

Changes to Examination Regulations 2018

1718-05-TUG

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved: Jane Dale – Senior Assistant Registrar (Education) – 25th June 2018

Second BM (Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine)

Brief note about nature of change: Changes of student 'year' to provide consistency between the Examination Conventions, the Regulations and various other documents/practices. Greater clarity provided on which Year 4 assessments students on the Graduate-entry course are exempted from in order to proceed directly to Year 5. Changes to the approving body for the *Code of Conduct for Medical Students* document.

Location of change

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/secobm/studentview/>

Effective date

For students starting Year 4 in MT 2018 and for students starting Year 5 in MT 2018 and for students starting Year 6 in MT 2018.

Detail of change

Second BM

Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine

1. A candidate may be admitted to the Second Examination if his or her name has been entered on the University Register of Clinical Students and he or she has satisfied one of the following conditions:

- (a) he or she has passed in all the subjects of the First Examination and the Qualifying Examination in the Principles of Clinical Anatomy and has either been admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours or obtained a bachelor's degree at another university; or

(b) he or she has passed in all the subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Medicine; or

(c) he or she has both

(i) successfully completed at a university in the United Kingdom a GMC-approved course of study in medical sciences that has included the subjects of the First Examination and the Principles of Clinical Anatomy, and is deemed by the Medical Sciences Board to qualify the candidate for admission; and

(ii) obtained a bachelor's degree in science or arts at a university, such degree having been approved by the Board.

2. Candidates for the Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine are required to pursue their studies during a period of: normally 38 weeks in Year 41; normally 45 weeks in Year 52; normally 46 weeks in Year 63; provided that the Medical Sciences Board shall have power to permit candidates to vary the dates of their studies so long as the overall programme requirement is met.

3. The Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine shall be under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board. The Board shall have power to require candidates for admission to any part of the Second Examination to produce certificates of attendance at courses of practical instruction, and such other certificates as the Board may from time to time determine, and to define the form of such certificates. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to see that these conditions are observed.

4. The subject of the Second Examination shall be clinical medicine in all its aspects.

(a) The Second Examination shall cover three years, the subjects for each year being prescribed by regulation of the Medical Sciences Board.

(b) Each of Years 41 and 52 shall involve a form of assessment prescribed by regulation of the Board which shall be notified to candidates. No candidate shall commence Year 52 or 63 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 41 or 52 respectively (except that a candidate shall be permitted to commence Year 52 if he or she has passed in all the subjects in the Preliminary Examination in Medicine and satisfactorily completed those additional courses of instruction and assessments specified in clause 8 of the regulations for the Preliminary Examination in Medicine Part II), unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies, at their discretion and in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to the next year of study on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.

(c) Year 63 shall involve written and clinical examinations and may involve oral examinations. No candidate shall be examined on the Year 63 Vocational Skills Course

until he or she has passed the assessments for Years 41 and 52 and the Year 63 General Clinical Studies Course.

5. A candidate who has passed in all the subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Medicine ~~shall be exempted from and has satisfactorily completed the additional courses of instruction and assessments specified in clause 8 of the regulations for the Preliminary Examination in Medicine Part II the Year 1 assessments of the Second Examination and~~ shall be permitted to proceed directly to commence Year 52.

6. The examiners may award a Distinction for outstanding performance over the three years. Criteria for Distinctions will be determined by the Medical Sciences Board.

7. The examiners may award merits in each of the examined subjects in Years 41, 52 and 63.

8. Breach of the Code of Conduct for Medical Students, as approved and from time to time amended by ~~Council's General Purposes Committee on the recommendation the~~ Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, may be deemed to be a ground for removal of a student's name from the University Register of Clinical Students according to ~~procedures which shall always be subject to approval by Council's General Purposes Committee on the recommendation of the Medical Sciences Board the~~ University's Regulations for Procedures for dealing with Questions of Fitness to Practise amongst Medical Students.

9. The provisions of the appropriate regulations, concerning the times of holding examinations and the entry of names, and the special regulation concerning dress shall not, unless otherwise prescribed by regulation of the board, apply to Years 41 and 52, except in the case of a formal examination set by the examiners of these stages, as prescribed by regulation of the Board.

