

The Complete MLA OSCE Candidate Guide

How to use every feature of OSCE Revisions for the UKMLA CPSA — 12-station circuits, 10-minute encounters, examiner viva, and a full library mapped to the GMC MLA Content Map 2026.

Tailored for MLA OSCE (UKMLA CPSA) · 12 × 10 min + ~2 min reading · examiner viva

A practical walkthrough of the platform — from your first login to exam day.

Built around the way the platform actually works, page by page.

From the team behind MedRevisions — trusted by 30,000+ doctors since 2019.

MORE THAN MLA OSCE

Sibling OSCE tracks and the MedRevisions family. IMGs sitting the GMC CPSA in PLAB 2 format should use the PLAB 2 guide.

[PLAB 2](#) [LIVE](#)

[AMC Clinical](#) [LIVE](#)

[MRCS OSCE](#) [COMING SOON](#)

[UKMLARevisions](#) [THEORY](#)

[Clinical OSCE](#) [LIVE](#)

[NAC OSCE](#) [COMING SOON](#)

[MedRevisions](#) [PARENT](#)

[OSCE Revisions blog](#) [ARTICLES](#)

CONTENTS

What's inside

This guide takes you through every page on the platform on the MLA OSCE track — calibrated to the finals-style UKMLA CPSA (12 stations, 10 minutes each, examiner viva) rather than the PLAB 2 8-minute, no-viva circuit. It ends with a combined MLA study strategy and the shortest realistic route to a pass.

GETTING ORIENTED

The big picture — how the platform is built around the UKMLA CPSA	01
The study loop (the mental model)	02
The platform map — your sidebar at a glance	03

STUDY — LEARN THE MATERIAL

Dashboard · Start Here · Frameworks	04
Notes · Videos · Mind Maps	05
Exam Tips · Comparisons · Specialty Guides	06

PRACTISE — REHEARSE OUT LOUD

Station Scenarios · the live station · Build a Station	07
AI Professor · Mock Exam (12-station MLA circuit + viva)	08
Session Review — reading your feedback properly	09

TRACK — MEASURE AND ADJUST

Revision Notes · My Notes · History · Analytics · Your plan & AI Attempts	10
---	----

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

The combined master MLA strategy	11
The shortest realistic path to a UKMLA CPSA pass	12
One-page quick reference	13

The big picture

Before you click anything, understand one thing: on the **MLA OSCE** track, the platform reshapes itself around the **UK medical school / finals-style UKMLA CPSA**. That is a different rhythm from PLAB 2 — longer stations, an **examiner viva** at the end of many of them, and coverage mapped to the **GMC MLA Content Map 2026** rather than a compact PLAB curated set.

What "MLA OSCE mode" actually changes for you

- **Full library access.** Unlike the PLAB 2 track (which shows a curated ~607-station high-yield set), MLA OSCE candidates see the **full 1,800+ multi-exam library** mapped against the GMC MLA Content Map 2026. Breadth is deliberate — UK finals-style CPSAs pull widely.
- **Timing matches finals-style CPSAs.** Each station runs **10 minutes** with about **2 minutes reading**, closing with an **examiner viva** (~2 minutes at the end) — a genuinely different muscle from PLAB 2's 8-minute patient-only stations. Your university sets the exact shape, so the Mock lets you pick **8, 10 or 12 stations** to match your circuit.
- **UK guidelines throughout.** Management should reflect **NICE, CKS, BNF, NHS** pathways and the **GMC MLA Content Map 2026** — the same UK consultation style PLAB rewards, taught here for UK graduates and MLA candidates.
- **Mocks mirror your format.** A timed circuit of **8, 10 or 12 stations — your choice** — each with reading time and a viva close, so the end-of-station examiner questions do not surprise you. Recent-Themes circuits are available on this track too (Section 08).
- **No PLAB "Recently tested" rail on the Dashboard.** The Dashboard's recent-themes rail is a **PLAB-specific** feature built from PLAB exam themes. On MLA, day-to-day coverage is driven by the Content Map + Start Here Core (~665 must-know stations) — with **Recent Themes Mocks** in the Mock Exam page as your themed top-up when you want it.

IMG OR UK GRADUATE?

If you are an IMG sitting the **GMC CPSA in the PLAB 2 format** (16 assessed stations, 8 minutes each, no viva), use the [PLAB 2 hub](#) and the free [Complete PLAB 2 Candidate Guide \(PDF\)](#). — the timing, library curation and Recent-Themes tooling on that track are all built for you. This MLA OSCE guide is for the **UK medical school / finals-style** assessment shape (12 × 10 min + viva). Sister live guides: [AMC Clinical](#) and [Clinical OSCE](#).

WHO'S BEHIND THIS

OSCE Revisions is the clinical-exams sister platform of MedRevisions, which has helped **30,000+ doctors** prepare for their licensing exams **since 2019**. Everything here is written and reviewed by **practicing UK doctors** who know the UK system, the GMC MLA Content Map 2026 and finals-style OSCE assessment, and cites NICE / CKS / BNF / NHS by name — so what you study is what the exam actually rewards. We are **not affiliated with or endorsed by** the GMC or any UK medical school; no third-party preparation provider is.

