

[Template for notifying changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette]

1516-05-MUG

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of Biomedical Sciences Steering Committee (11 November 2015), MSD Undergraduate Studies Committee (20 November 2015), MSD EPSC (27 November 2015)

Name of Regulation

Preliminary Examination in Biomedical Sciences

Brief note about nature of change: Change to length of examination papers

Effective date

For all students on course from MT 2015 with immediate effect

Location of change

In Examination Regulations 2015

Detail of change

Page 77, line 15-16:

For each of subjects 1 and 2, two written papers will be set, ~~each of one hour and thirty minutes' duration.~~ Papers 1A and 2A will each be of one hour and thirty minutes' duration. Papers 1B and 2B will each be of two hours' duration. For subject 3, one written paper will be set, as specified for.....

Explanatory Notes

The Biomedical Sciences Steering Committee considered the Examiners' Reports on the Preliminary Examinations held in Trinity Term 2015 and the Long Vacation 2015 at their meeting on 11 November 2015. This had been the first year in which MCQs and essays were examined by separate papers. Examiners had reported that there had been an increase in the number of essays that appeared to have been finished abruptly or where the candidate had noted that they had run out of time. Examiners had commented that 30 minutes to complete each essay erred on the short side and thought it conceivable that in

previous years when papers A and B were a single 3 hour exam, more able students were able to dedicate additional time to the essay component having rapidly gone through the MCQs. Members of the Steering Committee, with strong support from the student members, felt that the essay paper should be the opportunity for the students to exhibit their knowledge and ability, and were in favour of the two essay papers being extended from 1.5 hours to 2 hours in length. The committee agreed to investigate whether the Examination Regulations could be changed for the Preliminary Examination in 2016.

All students currently studying towards the Preliminary Examination in Biomedical Sciences have given consent for the change to the regulations with immediate effect.