

**Medical Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved by the Chair of Education Committee on 22 August 2019**

**Title of Examination**

Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine (replacing Preliminary Examination in Medicine)

**Brief note about nature of change:** Major restructure of programme

**Location of change**

New page to be created.

Base on *Examination Regulations 2018* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/pexaminmedi/studentview/>

**Effective date**

**For students starting Graduate-entry Medicine from MT 2019 and starting Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine from MT20**

And

**For first examination from 2020-21**

**Detail of change**

Insert the following text:

Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine

1. A candidate may be admitted to the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine provided that their name is on the Register of Clinical Students and they have passed the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine.
2. Candidates for the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine are normally

required to pursue their studies for a period of 39 weeks in Year 2; 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 examination shall be under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board.

4. The examination shall comprise such subjects and papers as the Medical Sciences Board shall from time to time by regulation determine.

5. The examination may be offered not earlier than six terms from the date of entry onto the Register of Clinical Students.

6. A syllabus will be published annually at the start of the Michaelmas Term prior to the examination by the Medical Sciences Board.

#### A

The examination will consist of nine components. Candidates must offer all nine assessment units at one examination.

The outcomes of the Examination are as follows:

- a) A candidate who has satisfied the Examiners in all nine components will be deemed to have passed the Examination.
- b) A candidate who has passed at least one component but who has failed one or more components will be awarded a partial pass and will be permitted one further attempt at the components they have failed. This resit attempt shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, i.e. it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities.

No candidate shall commence Year 3 of the Graduate-entry medical course until they have satisfactorily completed all units of assessment for the Year 2 examination, unless the Director of Graduate-entry Medical Studies and the 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 they should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.

The Core Medical Science (Part II) paper and Laboratory Medicine assessment will be set during Michaelmas Term. The remaining assessment units will be set towards the end of Trinity Term. The second sitting of the examination will be during the Long Vacation.

For the Core Medical Sciences (Part II) paper, the Integrated Clinical paper, the special academic interest project work, and the OSCE, the result of each assessment unit will

be pass or fail, and for the Data Interpretation paper and the Submitted Essay on a Public Health topic, the result of each assessment unit will be a percentage mark. Additionally, the Examiners may award a merit for any component of the examination. The criteria for the award of a merit for each component will be specified in the Examination Conventions.

Examiners may award Distinctions for outstanding performance in the examination as a whole, by candidates sitting the examination for the first time.

For Laboratory Medicine, Medicine, Surgery, and the OSCE (which are shared with the Year 4 assessments for the Second BM examination), the Examiners will be provided with information by the relevant Examiners and Assessors for the Year 4 assessments for the Second BM as to whether the candidate has satisfactorily completed the course of instruction and associated assessments.

Candidates may be required, at the discretion of the examiners, to undergo an oral examination which may include a further clinical examination.

No candidate may enter for the examination on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board.

*1. Core Medical Science (Part II) (one and a half hours)*

This paper will consist of a mixture of (i) multiple choice questions to be sat as a computer-based assessment, and (ii) problem-based questions requiring short written answers.

*2. Integrated Clinical paper (two hours)*

This paper will test core knowledge and understanding through problem-based questions requiring short written answers.

*3. Data Interpretation (two and a half hours)*

This paper will assess candidates' ability to critically appraise primary research material.

*4. Submitted Essay on a Public Health topic*

*(i) Form and subject of the essay*

Candidates will be required to submit an essay on a topic related to Public Health aspects of the diagnosis or management of a clinical case they have seen during

their clinical attachments in the second year of the course. The submitted essay shall be of not more than 3,000 words, excluding any tables, figures, diagrams or references. It must be in a format according to guidelines approved on behalf of the Graduate-entry Education Committee and published on the virtual learning environment.

The essay must refer to aspects of Public Health from a list included in the published guidelines.

*(ii) Authorship*

The essay must be the candidate's own work. Candidates' tutors, or their deputies nominated to act as advisors, may discuss with candidates the proposed field of study, the sources available, and the method of treatment, but on no account may they read or comment on any written draft. Every candidate shall submit a certificate to the effect that this rule has been observed and that the essay is their own work. The certificate should be submitted alongside the essay.

