Changes to Examination Regulations 2013

Medical Sciences Board

Approved: 19th March 2014

Title of Examination: Preliminary Examination in Biomedical Sciences

Brief note about nature of change: For each of subjects 1 and 2, separating the 3-hour written paper into two papers of 1h30m duration. Additional amendments will make the arrangements for dealing with unsatisfactory practical work more robust.

Effective date: With effect from 1 October 2014 (for first examination in 2015)

Location of change: Examination Regulations 2013

Details of change:

1. In Examination Regulations, 2013, p. 90, l. 40, after ‘Behaviour’ insert ‘: Papers 1A and 1B’

2. Ibid., l. 41, after ‘Genes’ insert ‘: Papers 2A and 2B’

3. Ibid., p. 91, l. 3, delete ‘subject’ and substitute ‘or two of the five papers comprising subjects 1-3’

4. Ibid., l. 4, delete ‘this failed subject’ and substitute ‘the failed paper or papers’

5. Ibid., l. 5, delete ‘two or three subjects’ and substitute ‘three or more of the five papers comprising subjects 1-3’

6. Ibid., delete ll. 12-13 and substitute ‘For each of subjects 1 and 2, two written papers will be set, each of one hour and thirty minutes’ duration. For subject 3, one written paper of two hours’ duration will be set.’

7. Ibid., l. 24, delete ‘evidence’ and substitute ‘records’

8. Ibid., l. 25, after ‘coursework,’ insert ‘ The Moderators may request practical notebooks from any candidate; such candidates will be named in a list posted in the foyer of the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre one week before the day of the first written paper. Each notebook submitted shall be accompanied by a statement signed by the candidate indicating that the notebook is the candidate’s own work.’

9. Ibid., delete ll. 26-30 and substitute:
‘(b) Failure to complete the coursework to the satisfaction of the Moderators, in the absence of appropriate extenuating documentary evidence, will normally result in the candidate being required by the Moderators to submit to further examination. Failure of that examination will normally constitute failure of the Preliminary Examination. Coursework cannot normally be re-taken.’

Explanatory Notes

The Biomedical Sciences Steering Committee has accepted a recommendation from the Moderators for the Preliminary Examination that for each of subjects 1 and 2, the 3-hour written paper should be separated into two papers of 1h30m duration.

The Biomedical Sciences Steering Committee also agreed that a more robust mechanism was needed for dealing with candidates with unsatisfactory practical coursework.