How marking works (so you study the right things)

MLA OSCE stations on the platform are aligned to the GMC CPSA / MLA Content Map 2026. Every station is scored against three domains of roughly equal weight, and every feedback report breaks your performance into 10 competencies. Knowing these is the single most useful thing you can do, because it tells you exactly what UK examiners reward — including in the viva.

Data Gathering & Assessment

Clinical Management

Interpersonal Skills

The three MLA OSCE marking domains carry roughly equal weight. Interpersonal Skills — including how you handle the examiner's viva questions calmly — is a full third of your mark.

DOMAIN	THE 10 COMPETENCIES YOUR FEEDBACK SCORES
Data Gathering, Technical & Assessment	Active Listening · Clinical Reasoning · Examination Skills · Interpretation of Findings
Clinical Management	Management Plan · Clear Communication · Time Management
Interpersonal Skills	Language & Fluency · Rapport & Empathy · Patient Concerns (ICE)

WHY THIS MATTERS

Every feedback report you'll ever get is organised against these exact headings. When you read a review in Section 09, you're really being told which of these 10 boxes you ticked and which you missed — and how you managed the viva reset in the last two minutes. Study with these in mind from day one.

The study loop

There are a lot of pages, but they fall into four jobs — the loop the platform is built around: Learn → Practise → Review → Simulate. Almost every candidate who struggles is doing only the first. The ones who pass cycle through all four, again and again.

1 LEARN — get the material into your head

Reading the structured content: Start Here, Frameworks, Notes, Mind Maps, Videos, Comparisons, Exam Tips, Specialty Guides. This is where you understand what a good UK consultation contains and what the examiner is looking for. Most candidates over-invest here and never speak out loud.

2 PRACTISE — rehearse it out loud, under the clock

Talking through stations with the AI patient: Station Scenarios → the live Station, plus Build a Station. This is where knowledge becomes a performance. The UKMLA CPSA is not a written paper — you pass by doing, fluently, inside a 10-minute clock, and then answering examiner viva questions calmly. If you're not practising out loud, you're not preparing for the actual test.

3 REVIEW — find your gaps and close them

Reading feedback and tracking trends: Session Review, Revision Notes, History, Analytics, AI Professor. Every practice station produces a detailed report — with a dedicated **viva review** section on MLA stations that ran a viva close. The candidates who improve fastest treat each review as a to-do list, not a grade.

4 SIMULATE — rehearse the whole exam day

Full timed Mock Exams that string 8, 10 or 12 stations into the real circuit, viva closes included. Stamina, transitions and pacing are skills of their own — you only build them by sitting the whole thing.

THE LOOP THAT WORKS

Learn a topic → Practise it as a live station with a viva close → Review the feedback → note the 2–3 things you missed → Practise again → Simulate under full mock conditions. One full loop on a topic beats three passive read-throughs. Aim to spend at least half your total study time in PRACTISE, REVIEW and SIMULATE — not just LEARN.

The platform map

Here's the entire sidebar, grouped the way the platform groups it, with a one-line "what it's for" so you always know where to go. The same sidebar shows on every track — only the content behind each panel is calibrated to your exam.

STUDY	WHAT IT'S FOR
Dashboard	Your home base — progress, scores, and "what to do next" suggestions.
Start Here	A guided, week-by-week roadmap through every must-know topic. Begin here.
Frameworks	Reusable consultation structures and mnemonics that fit your 10-minute clock and viva close.
Notes	The core revision library — one rich, multi-tab note per station/topic, UK-guideline-cited.
Videos	Curated video clips, pulled together from across all the guides.
Mind Maps	Visual, branch-out maps for seeing a topic's whole structure at once.
Exam Tips	Bite-size, high-yield pearls and traps — plus a flashcard trainer.
Comparisons	Side-by-side tables for telling similar conditions apart (differentials).
SPECIALTY GUIDES	WHAT IT'S FOR
Examinations	Step-by-step physical examination checklists.
Procedures	Step-by-step clinical procedure guides.
Prescribing	Drug details, dose calculations, BNF-cited prescription templates.
Data Interpretation	Systematic approaches to bloods, ECGs, ABGs, X-rays.
PRACTICE	WHAT IT'S FOR
Station Scenarios	Browse and launch practice stations with the AI patient.
Build a Station	Generate a full station for any topic or scenario you want to practise.
AI Professor	An AI tutor you can ask anything, any time — text-based, no voice attempt used.

PRACTICE

WHAT IT'S FOR

Mock Exam

A full timed circuit that mirrors the real exam day for your track (8/10/12 on MLA).

MY PROGRESS

WHAT IT'S FOR

Revision Notes

AI-written notes auto-generated from your own performance.

My Notes

Your own private notebook — clips, reflections, anything you save.

History

Every past session and mock, searchable and sortable.

Analytics

Charts and weak-area detection across all your practice.

ONE THING ABOUT ACCESS

Every paid plan unlocks the whole platform — there is no higher tier that unlocks extra features. What plans differ by is your balance of **AI Attempts**: separate pools for **voice** and **text** practice with the AI patient. A free account starts with **3 voice + 3 text** attempts so you can try before subscribing, and the core frameworks are free too. See Section 10 for how to budget them.

IF YOU ONLY REMEMBER ONE THING

Start Here is your spine on MLA. It sequences the Core (~665 must-know stations) against the GMC MLA Content Map 2026, and the Practice-station pill on every step turns each read into an immediate out-loud rep — including the viva close.

