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Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report via the Cardiff University Intranet [here](#) and from [ExternalExaminers@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:ExternalExaminers@cardiff.ac.uk).

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	James Puryer		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Bristol		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	Dentistry BDS Part 2C		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2017/2018	Date of Report:	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board.

**Please note this form will be published online and should not make any reference to any individual students or members of staff in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018).**

Please extend spaces where necessary.

**1. Programme Structure** (curriculum design, programme structure and level, methods of teaching and learning)

The Programme structure has not changed from the previous academic year and relates well to the Learning Objectives for this part of the curriculum.

**2. Academic Standards** (comparability with other UK HEIs, achievement of students, any PSRB requirements)

The Primary BDS (Part 2C) appears to be maintaining appropriate academic standards and the ability of Cardiff undergraduate students at this stage of the curriculum is comparable with other UK institutions offering a similar undergraduate degree programme.

The programme continues to reflect the standards outlined within the General Dental Council documents *“Preparing for Practice”* and *“Standards for Education”*.

**3. The Assessment Process** (enabling achievement of aims and learning outcomes; stretch of assessment; comparability of standards between modules of the same level)

This assessment measures student assessment rigorously and fairly against the Learning Outcomes.

The format of assessment changed this academic year, moving from 'Multiple Short Answer' (MSA) format to a 'Single Best Answer' (SBA) format. The SBA format of assessment is widely used within other UK dental institutions, and has a number of advantages including the ability to test applied knowledge (with carefully constructed question items), the ability to cover a wide number of learning outcomes and the speed and reliability of marking.

The introduction of this new form of assessment was carefully planned by the internal staff. I was consulted on the process, and I was able to review and comment on the draft questions in good time. The question items were very well structured and well written. The number and type of questions used allowed assessment of a wide range of learning outcomes and many question items assessed 'application of knowledge', rather than simply 'recall of facts'. This is so important on a clinical programme of study. I am confident that the overall assessment process was conducted in line with the University's policies and regulations.

The use of Standard Setting for this assessment follows the GDC "*Standards for Education*", and the School is very well-supported with post-assessment psychometric analysis. This will continue to support the ongoing quality assurance of this assessment.

The assessment was able to discriminate between weaker and stronger students and I have no reason to believe that the results obtained for this assessment are not a true reflection of the ability of the students.

The introduction of a new style of assessment can lead to many issues. However, I feel that the change has been well planned and executed, is a positive step, and I believe that this new style of summative assessment is fit for purpose. I have no concerns.

**4. Examination of Master's Dissertations** (sample of dissertations received, appropriateness of marking schemes, standard of internal marking, classification of awards)

N/a

**5. Year-on-Year Comments**

[Previous External Examiner Reports are available from the Cardiff University Website [here](#).]

The continuing use of Standard Setting and psychometric support for Quality Assurance purposes is to be commended.

**6. Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only)** (appropriateness of briefing provided by the programme team and supporting information, visits to School, ability to meet with students, arrangements for accessing work to review)

N/a

**7. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement** (good and innovative practice in learning, teaching and assessment; opportunities for enhancement of learning opportunities)

As mentioned above there are some very commendable aspects to this assessment:

- Question items were well-written
- Multiple learning outcomes were assessed
- Standard Setting has been implemented appropriately
- Post-assessment psychometric support is excellent
- Question items test 'application of knowledge' which is essential in a clinical subject
- The marking process is reliable

**8. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)** (significant changes in standards, programme/discipline developments, implementation of recommendations, further areas of work)

N/a

## 9. Annual Report Checklist

Please include appropriate comments within Sections 1-7 above for any answer of 'No'.

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
<b>Programme/Course information</b>				
9.1	Did you receive sufficient information about the Programme and its contents, learning outcomes and assessments?	Y		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?	Y		
<b>Commenting on draft examination question papers</b>				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	Y		
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	Y		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	Y		
<b>Examination scripts</b>				
9.6	Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?			N/A
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?			N/A
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			N/A
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			N/A
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			N/A
<b>Coursework and practical assessments</b>				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?			N/A
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?			N/A
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?			N/A
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?			N/A
<b>Clinical examinations (if applicable)</b>				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			N/A
<b>Sampling of work</b>				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?			N/A
<b>Examining board meeting</b>				
9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	Y (via		

		<b>Skype)</b>		
9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	<b>Y</b>		
9.19	Cardiff University recognises the productive contribution of External Examiners to the assessment process and, in particular, to the work of the Examining Board. Have you had adequate opportunities to discuss the Programme and any outstanding concerns with the Examining Board or its officers?	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Joint examining board meeting (if applicable)</b>				
9.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?			<b>N/A</b>
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			<b>N/A</b>
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			<b>N/A</b>

Please return this Report, **in a Microsoft Word format**, by email to:

[externalexaminers@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:externalexaminers@cardiff.ac.uk)

Your fee and expenses claim form and receipts, should be sent electronically to the above email address or in hard copy to:

External Examiners, Registry, Cardiff University, McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DE