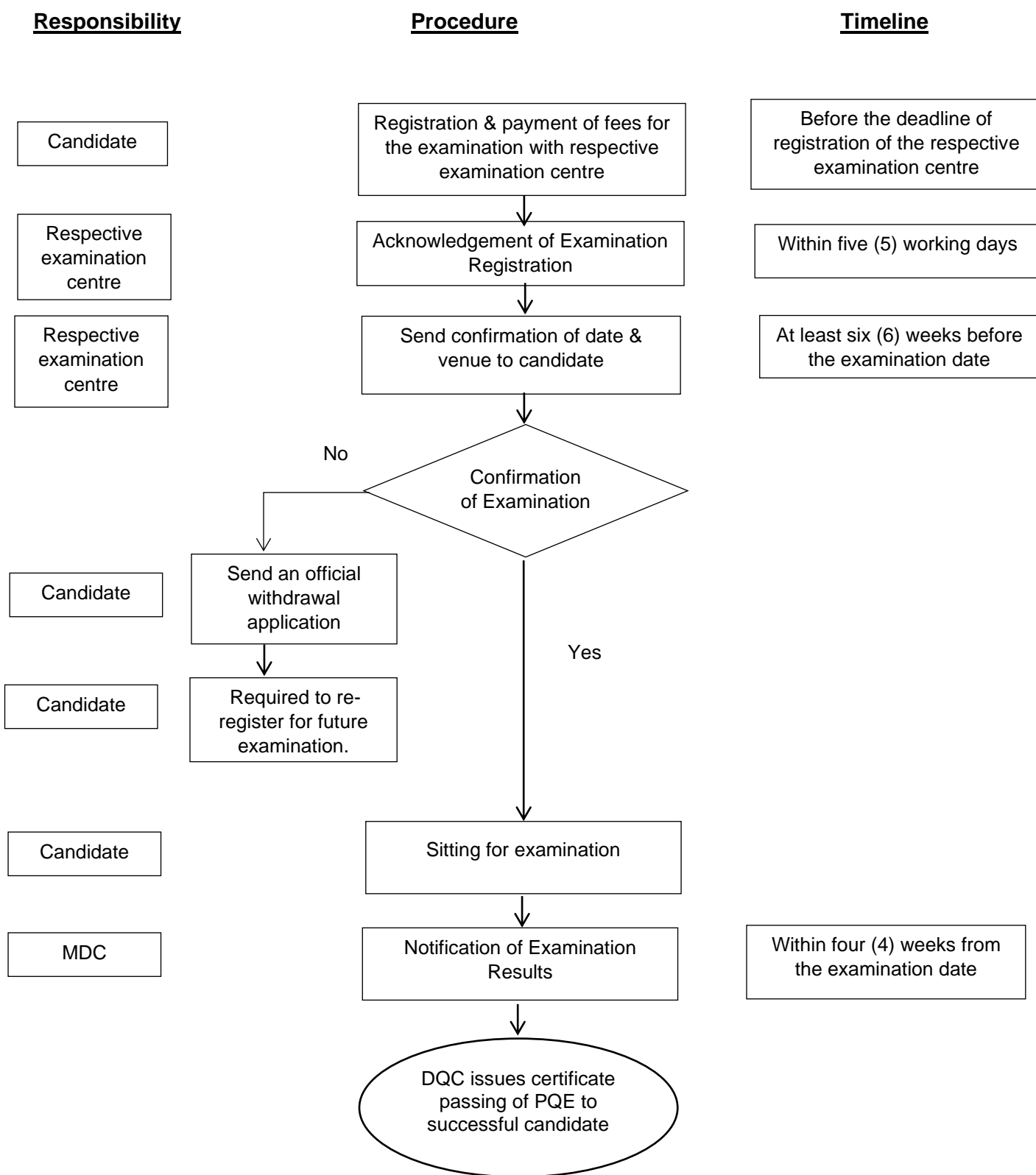
- (a) found guilty of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, or an offence punishable with imprisonment whether imprisonment only or in addition to or in lieu of a fine; **or**
- (b) found guilty by the dental regulatory body, from the country of practice, of infamous conduct in any professional respect or to be otherwise not of good fame and character; **or**
- (d) removed from the register of dental practitioners maintained in any place outside Malaysia, or from the roll of any dental college or licensing body as a result of misconduct or disciplinary proceedings.

I understand that passing PQE does not guarantee issuance of TPC for practice in Malaysia. It is still subject to fulfilling the requirements specified in Guidelines for Application of Temporary Practising Certificate Dental Act 2018 [*Act 804*].