STUDY — LEARN THE MATERIAL

SECTION 04

Dashboard • Start Here • Frameworks

Dashboard

Your personalised home on the MLA OSCE track. It greets you, shows where you left off, and — most usefully — tells you what to do next based on your MLA-track performance.

- **Stat cards**: total sessions, average score and pass-rate, mocks taken, total practice time.
- **Progress charts** once you have graded sessions: a score trend line against the pass line, a pass-rate gauge, and a strength-by-specialty radar mapped to the MLA Content Map's specialty areas.

- **Smart recommendation chips:** "Practise [your weakest specialty]", "Review [N] notes due", "Take a mock", and a nudge back to Frameworks if your scores suggest structure — including a shaky viva close — is the problem.
- **No PLAB "Recently tested" rail on the MLA track.** That rail is PLAB-specific. On MLA your Dashboard highlights Start Here progress against the Core (~665 must-know stations) and Analytics weak areas as your "what next" signal — with Recent Themes Mocks living on the Mock Exam page (Section 08) rather than the Dashboard.

BEST FOR / HOW TO USE IT

Everyone, every session. Open the Dashboard at the start of each study session and do whatever the recommendation chips suggest. Let it point you at your weak spots on the Core rather than re-practising what you're already good at.

Start Here — your guided roadmap through the MLA Core

A week-by-week path through the **MLA / Clinical Core** — a curated must-know set (around **~665 stations**) built to give MLA candidates a spine before the full 1,800+ library is unlocked in practice. It's the antidote to "I don't know where to begin." The roadmap is broken into weekly steps, each containing clusters of related presentations. Every cluster has one anchor note (badge: "Anchor — read fully") and a few variants ("skim only for differences").

- **Read the anchor properly.** It teaches the whole pattern — NICE/CKS red flags, BNF prescribing where relevant, UK referral pathways, and the phrases that keep a viva calm.
- **Use "Continue."** The "Pick up where you left off" card drops you back exactly where you stopped.
- **Use the "Practice station" pill right from the roadmap** — read the anchor, then immediately rehearse it out loud on the 10-minute clock with a viva close. That is the LEARN → PRACTISE loop in one place.
- **Watch the progress %.** A cluster only counts as done when the anchor and all variants are ticked — an honest measure of Core coverage.

PRO TIP

Don't try to finish Start Here before you start practising. Read a week's anchors, then go and practise those stations. Reading the whole roadmap with zero out-loud practice — and no viva reps — is the classic MLA trap.

Frameworks — calibrated to 10 minutes + viva

The reusable skeletons that make every station manageable inside a 10-minute encounter with room to breathe for the viva. If Notes teach you what to say for each condition, Frameworks teach you how

to run any MLA consultation.

- **The Station Playbook, stretched to your 10-minute clock:** the timed skeleton — Opening (0:00–0:30), Presenting complaint, History, Background, Examination offer, Differential & explanation, Shared management, Safety-netting & close — **targeting a full close by 8:30–9:00 so you leave 1–2 minutes for the viva**. Internalise this clock and you'll never run out of time — or leave the examiner hanging.
- **The "Universal Five":** PMAFTOSA, ICE, SOCRATES, CARE, ABCDE. These carry you through the vast majority of stations. Non-negotiable.
- **MLA-only additions in your roadmap:** Start Here adds **Examiner Viva** and **Structured Discussion** frameworks to your foundation week — the verbal examiner discussion is exactly what PLAB candidates never practise. Build your own compact **viva-close routine** from them (top differential, one investigation, one management step, one safety net — offered calmly), and name NICE / CKS / BNF / NHS in your management so you sound like a UK graduate under pressure.

Each framework opens into structured sections (Consultation Flow, Key Questions, Differentials & Red Flags, Examination, Management, Safety Netting, Interpersonal Skills, Examiner Checklist, Quick Review). The Universal Five and the playbook starters are free for every account; a subscription unlocks the full framework library across consultation, communication, ethics, prescribing, teaching and emergency stations.

BEST FOR / FAST-TRACK NOTE

Absolutely every MLA candidate, early and often. Know the 10-minute playbook — and the viva close — cold before you do anything else.

STUDY — LEARN THE MATERIAL

SECTION 05

Notes • Videos • Mind Maps

Notes — the core revision engine

This is the heart of the platform on the MLA OSCE track. Each note is a complete UK-framed station guide written and reviewed by practicing doctors, cited to NICE / CKS / BNF / NHS where management is stated, built with multiple tabs so you can use the same note in different ways depending on how much time you have.

TAB	WHAT IT GIVES YOU	USE IT WHEN...
Full Guide	The complete teaching note: Overview, Candidate Brief, Consultation Flow, Key Questions, Differentials, Examination, Management, Written Prescription, Safety Netting and IPS points — with inline tips and a Key-Points summary card.	You're learning the topic for the first time.
Quick Review	The note distilled into cards: Key Differentials, Must-Ask Questions, Core Management, Safety Netting, IPS Tips, Examiner Pitfalls.	You already know it and want a fast refresh.
Examiner Checklist	An interactive, tickable mark sheet with a progress bar — literally the boxes an examiner ticks.	Self-testing from memory.
Exam Script	A worked, turn-by-turn model dialogue of the station.	You want to hear what a strong consultation sounds like.
Station Prep	Key points, branching tips, exam tips, and likely patient concerns in one panel.	The few minutes before you launch the live station.
Videos	Curated clips relevant to that specific station.	You learn better by watching.

