OSCE Checklist: The Cranial Nerve Examination

Introduction	
Introduce yourself	
Wash hands	
Briefly explain to the patient what the examination involves	
CN I	
Change in sense of smell	
CN II	
Visual Acuity (with a Snellen chart)	
Visual Fields	
Fundoscopy	
CN III, IV and VI	
Pupillary light reflex	
Pupillary accommodation	
Signs of nystagmus or ptosis	
Check occular movements	
CN V	
Sensation:	
- Light touch	
- Pin prick	
Motor function (muscles of mastication)	
CN VII	
Assess for facial symmetry at rest	
Assess muscles of facial expression	
CN VIII	
Whisper into ear, distracting sound in opposing ear	
Rinne's and Weber's test (if hearing loss suspected)	
CN IX and X	
Ask the patient to cough	
Assess the palate and posterior pharyngeal wall	
CN XI	
Sternocleidomastoid assessment	
Trapezius assessment	
CN XII	
Inspect the tongue	
Protrude the tongue and move from side to side	



Completing the Examination	
Thank the patient	
To complete the examination:	
- Peripheral neurological examination	