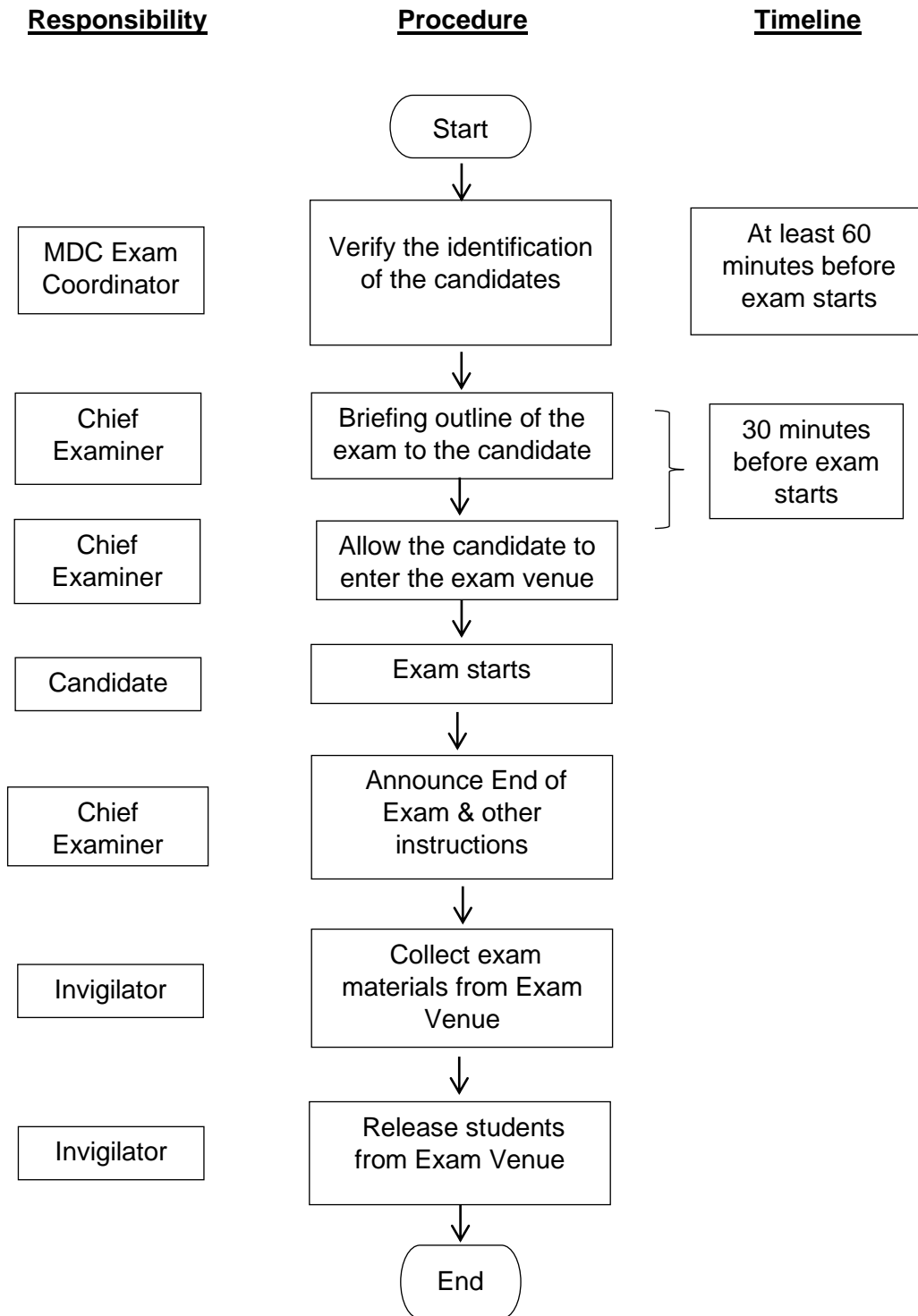
Signature of applicant:

Name of applicant: Date:.....

FLOWCHART OF THE PQE PROCEDURE FOR ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES



FLOWCHART OF THE EXAMINATION PROCEDURES



Malaysian Dental Council
Ministry of Health Malaysia
E301 Level 3 Block 3440
Enterprise Building 1 Jalan Teknorat 3
63000 Cyberjaya Selangor
Tel. : 03-8318 6440
<https://hq.moh.gov.my/ohp/mdc/>