Powerful note features candidates miss

- **"Practice Station" button** — jump straight from reading the note to rehearsing it live on the 10-minute clock. Read → speak, in one click.
- **"Ask Professor" button** — open the AI tutor pre-loaded with that note's context, including the NICE/CKS references that back its management.
- **Spaced repetition** — rate a note Again / Hard / Good / Easy. The platform resurfaces it at the right time in a "Due for review" card and on your Dashboard. The single best way to make MLA breadth stick.
- **"Save to my notes"** — clip any section into your private notebook (Section 10).
- **Search & cluster view** — search by topic, system, or keyword, and switch to a "Clusters" view that groups related notes.

HOW TO ACTUALLY USE A NOTE

First pass: read the Full Guide. Second pass: close it and work through the Examiner Checklist from memory — whatever you can't recall is your revision list. Before practising: skim Station Prep. After practising: come back to Quick Review to lock it in, rate it for spaced

repetition, and mentally rehearse the viva answer you'd give if the examiner probed your differential.

Videos

Every curated clip from across the platform, in one searchable place, filtered by station type. The default filter opens on "Examinations" — tap "All" to see everything. Best for visual learners and for examination/procedure technique you need to see, not read.

Mind Maps

Interactive maps — expand branches, click nodes for detail. Great for seeing how a whole topic hangs together and for last-minute big-picture revision. An "Essentials" mode lets you filter by tier (T1 Must-Know → T3 Advanced) so you can focus on the highest-yield MLA Content Map branches first.

BEST FOR

Notes are for everyone and are where you'll spend most LEARN time. Videos suit visual learners and exam/procedure technique. Mind Maps suit big-picture thinkers and final-week consolidation across MLA Content Map areas.

STUDY — LEARN THE MATERIAL

SECTION 06

Exam Tips • Comparisons • Specialty Guides

Exam Tips

A searchable library of short, high-yield pearls and traps drawn from every note — each tagged High/Medium/Low yield and linked to its source, plus a daily "Tip of the day." Pearl collections group tips into rounds so you can grind through them in dead time — commutes, queues, the days before the exam.

Study mode is an Anki-style flashcard trainer: press Space to reveal, then rate Again / Got it. Filter by yield or system, shuffle, and drill. On the MLA track, prioritise tips tagged as UK-specific (NICE first lines, CKS red flags, common OSCE viva questions) — these are the marks that turn a borderline station into a pass and stop a viva from wobbling.

Comparisons

Side-by-side tables showing how similar conditions differ across the features that matter — Site, Character, Red Flags, Key Investigation, Management. Built for the moment that wins or loses data-gathering marks: telling a dangerous differential apart from a benign one — exactly the thing an examiner will probe in the viva. Each cell can link straight to the full note, so a comparison doubles as a launchpad into deeper study.

BEST FOR

Tips suit everyone for spare-moment revision and for plugging the small gaps that separate a pass from a fail. Comparisons suit candidates who muddle similar presentations (chest pain, headache, abdominal pain, unwell child) — i.e. most candidates. Comparisons are also gold before a viva-heavy station.

Specialty Guides — the technical skill stations

Four focused libraries for the stations that test a specific technical skill rather than a conversation. Don't neglect these — they are highly scoreable in a UK finals-style CPSA because they reward a learnable, repeatable routine, and they lend themselves to structured viva answers.

GUIDE	WHAT IT COVERS	BEST FOR
Examinations	Step-by-step physical examination checklists for every exam station.	Nailing a slick, complete examination routine and defending your findings in the viva.
Procedures	Step-by-step guides for clinical procedures tested in OSCEs.	Procedure stations and safe technique.
Prescribing	Drug details, dose calculations, and BNF-cited prescription chart templates.	UK prescribing stations — a common, very scoreable format.
Data Interpretation	Systematic approaches to bloods, ECGs, ABGs and X-rays.	Any station that hands you a result to interpret — including as a viva prompt.

PRO TIP

For MLA examination and procedure stations, learn the routine until it's automatic, then practise it as a live station so you can narrate it smoothly under time pressure. When the examiner asks "and how would you interpret that?" in the viva, a memorised systematic approach is the difference between crisp and rambling.

Station Scenarios • The live station • Build a Station

This is where MLA preparation becomes performance. Reading notes is necessary but not sufficient — the UKMLA CPSA is passed out loud, on a 10-minute clock, with a viva reset at the end of many stations. Spend serious time here.

Station Scenarios — the practice browser

Browse the full 1,800+ library by specialty, station type (history, counselling, presenting complaint, acute/emergency, ethics, teaching, procedure, prescribing), or difficulty. Each card lets you launch the station, jump to its Notes, or "Ask Prof."

- **Difficulty stars** — start at 1–2 stars to build fluency, then push to 4–5 as the exam nears.
- **Filter by MLA Content Map area** — deliberately cover the breadth the Content Map asks for; don't only drill your favourite specialties.
- **No PLAB "Recently tested" filter on the MLA track.** That's a PLAB-specific tool. On MLA your best filter combo is specialty (drill weak areas Analytics flags) + difficulty (climb it) — plus the Mock Exam's **Recent Themes Mocks** when you want a themed circuit.