*(iii) Submission*

The essay must be submitted via the virtual learning environment (according to the instructions set out in the notification to candidates from the Chair of Examiners) not later than noon on the Tuesday of Week 1 of Trinity Term.

*5. Academic special interest project work*

*(i) Form, subject and approval of the project*

Candidates will be required to undertake work on an academic special interest project. Each project shall be supervised. The work may be carried out by the candidate alone or in collaboration with others. Guidelines for students and supervisors produced on behalf of the Graduate-entry Education Committee will be published on the virtual learning environment.

Candidates may not submit work that they have previously submitted for any university examination.

Candidates must apply for approval of their proposed project no later than the end of Week 3 of Hilary Term. The candidate must submit the title of their proposed project, an outline plan, and the details of their proposed supervisor. The topic may be related to the topic of the Literature Review undertaken during Year 1 or it may relate to another area of academic special interest. Decision on the application shall be made by the Director of Graduate-entry Medical Studies or a deputy and shall be communicated to the candidate as soon as possible and in any case not later than

Week 5 of Hilary Term.

*(ii) Application to change title of project*

If required, candidates may apply to change the title of their project through the course administrator on one occasion and no later than Friday of Week 4 of Trinity Term.

*(iii) Authorship*

Work on the project may be carried out in collaboration with others, but the work submitted must be the candidate's own work. Each candidate will have a supervisor with expertise in the selected area of study who should act in accordance with the published guidelines for the academic special interest project.

*(iv) Submission*

Candidates will be required to submit an abstract, in a format prescribed in the published guidelines for the academic special interest project.

The abstract must be submitted via the virtual learning environment (according to the instructions set out in the notification to candidates from the Chair of Examiners) not later than noon on the Monday of Week 8 of Trinity Term.

*(v) Presentation*

Each candidate shall make a brief oral presentation of their academic special interest project work to a group including two examiners or assessors. The form of the presentation to the examiners shall be specified in the published guidelines for the academic special interest project.

*6. An Objective Structured Clinical Examination*

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to perform a clinical examination of the systems of the body and on their practical skills, as prescribed for the Year 4 assessments in the Second BM examination.

*7. Laboratory Medicine.* Candidates are required to have satisfactorily completed the course of instruction and assessments, as prescribed for the Year 4 assessments in the Second BM examination.

*8. Medicine.* Candidates are required to have satisfactorily completed the course of instruction and associated assessments, as prescribed for the Year 4 assessments in the Second BM examination.

*9. Surgery.* Candidates are required to have satisfactorily completed the course of

instruction and associated assessments, as prescribed for the Year 4 assessments in the Second BM examination.

## **B**

The Director of Graduate-entry Medical Studies will make available to the examiners evidence (in the form of a list of names, signed by the Director or a deputy) to certify that each candidate has a satisfactory record of attendance for clinical attachments. An unsatisfactory record, in the absence of appropriate documentary evidence, will normally result in the candidate being required to complete remedial work by a specified deadline. Failure to complete the remedial work will normally constitute failure of the Year 2 Examination.

### **Explanatory Notes**

The Graduate-entry Education Committee proposes changes to improve the structure of assessments in Years 1 and 2 of the Graduate-entry Medicine course. This is in response to student and examiner feedback over several years, and in response to a review of the course conducted by the Medical Sciences Division in 2015. A working group was set up during Trinity Term 2018 to plan and recommend changes to the structure of teaching and assessment in the long term.

The Preliminary Examination is to be changed from a two-part examination, sat at the end of Years 1 and 2, to a one-part examination, sat at the end of Year 1. The name of the Year 1 examination will be changed to the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine. The former Part II of the examination will become a separate examination, called the Year 2 examination in Graduate-entry Medicine. Other changes are being made to the structure and detail of the assessment arrangements.

See related notices in this Gazette (1819-13-MUG, 1819-14-MUG, 1819-15-MUG, 1819-18-MUG)