Regulations for Assessment in Years 41, 52, and 63

Proposals for the assessment of candidates in Years 41, 52, and 63 of the examination shall be drawn up by each specialty group, or in the case of Year 63 by the Board's Clinical Education Committee and submitted for approval to the Medical Sciences Board, at such times as the Board shall determine. The form or forms of assessment are chosen from among the following:

- (a) clinical examination including long and short cases;
- (b) competency check sheets, logbooks, or portfolios;
- (c) examination and comment (written or viva voce) on specimens;
- (d) objective structured clinical examinations;
- (e) poster presentations;

- (f) case presentations;
- (g) written tests, which may consist in whole or in part of, for example, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, extended matching questions or essays;
- (h) case histories and commentaries;
- (i) prepared essays;
- (j) viva voce examinations; and
- (k) other tests individually approved by the Board.

In clinical subjects, all assessments shall include a test of clinical competence. In addition, reports on candidates' attendance and general aptitude shown during the course of instruction shall be made by those responsible for the course and taken into consideration in association with the performance of candidates in the assessment.

A candidate shall be warned (in writing with a copy to the Director of Clinical Studies) by those responsible for the course in question before the assessment takes place, if his or her attendance and general aptitude are such as seems likely to jeopardise his or her chances of passing the assessment.

The first assessment of candidates shall be carried out during or at the conclusion of each component of the course by the staff, as appointed by the head of the relevant department, or, in the case of Year 63, by the examiners and/or assessors. Candidates in Years 41 and 63 shall be permitted a maximum of three attempts to pass an assessment. In Year 52 the Examination Board may require candidates to be assessed in a specified module or modules on one further occasion. Candidates in Year 52 shall be permitted a maximum of two attempts in order to pass Year 52.

It shall be the responsibility of the staff concerned, under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board, to give the candidates and the relevant examiners and/or assessors, reasonable notice of the dates on which the assessments will take place, to decide on the outcome of each assessment, and to keep departmental records of each assessment. A candidate should not normally be assessed exclusively by staff members who have been responsible for his or her instruction.

Year 41

Syllabus and Examination

In Year 41, students are required to satisfy the examiners in:

- (a) the Laboratory Medicine course (concerning the application to human disease of the principles of Laboratory Medicine, including Histopathology, Microbiology and

Infection, Clinical Biochemistry, Immunology, and Haematology);

(b) Medicine;

(c) Surgery.

Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction.

Candidates must satisfy the relevant head of department or his or her deputy, or the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies, that they have attended a course of instruction, and attained the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding in:

(a) The Patient Doctor 2 Course (being an introduction to clinical methods, history taking and physical examination);

(b) Anaesthetics;

(c) Clinical Pharmacology;

(d) Communication Skills;

(e) Medical Ethics and Law;

(f) Primary Health Care;

(g) Radiology;

(h) Special Study approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board.

No candidate shall commence Year 52 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 41, unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies at their discretion should, in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to Year 52 on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.

Assessment

A candidate in Year 41 who fails to reach a satisfactory standard in any part of the assessment at the first attempt may offer himself or herself for reassessment on one further occasion and will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed.

If a candidate fails to reach a satisfactory standard at the second attempt in any part of the assessment, the head of department concerned, or his or her deputy, shall require the candidate to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment previously failed after completing the necessary coursework; this assessment shall be carried out and adjudged by the staff appointed by the relevant head of department and in the

presence of an external examiner. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this third attempt then his or her name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students subject to appeal to the Medical Sciences Board.

Duties of the Examiners

In the first assessment of candidates in Year ~~41~~ each relevant pair of examiners shall be required to attend, and if they so wish participate, on at least one occasion each year.

In the reassessment of any candidate who has been deemed to have failed the whole assessment in Year ~~41~~, the external examiner shall be present and may participate if he or she wishes.

Year ~~63~~ examiners may assist with the assessment in Year ~~41~~.

Year ~~52~~

Syllabus and Examination

In Year ~~52~~, students are required to satisfy the examiners in:

1. (a) Clinical Neurosciences, Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology;
2. (b) Community-based Subjects (encompassing Geratology, Dermatology, Palliative Care, Primary Care and Population Health 2: Public Health);
3. (c) Obstetrics and Gynaecology (including Genito-Urinary Medicine);
4. (d) Orthopaedics, Rheumatology, Trauma and Emergency Medicine;
5. (e) Paediatrics;
6. (f) Psychiatry.

Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction.

No candidate shall commence Year ~~63~~ until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year ~~52~~, unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies at their discretion should, in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to Year ~~63~~ on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.

Assessment

A candidate in Year ~~52~~ who fails to reach a satisfactory standard in any individual course module assessment at the first attempt and is required by the Examination

Board to be reassessed, will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed.