The live MLA station — how a 10-min + viva run works

This is the AI patient encounter. Treat every run like the real thing.

- **Reading phase (~2 min):** you get the candidate brief and a countdown reading timer. Plan your opening, top three differentials, one red-flag screen, ICE cues, your management line, and the safety-net you'll close with. You can pause the reading timer if you want longer with the brief.
- **Encounter (10 min):** aim to reach a full close by around **8:30–9:00** so you have breathing room for viva-style questions in the final minute or two.
- **Viva reset at the end:** MLA stations close with examiner questions after the patient encounter — a summary, a differential defence, a management step, a safety-net. You can **answer by voice or type your answers**, and each question is assessed with a **model answer to compare against**, rated strong / adequate / weak / not answered. Practise a calm, structured answer, not a burst of everything you know.
- **"Skip to viva"** — an MLA-only control that jumps a station straight to its final ~2 minutes, so you can drill viva closes back-to-back without re-running full encounters. The fastest viva-confidence builder on the platform.
- **Voice or Text mode:** Voice mirrors the real exam — you actually rehearse speaking aloud — and uses one **voice** AI Attempt. Text mode uses one **text** AI Attempt and is the cheaper way to drill

content and structure (text attempts go further; see Section 10). Save voice attempts for full spoken runs including the viva close.

- **"Show perfect script"** reveals a model consultation while the clock waits. Use it as a template to learn from, not a script to memorise word-for-word.

During the station

- A live timer runs; a warning sounds as the viva window opens at the 2-minutes-remaining mark — the real MLA cue that examiner discussion is starting.
- Special stations surface the right tools automatically: an observations chart for acute stations, a prescription/drug chart you can actually fill in for prescribing stations, and dismissible clinical findings cards when results are handed to you.
- You can Mute or Pause if needed (pause freezes the clock and the patient can't hear you), then End the station when done.

DON'T DO THIS

Don't lean on "Show perfect script" every run. Read it once or twice to understand the shape of a great consultation, then practise without it. And don't rush the patient encounter to "save time" for viva — the whole 10 minutes matters, and viva marks come from thinking clearly, not talking longer.

"BUT THE REAL EXAM HAS A HUMAN ACTOR..."

True — and everything the examiner marks is still produced by **you speaking**. Structure, fluency, signposting, empathy phrasing, time management: these are speaker-side skills, and they only improve with spoken repetition. The AI patient adapts to what you ask, pushes back, and gets emotional — exactly the muscle you need for a live role-player. Candidates who arrive having done dozens of full spoken run-throughs consistently report the real actor felt **easier** than practice: the hard part — thinking, structuring and speaking fluently under a clock — was already automatic.

Build a Station

Create any station you want to practise. Pick any topic, presentation, or scenario and the platform generates a complete station for it — brief, notes, model script, and marking scheme — saved to your library. Give it a title, optionally a specialty/type and a short brief, choose the MLA (10-minute + viva-aware) format, and it builds. Best for practising Content Map areas your Analytics keeps flagging, and for rehearsing viva-style questions on presentations you're shaky on. Once built, run it like any other station in voice or text.

AI Professor • Mock Exam

AI Professor — your on-demand tutor

A chat tutor ("Professor OSCE") you can ask anything: clinical questions, exam technique, "why did I lose marks here." It's text-based and does not use voice attempts — lean on it freely.

The trick most candidates miss is context. The Professor is far more useful when launched from something, because it loads that context automatically:

- From a note → "Revision Note" mode — ask follow-ups on NICE first lines, CKS red flags, or BNF-specific dosing.
- From a scenario → "Station Preparation" mode — e.g. "What viva questions could the examiner realistically ask on this differential?"
- From a session review → "Post-Session Debrief" mode — e.g. "Where exactly did I lose marks in the viva close and how do I fix it?"

BEST FOR

Everyone, especially after a station. Launch it straight from your review with "Discuss with Professor" and turn vague feedback into a concrete, NICE-cited fix.

Mock Exam — the MLA 12-station circuit, rehearsed

A full timed circuit that mirrors the finals-style UKMLA CPSA. Choose **8, 10 or 12 stations** to match your university's shape — each **10 minutes** with about **2 minutes reading** and a **viva close**, with short resets between stations (a full 12-station circuit runs roughly 2½ hours). Full circuits build the two skills notes cannot: back-to-back stamina and the mental reset between very different patients.

- **Stamina is a skill.** Performing across 12 back-to-back stations is completely different from one station at a time — you can only build that by doing it.
- **It rehearses the transitions** — reading, the bell, moving on, resetting for a fresh patient, then re-engaging your brain for a viva at the close. These cost marks if they are unfamiliar.
- **Viva reps compound.** Sitting a full mock puts you in front of a viva close on every station in one go — the fastest way to make them stop feeling like an ambush.
- **Recent Themes Mocks exist on the MLA track too** — UKMLA circuits assembled from recently tested themes (Mock 1 = newest). Use them as a themed top-up alongside broad Content Map coverage, not as your whole plan.
- **You get a full grading report** across the whole circuit afterwards, mapped to the three domains and 10 competencies station by station.

