

**Medical Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved at the meeting of MSD EPSC, 9 June 2017**

**First Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine (First BM Parts I and II)**  
(Pre-clinical Medicine)

**Brief note about nature of change:** to amend regulations relating to re-sits of First BM Examinations.

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2016* [<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/fbpiandii/studentview/>]

**Effective date**

**For students starting Part I from MT 2017 (first examination in 2017-18) and Part II from MT 2017 (first examination in 2017-18)**

**Detail of change**

Deleted text is struck-through; new text is underlined.

1. Amend citation reference 1.14 as follows:

4. *Part I of the First Examination*

~~Subjects 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 shall each be examined in three Parts: A, B, and C. In each of these subjects, a candidate must offer Parts A, B, and C at one examination, provided that a candidate who has failed at his or her first attempt to satisfy the examiners in one Part only of a subject may offer that Part alone at a subsequent examination. In each of these subjects, a candidate must pass all three Parts, or have accumulated passes in all three Parts, in order to pass in that subject. When a candidate who at the first attempt passed only one or two Part(s) of a subject subsequently passes the remaining Part(s) of that subject, the examiners shall publish his or her name as having passed in that subject.~~

2. Amend citation reference 1.15 as follows:

'5-Subjects 1, 2, and 3 shall each be examined in three assessment units: Part A, Part B and Part C. Subject 4 forms a single assessment unit. The content and assessment format of the assessment units are provided in the Schedule below. A candidate must offer all four subjects ten assessment units in Part I at one examination, provided that a candidate who has failed at his or her first attempt in any subject or subjects may offer subject 4 or any Part or Parts of subjects 1, 2, or 3 at a subsequent examination (in accordance with clause 4 above), and provided that the Medical Sciences Board may dispense candidates who have already passed a First Public Examination in any subject from the requirement to offer all ten assessment units four subjects at one examination. The examiners may request that a candidate attend one or more oral examinations. In Part I, the examiners may publish the name of a candidate as having passed one, two, three, or four subjects, and the examiners may in addition publish the name of a candidate as having passed one or two Part(s) only of any of the subjects 1, 2, or 3.

5. The outcomes of Part I of the First Examination are as follows:

- a) A candidate who has satisfied the Examiners in all ten assessment units will be deemed to have passed Part I of the First Examination.
- b) A candidate who has failed one or more assessment units but has satisfied the Examiners in four or more of the seven written or computer-based assessment units (Parts A and B of subjects 1-3, and subject 4), will be deemed to have achieved a partial pass. They will be permitted one further attempt at the units they have failed, within one year of the initial failure.
- c) A candidate who has satisfied the Examiners in fewer than four of the seven written or computer-based assessment units (Parts A and B of subjects 1-3, and subject 4), will be deemed to have failed Part I of the First Examination. They will be permitted one further attempt at all seven written or computer-based assessment units, along with any Part C units failed during the first sitting, within one year of the initial failure. Part C units passed during the first sitting can usually be carried forward to the second attempt.

A candidate who is taking one or more Part C units for the second time, having failed their first attempt at those units, may be examined orally on the material covered during the practical course for that subject. However, in the case of a student exceptionally repeating the entire academic year, they will normally be expected to satisfy the Examiners by having a satisfactory record of attendance and performance in practical work.

6. No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Part I of the First Examination on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit for Part I of the First Examination shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Education Committee of the University, in accordance with the *General Regulations*

for the First and Second Public Examinations.

7. Part II of the First Examination

Subjects 5, 6, and 7 shall each be examined in three assessment units: Part A, Part B, and Part C. Subject 8 forms a single assessment unit. The content and assessment format of the assessment units are provided in the Schedule below. A candidate must offer all ten assessments in Part II. In Part II, a candidate must offer all four subjects at one examination, provided that a candidate who has failed at his or her first attempt in any subject or subjects may offer subject 8 or any Part or Parts of subjects 5, 6, or 7 at a subsequent examination (in accordance with clause 4 above). In Part II, the examiners may publish the name of a candidate as having passed one, two, three, or four subjects, and the examiners may in addition publish the name of a candidate as having passed one or two Part(s) only of any of the subjects 5, 6, or 7. The examiners may request that a candidate attend one or more oral examinations.