A candidate must reach the threshold pass mark for Year 52 (from the sum of cumulative marks awarded from each course module assessment) and satisfy the Examination Board in a minimum of five out of the six modules, or the candidate will be deemed to have failed the second year of the course. A candidate who has been deemed to have failed will be allowed only one further attempt to pass Year 52 and will be required to repeat the second year of the course in its entirety. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt then his or her name shall be removed from the University Register of Clinical Students subject to appeal to the Medical Sciences Board.

Duties of the Examiners

In the first assessment of candidates in the individual course module assessments of Year 52 each relevant pair of examiners/specialty advisors shall be required to attend, and if they so wish participate, on at least one occasion in each year.

Year 63

Syllabus and Examination

In Year 63, students are required to satisfy: (a) the examiners in General Clinical Studies; and (b) the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies in Vocational Skills. Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction. Students who fail an assessment will have to forfeit part or all of the elective for a period of intensive clinical training.

1. General Clinical Studies

Students are required to satisfy the examiners in:

- (a) Medicine and Surgery encompassing Communication Skills, Radiology, and Clinical Pharmacology; and
- (b) Specialties studied but not previously formally examined (namely Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology).

Candidates must satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies that they have attended a course of instruction in Special Study and Clinical Options approved by the Medical Sciences Board.

2. Vocational Skills

Students are required to satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies that they have provided work to a satisfactory standard in:

- (a) Special Study and Clinical Options as approved by the Medical Sciences Board;
- (b) A Course to prepare students for work as a Foundation 1 doctor;
- (c) An Elective (students who fail an assessment may be required to complete remedial clinical work. These students will forfeit part, or all, of the elective and instead will be required to produce a satisfactory report at the end of an additional clinical attachment);
- (d) A student assistantship with a clinical team; and
- (e) An assessment in procedural skills.

Assessment

A candidate in Year **63** who fails to reach a satisfactory standard at the first attempt in any part of the assessment in medicine and surgery will be deemed, normally, to have failed the complete assessment and may offer himself or herself for reassessment on one further occasion. This reassessment will be undertaken in the presence of an external examiner. A candidate in this position will usually be required to be reassessed in all parts of the assessment, unless the examiners specifically direct that there be reassessment only in the part or parts in which the candidate has failed to reach a satisfactory standard.

If a candidate fails to reach a satisfactory standard at the second attempt in any part of the assessment, then the candidate shall be deemed to have failed the complete assessment. The examiners shall require the candidate to be reassessed after completing the necessary coursework; this assessment shall be carried out and adjudged by the examiners, which shall include an external examiner. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this third attempt then his or her name shall be removed from the University Register of Clinical Students subject to appeal to the Medical Sciences Board.

Duties of the Examiners

1. General Clinical Studies

The examination shall be arranged and conducted by the Year **63** Examination Board under the direction of the Chair of Examiners and the Principal Examiners in Medicine and Surgery.

When fewer than ten candidates present themselves the examination shall be arranged

and conducted by the Chair of Examiners and the Principal Examiners in Medicine and Surgery.

In considering whether a candidate has passed the assessment, the examiners may fail a candidate who does not satisfy them in one part of the assessment, even if he or she has satisfied them in other parts at that stage.

2. Vocational Skills

Candidates shall be required to submit to the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies such evidence as they require of the successful completion of their work.

In considering whether candidates shall have passed the assessment, the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies may fail a candidate who has provided either none or insufficient evidence of satisfactory completion of one part of the course, even if he or she has satisfied them in other parts of the course.

Explanatory Notes

The Second BM is the examination which is being worked towards by students in Years 4-6 of the standard (6-year) medical course and students on Years 3 and 4 of the Graduate-entry medical course (who are integrated with students on Years 5 and 6 of the standard course). Within the Medical School, students who embark upon the Second BM are usually referred to as Year 4 students, and so on. In the Examination Regulations, references to Year 1 have been changed to Year 4, references to Year 2 have been changed to Year 5, and references to Year 3 have been changed to Year 6. This will provide consistency with the Examination Conventions and other documents.

The regulations have been corrected to state that students who have passed the Preliminary Examination in Medicine may proceed directly to Year 5 subject to have satisfied the additional requirements which are stated in clause 8 of the regulations for the Preliminary Examination in Medicine Part II.

The current regulations state that the *Code of Conduct for Medical Students* document is approved and from time to time amended by Council's General Purposes Committee. This has not taken place for many years, and it would be more appropriate for this document to be approved and from time to time amended by the Education Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board.