WHEN TO START MOCKS

Don't wait until you "feel ready" — you never will. Do your first full 12-station mock once you have covered the core frameworks and a decent slice of Start Here, even if you score badly and the viva closes are messy. The report will redirect your study far better than guessing. Then do a full mock roughly weekly, ramping to 2–3 in the final fortnight.

PRACTISE — REHEARSE OUT LOUD

SECTION 09

Session Review — reading feedback properly

Moments after every MLA station ends, you get a detailed review, graded against rubrics calibrated by doctors who know how UK finals-style CPSAs are marked. This page is where the real improvement happens — if you read it actively. Here is what's on it and how to use each part.

SECTION	WHAT IT TELLS YOU & HOW TO USE IT
Overall score + Pass/Fail	Your headline percentage with a colour-coded ring. Note it, but don't dwell — the detail below is what changes your next run.
Sub-domain Scorecard	The 10 competencies from Section 01, each marked met / not-met with a comment. This is your to-do list. Every "not met" is a specific, fixable behaviour.
Viva Review	Every examiner question from your viva close, each rated strong / adequate / weak / not answered with feedback and a model answer to compare against. It's reported alongside your station score (it does not change the weighted percentage) — treat it as your viva-specific to-do list.
Communication style	A read on Empathy, Clarity, Interruption risk, and Structure risk. Low clarity usually means "signpost more"; high structure risk means "slow down and follow your framework."
Domain breakdown	Each domain expanded with per-item scores, an "Issue:" line and an "Ideal:" line — the gap between what you did and what was wanted.
Examiner Feedback	A written paragraph plus explicit Strengths and Areas for Improvement lists. Read the improvements as actions for next time.
Personalised Revision Note	An AI-written note generated from this performance — "what you missed," the correct content, and practice phrases. Save it.

Conversation Transcript

The full back-and-forth. Re-read your own words — you'll spot where you rambled, interrupted, or missed a cue.

The 5-minute review routine that compounds

1. Note your score and which domain was weakest.
2. Read the Sub-domain Scorecard and write down every "not met."
3. Skim the transcript for the moment each one happened — including the viva answers where relevant.
4. Tap "Discuss with Professor" and ask how to fix the biggest one.
5. Save the takeaways (or the Personalised Revision Note) to My Notes, then "Retry station" within a day or two.

THE MISTAKE TO AVOID

Glancing at the percentage and moving on. The score is the least useful thing on the page. The "not met" items, the "Issue / Ideal" lines and the viva-close comments are where your next 10% comes from.

Track your progress

Revision Notes

AI-written notes auto-generated after each station, tailored to how you performed. They even scale in depth to your level — badged Foundation → Developing → Competent → Distinction. Filter by specialty or pass/fail. Your personal, performance-driven revision pile.

My Notes

Your private notebook. Clip sections from any note, jot reflections, organise into notebooks (folders), tag, pin, and colour-code. You can create a note pre-linked to a session, so post-station reflections — including your viva-answer plan for next time — live next to the feedback that prompted them.

History

Every past session and mock, with score, pass/fail, date, duration and specialty. Search and sort by date or score. Use it to find a station to retry, or to watch your scores climb over time.

Analytics

The bird's-eye view: average score, pass-rate, trend, best score, a rolling pass-rate line, performance by station type, and — most importantly — automatic "Weak Areas — Focus Here" detection across the MLA Content Map areas. Let it tell you what to practise next.

HOW THESE WORK TOGETHER

Analytics tells you what's weak → you practise it via Station Scenarios → the Review generates a Revision Note → you clip the key fix (and its NICE/CKS backing) into My Notes → History shows the score improving. That's the full MLA feedback loop.

Your plan & AI Attempts

Every plan unlocks the entire platform on the MLA OSCE track. All notes, frameworks, mind maps, tips, comparisons, specialty guides, Mock Exams, Build a Station, personalised Revision Notes and the complete 1,800+ station library are included with any subscription — there is no higher tier that unlocks extra features. Plans are a **one-time payment** (not a recurring charge that auto-renews) and differ only in how many AI Attempts they include.

AI Attempts come in two pools: **voice** and **text**. A live voice station uses one voice attempt; a text-mode station uses one text attempt. A free account starts with **3 voice + 3 text**. On paid plans your text allowance is typically larger than voice; longer plans come with more of both; you can top up either pool at any time with add-on packs. Current plans and attempt counts are always shown on the Subscription page.

BUDGET YOUR ATTEMPTS

Use your more-plentiful **text** attempts to learn content, rehearse structure and warm up. Save your **voice** attempts for full spoken run-throughs and for retrying stations you failed — the practice that most needs real, out-loud fluency. Free = 3 + 3; paid plans give more of both and can be topped up any time.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

SECTION 11

The combined master MLA strategy

Here's how all of it fits into one coherent MLA plan. Adapt the timeline to how long you have, but keep the sequence and the balance — most MLA failures come from too much passive reading and too little spoken practice with a proper viva close.

