Prosthodontics

National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) Virtual OSCE and Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK)

About 10% of the Virtual OSCE · 4 topics · 2026 blueprint

Prosthodontics covers replacing missing teeth and restoring heavily damaged teeth with crowns, fixed partial dentures, removable partial and complete dentures, and implant prostheses. It is about 10% of the Virtual OSCE in NDEB's 2026 blueprint. Questions ask you to classify the edentulous situation, judge abutment and restorability, choose a prosthesis and material, and solve problems with fit, occlusion and denture complaints.

You should be able to: A maxillary arch is missing 14, 15 and 16, with 17 still present, and nothing else. What is the Kennedy class?

Every topic: the key point and the trap

PR-1 Restorability and crowns

Judge restorability before planning a crown: remaining tooth structure, caries below the bone, crown to root ratio, periodontal support and endodontic status.

Trap: Placing a post to strengthen a weak root. A post adds retention for the core only and can increase the risk of root fracture.

PR-2 Removable partial dentures

Kennedy Class I is bilateral distal extension, Class II unilateral distal extension, Class III a unilateral bounded space, and Class IV a single bounded anterior space crossing the midline.

Trap: Classifying before planned extractions are done, or counting a missing third molar that will not be replaced. Classify the arch as it will be when the denture is made.

PR-3 Complete dentures

Occlusal vertical dimension is the height with teeth in contact; rest vertical dimension is greater by the freeway space, usually about 2 to 4 mm.

Trap: Adjusting individual sore spots when the cause is the vertical dimension. Local relief does not fix a freeway space that is too small.

PR-4 Fixed partial dentures and implants

Abutment teeth need sound periodontal support, a favourable crown to root ratio (ideally 2:3, at least 1:1) and a common path of insertion.

Trap: Planning an implant from a panoramic image alone near the inferior alveolar canal. Panoramic images distort, so a CBCT is used to measure bone to the canal.

Key terms

Ferrule: A collar of sound tooth structure above the finish line encircled by the crown; resists fracture.

Supracrestal tissue attachment: The connective tissue and epithelial attachment above the bone crest, formerly called biologic width.

Kennedy classification: A system for partially edentulous arches, Classes I to IV, based on the location of edentulous areas.

Rest: A rigid part of a removable partial denture that sits on a tooth and transfers vertical load to it.

Survey: Analysis of a cast with a surveyor to find the path of insertion, undercuts and guide planes.

Occlusal vertical dimension: The vertical distance between two facial points when the teeth or rims are in contact.

Freeway space: Difference between rest and occlusal vertical dimension, usually about 2 to 4 mm.

Centric relation: A reproducible jaw relationship with the condyles in their most stable position, independent of tooth contact.

Pontic: The artificial tooth of a fixed partial denture that replaces a missing tooth.

Peri-implantitis: Inflammation around an implant with progressive loss of supporting bone.

ExamDragon, examdragon.com/ndeb. Independent exam preparation, not affiliated with or endorsed by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB); written in our own words to NDEB's 2026 Virtual OSCE blueprint. NDEB is a trademark of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada, used only to name the exam.