

# Fellowship Examination Orthodontics: Sample Case

---

## Disclaimer

The following sample case is provided for illustrative purposes only. It is intended to demonstrate the style of case presentation and the type of reasoning expected in the Fellowship Examination. It should not be taken as a reflection of the specific content, scope, or level of difficulty of the actual examination.

## Case Scenario

A 14-year-old presents with concerns about “crooked front teeth” and difficulty biting. The general dentist notes delayed eruption of the upper right canine and increasing lower incisor crowding. Medical history is non-contributory.

*Candidates may be provided with the following supplementary records for interpretation:*

- *Intraoral photographs*
- *Extraoral photographs*
- *Radiographs*

## Data Gathering & Diagnosis

Question: Summarize the key extraoral, intraoral, occlusal, and radiographic findings, and synthesize a working orthodontic diagnosis

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Purposeful observation and selection of salient findings from supplementary information.
- Internally consistent diagnosis that accounts for the chief concern and growth status.

Question: What additional information (if any) would most be required to supplement and/or confirm the diagnosis?

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Clear statement of diagnostic limits and justified indications for any further records/tests.
- A plan to reconcile conflicting findings and refine the diagnosis if needed.

## Treatment Objectives & Planning

Question: State your prioritized problem list and primary treatment objectives based on your diagnosis.

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Concise, prioritized problems linked to measurable objectives (occlusal, dental, skeletal/soft-tissue, periodontal).
- Alignment of objectives with timing relative to growth and overall prognosis.

Question: Present two viable treatment options and justify your preferred plan (including timing and sequencing).

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Evidence-based options with indications/limitations and anticipated trade-offs.
- Rationale for the preferred plan and criteria to revisit the plan if progress diverges.

### **Treatment Implementation, Management & Complications**

Question: Outline your implementation strategy (appliances/biomechanics/anchorage) and any required interdisciplinary coordination.

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Thoughtful appliance and biomechanics choices matched to objectives and patient factors; anchorage planning explicit.
- Appropriate referral/coordination (e.g., surgery/periodontics) with defined roles and sequencing.

Question: What complications could arise, and how will you monitor and respond during treatment and retention?

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Anticipation of biologic/mechanical risks with monitoring checkpoints and decision points; criteria for success/finishing.
- A retention strategy tailored to risk profile and growth; triggers for re-intervention if outcomes deviate.

## Communication

Candidates are assessed on communication holistically throughout the case.

Proficient response demonstrates:

- Communicates answers directly, clearly, and logically.
- Articulates reasoning clearly, concisely, and in a well-organized manner; remains relevant and uses appropriate terminology.