TIME TO EXAM	DAILY COMMITMENT	YOUR ROUTE
12+ weeks	~2–3 h/day	The full strategy below, at a comfortable pace. Full Start Here Core coverage; weekly 12-station mocks from week 4.
8 weeks	~3–4 h/day	Full strategy compressed — lean harder on anchors, skim variants faster; two mocks a week from week 4.
4–6 weeks	~4–6 h/day	Skip to Section 12: playbook + Content Map breadth + frequent 12-station mocks. Retry every station you fail.
Under 4 weeks	Maximum you can sustain	Section 12 only — Frameworks, viva-close routine, weak-area drilling, and a mock every 2–3 days. Be honest about whether to postpone.

The MLA Core (~665) is finite and completable — Start Here's anchor-and-variants pattern carries the curriculum, and the full 1,800+ library exists to give you volume as the exam nears.

1 Foundation (first week or so)

Master the Frameworks, especially the **Station Playbook on the 10-minute clock (with a clean viva close)** and the Universal Five (PMAFTOSA, ICE, SOCRATES, CARE, ABCDE). Open Start Here and read the first week's anchor notes. Do one practice station right away — even a bad one — including its viva reset. Don't wait until you're "ready."

2 Build coverage (the main stretch)

Work through Start Here week by week across the MLA Content Map areas. For each cluster: read the anchor (Full Guide) with NICE/CKS in mind, self-test on the Examiner Checklist, then practise it live on the 10-minute clock with a viva close. After each run, do the 5-minute review routine (Section 09). Rate notes for spaced repetition so they come back at the right time. Use Comparisons and Specialty Guides to sharpen differentials and technical stations.

3 Pressure-test (from the midpoint onward)

Start doing full 12-station mocks — roughly weekly. Let Analytics point you to weak Content Map areas and drill them (use Build a Station to create extras you want more reps on — including deliberately viva-heavy stations). Slot in the occasional MLA Recent Themes Mock for a themed top-up. Keep clipping fixes into My Notes.

4 Final fortnight (taper to performance)

Shift the balance hard toward practice and mocks (2–3 full 12-station mocks). Revise from Quick Review tabs, Mind Maps (Essentials/T1) and Tips Study mode in spare moments. Re-run any station you've ever failed. Sleep, and trust the reps.

THE BALANCE RULE

If you're spending more than half your time reading, you're preparing for the wrong exam. The UKMLA CPSA rewards fluent UK-framed performance across a 10-minute encounter and a calm viva close. Read enough to know what a UK graduate would say and prescribe — then spend the rest of your time saying it out loud and fixing what the reviews flag.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

SECTION 12

The shortest realistic path to a UKMLA CPSA pass

Short on time? There's a lean route that, based on how MLA candidates fare, gives you a strong chance of passing — provided you genuinely master each piece rather than skim it. It rests on three pillars. On MLA, breadth against the Content Map matters most — with the MLA Recent Themes Mocks (Section 08) as your themed top-up, not your whole plan.

Pillar 1 — Master the 10-minute clock with a clean viva close

Know the Station Playbook on the 10-minute clock so well you could run it in your sleep, plus the Universal Five mnemonics and the interpersonal-skills behaviours — and finish reliably by 8:30–9:00 so you always have room for viva questions. This alone makes every station navigable and protects your Data-Gathering and Clinical-Management marks even on a topic you're shaky on.

Pillar 2 — Cover the MLA Content Map breadth

Work systematically through the Start Here MLA Core (~665) with an eye on the GMC MLA Content Map 2026 areas — don't only drill your favourite specialties. Prioritise the ones Analytics flags as weak. For each: read the note (with NICE/CKS/BNF/NHS in mind), practise it live in 10 minutes with a viva close, review, retry until fluent. Use the full 1,800+ library later, for volume.

Pillar 3 — Practise the 12-station mock until the circuit and the viva feel routine

Run the MLA Mock Exam repeatedly — mixing full Content-Map circuits with the odd MLA Recent Themes Mock. The goal isn't just content — it's navigating the format smoothly: managing the 10-minute clock, closing on time, moving on cleanly, and answering viva questions calmly at the end. If you can clear your pass line on two consecutive mocks with the viva closes feeling routine, you're on track.

THE LEAN WEEKLY RHYTHM

(1) Playbook + viva close until automatic. (2) Each day: 3–5 Content Map stations — read, speak (with viva close), review, retry, always naming NICE / CKS / BNF where relevant. (3) Twice a week: a full 12-station mock, then act on the report. (4) Use the Professor and Quick-Review tabs to patch gaps. Repeat. This is deliberately narrow — its power comes from repetition and review, not coverage.

HONEST CAVEAT

"Shortest" means most efficient, not effortless. The path works because the three pillars are practised to mastery and every review is acted on. If you have time, the fuller strategy in Section 11 is safer — but if time is tight, these three pillars are where to put every hour.

RESITTING?

A failed attempt is almost never a general failure — it's domain-specific, and your feedback letter tells you where. Its statements (listening, rapport, examination, management, time, language...) map almost one-to-one onto the 10 competencies this platform scores on every single station. So don't restart from zero: run one full 12-station mock as a diagnostic, open Analytics, and drill the exact competencies your letter flagged. Resitters who do this are often the fastest candidates to a pass — the gap was always narrower than it felt.

Am I ready? The green lights

No checklist can guarantee a pass — but MLA candidates who can tick all five of these walk in genuinely exam-ready.