8. The outcomes of Part II of the First Examination are as follows:

a) A candidate who has satisfied the Examiners in all ten assessment units will be deemed to have passed Part II of the First Examination.

b) A candidate who has satisfied the Examiners in one or more of the ten assessment units will be deemed to have achieved a partial pass. They will be permitted one further attempt at the unit(s) they have failed, within one year of the initial failure. A candidate who is taking one or more Part C units for the second time, having failed their first attempt at those units, may be examined orally on the material covered during the practical course for that subject. However, in the case of a student exceptionally repeating the entire academic year, they will normally be expected to satisfy the Examiners by having a satisfactory record of attendance and performance in practical work.

9. No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Part II of the First Examination on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit for Part II of the First Examination shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the procedure set out in the handbook for medical students in Years 1-3.'

**3. Amend citation reference 1.16 as follows:**

'610. A candidate shall be deemed to have passed the First Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine if they have satisfied the examiners in all the subjects of Parts I and II as specified in clause 2 above.'

**4. Amend citation reference 1.17 as follows:**

'711. A candidate who has passed Part I of the First Examination for the degree of Bachelor of

Medicine shall be deemed to have passed the First Public Examination.'

5. Amend citation reference 1.18 as follows:

'~~8~~12. No candidate shall be admitted to the examination for Part II of the First Examination without first having passed all the assessment units ~~subjects~~ of Part I, save in exceptional circumstances. This shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board.'

6. Amend citation reference 1.19 as follows:

~~9. No candidate may offer any subject or Part of a subject in Parts I and II of the First Examination on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any subject or Part of a subject for Part I of the First Examination shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Education Committee of the University, in accordance with the General Regulations for the First and Second Public Examinations. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any subject or Part of a subject for Part II of the First Examination shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the procedure set out in the handbook for medical students in Years 1–3.~~

7. Amend citation reference 1.20 as follows:

'~~40~~13. The examiners may award a Distinction to candidates of special merit in either Part I or Part II of the examination, provided that all examinations for all four subjects specified for that Part in clause 2 above have been offered in their entirety and passed at one examination at the first scheduled opportunity which shall be the candidate's first attempt, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Board of Examiners following application from the candidate's society.'

8. Amend citation reference 1.21 as follows:

'~~44~~14. The examiners may award a Pass with Merit to candidates of special merit in any of the individual subjects 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, or 7, provided that all ~~four subjects~~ ten assessment units of Part I or of Part II of the examination have been offered in their entirety at one examination. The award of Pass with Merit shall be based on performance in Part B of a subject and shall be confined to

candidates who have passed Parts A and C of that subject at the same sitting which shall be the first scheduled opportunity and the candidate's first attempt, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Board of Examiners following application from the candidate's society.'

9. Re-number citation references 1.22 to 1.26 (numbers 15 – 16).

10. Amend citation reference 1.27 as follows:

**'17. Regulations for Part C of subjects 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7'**

11. Amend citation reference 1.32 as follows:

~~'Candidates may be required to undergo oral examination.'~~

12. Amend citation reference 1.33 as follows:

**'18. Regulations for the Patient and Doctor Course'**

The Director of Pre-Clinical Studies or his or her deputy will make available to the examiners evidence (in the form of a list of names, signed by the Director or his or her deputy) to certify that each candidate has participated satisfactorily in the *Patient and Doctor Course*.

~~Part I'~~

13. Amend citation reference 2.1 as follows:

**'Schedule for Part I'**

14. Amend citation reference 2.8 as follows:

~~'In subject 4, one one-and-a-half-hour paper will be set, assessing knowledge and understanding of the Composite Syllabus.~~

~~Part II'~~

15. Amend citation reference 3.1 as follows:

**'Schedule for Part II'**

### **Explanatory Notes**

1. The Education Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board has agreed that, in line with the First Public Examination for other degree courses, a candidate who fails 4 or more of the 7 written or computer-based papers in the First BM Part I should normally be required to re-sit all the original papers.

2. Candidates are normally allowed two attempts at each written or computer-based paper in the First BM Part I and II examinations. There is currently no limit in the examination regulations on the time that can be taken between the first and second attempts.

For candidates re-sitting papers in the First BM Part I, the re-sit arrangements should provide confidence that progression to the second year of the course is appropriate. For candidates re-sitting papers in the First BM Part II, the re-sit arrangements should provide confidence that progression to the clinical stage of the medical course is appropriate.

The Education Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board has therefore agreed that the regulations should include a time limit between first attempts and re-sits.