

# 11/12 Explorer Practice Competency

This competency is completed on typodont. You faculty will assign 2 anterior and 2 posterior teeth and surfaces (F/L) to instrument using the 11/12 explorer. You will be tested on your modified pen grasp, ergonomics, knowledge of the instrument (Instrument parts and ability to identify correct working end), instrumentation skills (application, adaptation, stroke), and calculus detection (ability to identify presence/absence of calculus deposit on assigned teeth).

This is a non-graded competency, faculty will provide written and verbal feedback.

**Faculty:** assign 2 anterior teeth on the maxillae (use 1 of the assigned teeth for calculus detection).

Assign 2 posterior teeth on the mandible.

Student Code (found on the front page of each grading book) \*

123

Anterior teeth

assigned teeth - 2 anterior teeth include aspect (F/L) \*

6,7,F

Correctly identify parts of the instrument 1 point each assigned part (up to 3 points) \*

3 points

	Correct	Incorrect
Tip	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Functional shank	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Terminal shank	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Positioning/Ergonomics 1 pts each task (up to 6 pts) \*

6 points

	S	U
Patient is in proper position for area to be treated	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bracket tray within easy reach & instruments are in proper/neat order in cassette holder	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Positions unit light at arms length & is in proper position in relation to treatment area	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Illumination of treatment area is maintained throughout exploring	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assumes the recommended clock position for area to be explored	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishes & maintains neutral positioning	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Instrument Grasp: Dominant Hand (2 pts each, up to 10 pts) \*

10 points

	S	U
Grasps handle with the tips of finger pads of index finger & thumb so that these fingers are opposite each other on the handle but do NOT touch or overlap	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rests pad of middle finger lightly on instrument shank; middle finger is in contact with fulcrum finger	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Positions the thumb, index, and middle fingers in the "knuckles up" convex position; hyper-extended joint position is avoided	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fulcrum finger is straight, supporting the weight of the hand & instrument; fulcrum finger position is "advanced/ahead of" the other fingers in the grasp	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintains a relaxed grasp; fingers are NOT blanched in the grasp	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Non-dominant Hand (1 pt each, up to 2 points) \*

2 points

S

U

Appropriate fulcrum method is used

Mouth mirror used appropriately for retraction and/or indirect vision or illumination, finger retraction used anteriorly

Technique 2 pts each (up to 16 pts) \*

16 points

	S	U
Establishes & maintains secure finger rest that is appropriate for tooth to be treated	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insertion: Gently inserts explorer beneath the gingival margin to the base of the sulcus or pocket	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adaptation: Tip 3rd used & in contact with surface; pivots & rolls handle to maintain adaptation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sequence: Surfaces toward & away, beginning at midline of tooth	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uses vertical, over-lapping strokes of appropriate length	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does NOT remove tip from sulcus/pocket with each stroke	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wrist activation used during assessment strokes. No digital motion.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintains neutral wrist position throughout motion activation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Proper tooth/working end selection 5 pts each (up to 10 pts) \*

10 points

	S	U
Selects correct tooth/teeth to be instrumented	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Selects correct working-end for tooth surfaces to be explored	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Calculus detection

Out of the 2 assigned teeth use 1 maxillary anterior tooth (facial aspect only) for calculus detection

Verbally identify if subgingival calculus is present/absent on the following assigned tooth \* 3 points  
- 1 pt each surface (up to 3 points)

	Correctly identified	Incorrectly identified
M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
direct F or L	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments/feedback

.....

### Posterior teeth

assigned teeth, include aspect (F/L) \*

29,30 F

Positioning/Ergonomics 2 pts each (up to 12 pts) \*

12 points

	S	U
Patient is in proper position for area to be treated	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bracket tray within easy reach & instruments are in proper/neat order in cassette holder	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Positions unit light at arms length & is in proper position in relation to treatment area	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Illumination of treatment area is maintained throughout exploring	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assumes the recommended clock position for area to be explored	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishes & maintains neutral positioning	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Instrument Grasp: Dominant Hand 2 pts each (up to 10 pts) \*

10 points

	S	U
Grasps handle with the tips of finger pads of index finger & thumb so that these fingers are opposite each other on the handle but do NOT touch or overlap	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rests pad of middle finger lightly on instrument shank; middle finger is in contact with fulcrum finger	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Positions the thumb, index, and middle fingers in the "knuckles up" convex position; hyper-extended joint position is avoided	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fulcrum finger is straight, supporting the weight of the hand & instrument; fulcrum finger position is "advanced/ahead of" the other fingers in the grasp	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintains a relaxed grasp; fingers are NOT blanched in the grasp	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Non-dominant Hand (1 pt each, up to 2 pts) \*

2 points

S

U

Appropriate fulcrum method is used

Mouth mirror used appropriately for retraction and/or indirect vision or illumination

## Technique (2 pts each, up to 16 pts) \*

16 points

	S	U
Establishes & maintains secure finger rest that is appropriate for tooth to be treated	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insertion: Gently inserts explorer beneath the gingival margin to the base of the sulcus or pocket	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adaptation: Tip 3rd used & in contact with surface; pivots & rolls handle to maintain adaptation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sequence: Begins at distal line angle & proceeds distally. Removes explorer & reinserts at distal line angle proceeding to mesial	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uses vertical, overlapping strokes of appropriate length for interproximal surfaces & oblique for buccal/lingual surfaces	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does NOT remove tip from sulcus/pocket with each stroke	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wrist activation used during assessment strokes. No digital motion.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintains neutral wrist position throughout motion activation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Proper tooth/working end selection (5 pts each, up to 10 pts) \*

10 points

S

U

Selects correct tooth/teeth to be instrumented

Selects correct working-end for tooth surfaces to be explored

Comments \*

good ergonomics

Deductions, Grading, and Feedback

**Any applicable deductions from this section are applied to the total 11/12 explorer competency grade**

Deductions: Infection control, safety, appearance, demeanor, attitude, composure, honesty -5 points from total grade

Faculty \*

KV

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