1. **Two to three consecutive full 12-station mocks at or above your pass line**, without pausing or retries.
2. **No lagging domain.** Analytics shows all three domains moving together; no competency is "not met" across your last several sessions.
3. **The 10-minute playbook is automatic.** You can run it from memory, out loud, and hit the safety-net by 8:30–9:00 every time.
4. **Viva closes feel routine.** You can defend a differential and outline a management step calmly, in one or two clean sentences, without over-talking.
5. **The format feels boring.** Reading time, the bell, the reset between patients, the viva reset — none of it spikes your pulse any more. That is what "ready" feels like.

One-page quick reference

"I want to..." → go here

IF YOU WANT TO...	GO TO
Know what to do next	Dashboard → recommendation chips
Start from scratch / follow a plan	Start Here (MLA / Clinical Core ~665)
Learn how to run any consultation in 10 min + viva	Frameworks → the Station Playbook (on your 10-min clock)
Learn a specific condition or station	Notes → Full Guide
Quickly refresh something you know	Notes → Quick Review
Test yourself from memory	Notes → Examiner Checklist
Hear what a great consultation sounds like	Notes → Exam Script (or "Show perfect script")
Tell similar conditions apart / prep viva defence	Comparisons
Practise out loud, one station (10 min + viva)	Station Scenarios → the live station
Drill just the viva close back-to-back	Live station → "Skip to viva"
Cover the MLA Content Map areas	Start Here + Analytics-flagged specialties
Rehearse the full MLA exam day	Mock Exam (12-station MLA circuit) — incl. Recent Themes Mocks
Practise any scenario you want (incl. new ones)	Build a Station
Ask a question / debrief a station	AI Professor
Understand where you lost marks	Session Review → Sub-domain Scorecard + Viva Review
Find your weak areas	Analytics → "Weak Areas — Focus Here"
Save a fix for later	My Notes / rate a note for spaced repetition

The numbers that matter for MLA OSCE (UKMLA CPSA)

- **Per station:** 10 minutes + ~2 minutes reading. Warning as the viva window opens (~2 min remaining).
- **Full exam:** 12-station circuit with an **examiner viva** at the close of many stations (~2 min); MLA Mocks let you pick 8, 10 or 12 to match your university.
- **Marking:** 3 roughly-equal domains → 10 sub-domain competencies. Viva Review is reported alongside — it does not change the weighted percentage.
- **Library:** the **full 1,800+ multi-exam library**, with a curated **Core (~665)** in Start Here as your spine.
- **Guidelines:** UK — **NICE, CKS, BNF, NHS**, mapped to the **GMC MLA Content Map 2026**.
- **Access:** every plan unlocks the whole platform; plans differ only by AI Attempts (voice + text). Free = 3 voice + 3 text.

The five habits of candidates who pass

1. They speak more than they read. Over half their time is live 10-minute practice, viva close included.
2. They act on every review. Each "not met" — including a wobbly viva answer — becomes a fix and a retry.
3. They use spaced repetition to hold the MLA breadth together.
4. They do full 12-station mocks early and often to build stamina, transitions and viva rhythm.
5. They cite NICE / CKS / BNF / NHS by name in management — it sounds like a UK graduate, because it is one.

IN ONE BREATH

Let Start Here sequence your Core learning, master the Playbook on the 10-minute clock with a clean viva close, spend most of your time practising live and acting on reviews, and in the final stretch drill full 12-station mocks until viva closes feel routine. Do that, and you walk in ready.

START HERE · LINKS WORTH KEEPING

Start free on OSCE Revisions (MLA OSCE) oscerevisions.com/signup?exam=UKMLA

3 voice + 3 text AI Attempts — no card required.

MLA OSCE (UKMLA CPSA) hub oscerevisions.com/mla-osce

Exam overview, coverage and timetables.

MLA OSCE study plans oscerevisions.com/mla-osce/study-plans

Time-boxed plans for MLA candidates.

UKMLA CPSA explained oscerevisions.com/blog/ukmla-cpsa-explained

UKMLA CPSA study plan oscerevisions.com/blog/ukmla-cpsa-study-plan

MLA Content Map revision oscerevisions.com/blog/mla-content-map-revision

PLAB 2 hub (IMG CPSA format) oscerevisions.com/plab-2

Use if you are an IMG sitting the GMC CPSA in PLAB 2 format.

Complete PLAB 2 Candidate Guide (PDF)

oscerevisions.com/guides/osce-revisions-plab2-candidate-guide.pdf

Free downloadable walkthrough for the PLAB circuit.

AMC Clinical hub (Australia) oscerevisions.com/amc-clinical

Different exam, different guidelines.

Complete AMC Clinical Candidate Guide (PDF)

oscerevisions.com/guides/osce-revisions-amc-candidate-guide.pdf

Australian 20-station circuit and marking.

Clinical OSCE oscerevisions.com/signup?exam=clinical

Custom OSCE format for other clinical sittings.

Complete Clinical OSCE Candidate Guide (PDF)

oscerevisions.com/guides/osce-revisions-clinical-osce-candidate-guide.pdf

Flexible UK OSCE track walkthrough.

MedRevisions (parent platform) www.medrevisions.com

Trusted by 30,000+ doctors since 2019.

UKMLARevisions (theory prep) www.ukmlarevisions.com

UKMLA AKT/theory prep in the MedRevisions family.

All OSCE Revisions articles oscerevisions.com/blog