

**Medical Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved by USC in HT19.**

**Title of Programme**

Preliminary Examination in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

**Brief note about nature of change:** change of the duration of papers from 2 h to 2.5 h.

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2019* <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/peimandcellbioc/studentview/>

**Effective date**

**For students starting Year 1 in MT 2019**

And

**For first examination from 2019-20**

**Detail of change**

The only change required is to the first paragraph of section B, as follows:

**A**

1. The subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry shall be:

- (1) Molecular Cell Biology
- (2) Biological Chemistry
- (3) Biophysical Chemistry
- (4) Organic Chemistry
- (5) Mathematics and Statistics for Biochemists.

2. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the examination if they satisfy the Moderators

in all five subjects.

3. Candidates must offer all five subjects at their first examination attempt.

4. A candidate who fails one or two subjects will be permitted one further attempt at the failed subject/s, at the first available opportunity.

5. A candidate who fails three or more subjects shall be deemed to have failed the examination. He or she will be permitted one further attempt at the whole examination, at the first available opportunity.

6. The Moderators may award a Distinction to candidates of special merit who satisfy them in all five subjects at their first examination attempt.

## B

One written paper will be set in each subject. The duration of the written papers will be three hours for subjects 1, 2, and 3, and two and a half hours for subjects 4 and 5. The syllabus for each subject will be that set out in the schedule below.

The Moderators will permit the use of hand-held pocket calculators subject to the conditions set out under the heading 'Use of Calculators in examinations' in the *Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations*. A list of recommended calculators will be provided by the Chair of the Moderators not later than the Wednesday of the fourth week of the Michaelmas Full Term preceding the examination. The use of calculators may not be permitted in certain papers.

All candidates shall be assessed as to their practical ability in coursework under the following provisions:

(a) The Chair of the Teaching Committee, or a deputy, shall make available to the Moderators, at the end of the fifth week of the term in which the examinations are first held, evidence showing the extent to which each candidate has completed the prescribed coursework.

(b) The Moderators may request coursework from any candidate. Such candidates will be named in a list posted by the day of the first written paper.

(c) Coursework cannot normally be retaken. Failure to complete the coursework to the satisfaction of the Moderators, in the absence of appropriate documentary evidence (e.g. a signed medical certificate), will normally constitute failure of the examination.

## Explanatory Notes

Two of the course organisers for the organic chemistry and the maths & statistics courses proposed at Teaching Committee on 04.02.2019 that the duration for these two papers should be changed to 2.5 hrs, with no changes in content, number of questions or difficulty of questions, so that students are simply under less time pressure when doing the exams.

There will also be no change to the weightings of these papers when determining the overall mark and rank order (they will remain weighted by 66% relative to the three hour papers).

This was agreed by Teaching Committee for the exams starting in the 2019-2020 academic year.

This involves changing the exam regulations. The advice from MSD is that this is a 'very minor' change and so it only needs USC approval (EPSC/EdC approval is not needed).