

The Israeli Dental licensing exam is roughly similar to the American NBDE (National Board Dental Examination) Part II and can be prepared similarly – though less self-learning material is available than for the USMLE for instance.

1. The first part of the exam is a straightforward MCQ knowledge exam, lasting 4 hours.

2. The second part, the practical one, is as follows:

a) The first step is one hour long and consists of 5 clinical photographs (lichen planus, geographic tongue, palatal ulceration and such) and 5 radiographs. There are questions on these (usually yes/no answers).

The causes of failure? mainly “unforgivable” mistakes, such as not diagnosing a cancerous lesion.

b) The second step the practical / phantom head part. Essentially there are 5 tasks, and you get 3 hours or so to complete them. You can get for example a DO and separate MO on an upper 6, a DO on a premolar, endo access cavity on a 1st molar, crown prep on a lower 6, and free hand temporary crown for that tooth made with self cure acrylic without a putty matrix. The cavities are preps only and do not need filling. The examiners expect a certain depth, width, length etc on the cavities and you get marked accordingly. You work on plastic typodont teeth.

The causes of failures? For instance stopping the endo prep at the pulp horns rather than going all the way into the pulp chamber. Or worse, causing an irreversible damage.

For this step, you need to understand that Israeli dentists who check you at this exam want things done their way, not a American or Hungarian way, even if that is quite acceptable. Therefore it's worth to be in touch with dentists who have recently passed the exam, and can give you precious information about their own experience.

The rule is as always, no secret - Revise and prepare and it will be fine.

The formal bibliography list (you can find it at the end of this mail) is the list furnished by the Israeli MOH of recommended textbooks. However regular European dental school material is adequate as well, if they are up-to-date. The books listed in the bibliography are generally available in any medical school library and can of course from Amazon or any other book-dealer specialized in medical books.

It may be better worth to use reviews aimed at preparing the US NBDE exam which is quite similar to the Israeli exam. For instance:

First Aid for the NBDE Part I (First Aid) by Derek M. Steinbacher and Steven R. Sierakowski (Paperback - Oct 16, 2006)

First Aid for the NBDE Part II by Jason E. Portnof and Timothy Leung (Paperback – new edition to be published Nov 2007)

Mosby's Review for the NBDE, Part I by Mosby (Paperback - Jul 14, 2006)

Mosby's Review for the NBDE, Part II (Mosby's Review for the Nbd: Part 2 (National Board Dental Examination)) by Mosby (Paperback - April 10, 2007)

National Dental Boards (NDB) - Part I (Admission Test Series , Part 1) by Jack Rudman (Plastic Comb - Jan 1, 2004)