1920-08-TUG

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by David Vaux on behalf of the EPSC on 19.05.20

Title of Programme: Clinical Medicine (Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine)

Brief note about nature of changes:

1.To combine separate NEO and Psychiatry modules in Year 5 into one module titled Brain and Behaviour and resulting changes to the number of modules required to pass Year 5 and merits available to be awarded.

2. To amend and clarify the number of attempts allowed at each assessment

3. To amend the assessment structure of Year 5

Effective date: For students starting Second BM Years 4, 5 & 6 in MT 2020.

Location of change: In Examination Regulations 2019
http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/secobm/studentview/

Details of change:

Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine

1. A candidate may be admitted to the Second Examination if his or her name has been entered on the University Register of Clinical Students and he or she has satisfied one of the following conditions:

(*a*) he or she has passed in all the subjects of the First Examination and the Qualifying Examination in the Principles of Clinical Anatomy and has either been admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours or obtained a bachelor's degree at another university; or

[For students starting from MT 2019: (*b*) he or she has passed in all the subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine; or**]**

[For students starting before MT 2019: (*b*) he or she has passed in all the subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Medicine; or**]**

(*c*) he or she has both

(i) successfully completed at a university in the United Kingdom a GMC-approved course of study in medical sciences that has included the subjects of the First Examination and the Principles of Clinical Anatomy, and is deemed by the Medical Sciences Board to qualify the candidate for admission; and

(ii) obtained a bachelor's degree in science or arts at a university, such degree having been approved by the Board.

2. Candidates for the Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine are required to pursue their studies during a period of: normally 38 weeks in Year 4; normally 45 weeks in Year 5; normally 46 weeks in Year 6; 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 Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine shall be under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board. The Board shall have power to require candidates for admission to any part of the Second Examination to produce certificates of attendance at courses of practical instruction, and such other certificates as the Board may from time to time determine, and to define the form of such certificates. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to see that these conditions are observed.

4. The subject of the Second Examination shall be clinical medicine in all its aspects.

(*a*) The Second Examination shall cover three years, the subjects for each year being prescribed by regulation of the Medical Sciences Board.

[For students starting from MT 2019: (*b)* Each of Years 4 and 5 shall involve a form of assessment prescribed by regulation of the Board which shall be notified to candidates. No candidate shall commence Year 5 or 6 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 4 or 5 respectively (except that a candidate shall be permitted to commence Year 5 if he or she has passed in all the assessment units in the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and has passed all of the assessment units of the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine), unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate 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 he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.**]**

[For students starting before MT 2019: (*b)* Each of Years 4 and 5 shall involve a form of assessment prescribed by regulation of the Board which shall be notified to candidates. No candidate shall commence Year 5 or 6 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 4 or 5 respectively (except that a candidate shall be permitted to commence Year 5 if he or she has passed in all the subjects in the Preliminary

Examination in Medicine and satisfactorily completed those additional courses of instruction and assessments specified in clause 8 of the regulations for the Preliminary Examination in Medicine Part II), unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate 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 he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.**]**

(*c*) Year 6 shall involve written and clinical examinations and may involve oral examinations. No candidate shall be examined on the Year 6 Vocational Skills Course until he or she has passed the assessments for Years 4 and 5 and the Year 6 General Clinical Studies Course.

[For students starting from MT 2019: 5. A candidate who has passed in all the assessment units of the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and has passed all of the assessment units of the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine shall be permitted to proceed directly to commence Year 5.**]**

[For students starting before MT 2019: 5. A candidate who has passed in all the subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Medicine and satisfactorily completed the additional courses of instruction and assessments specified in clause 8 of the regulations for the Preliminary Examination in Medicine Part II shall be permitted to proceed directly to commence Year 5.**]**

6. The examiners may award a Distinction for outstanding performance over the three years. Criteria for Distinctions will be determined by the Medical Sciences Board.

7. The examiners may award merits in each of the examined subjects in Years 4, 5 and 6.

8. Breach of the Code of Conduct for Medical Students, as approved and from time to time amended by Council's General Purposes Committee on the recommendation of the Medical Sciences Board, may be deemed to be a ground for removal of a student's name from the University Register of Clinical Students according to procedures which shall always be subject to approval by Council's General Purposes Committee on the recommendation of the Medical Sciences Board.

9. The provisions of the appropriate regulations, concerning the times of holding examinations and the entry of names, and the special regulation concerning dress shall not, unless otherwise prescribed by regulation of the board, apply to Years 4 and 5, except in the case of a formal examination set by the examiners of these stages, as prescribed by regulation of the Board.

Regulations for Assessment in Years 4, 5, and 6

Proposals for the assessment of candidates in Years 4, 5, and 6 of the examination shall be drawn up by each specialty group, or in the case of Year 6 by the Board's Clinical Education Committee and submitted for approval to the Medical Sciences Board, at such times as the Board shall determine. The form or forms of assessment are chosen from among the following:

(*a*) clinical examination including long and short cases;

(*b*) competency check sheets, logbooks, or portfolios;

(*c*) examination and comment (written or viva voce) on specimens;

(*d*) objective structured clinical examinations;

(*e*) poster presentations;

(*f*) case presentations;

(*g*) written tests, which may consist in whole or in part of, for example, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, extended matching questions or essays;

(*h*) case histories and commentaries;

(*i*) prepared essays; and

(*j*) ~~viva voce examinations;~~

(~~*k j*~~) other tests individually approved by the Board.

In clinical subjects, all assessments shall include a test of clinical competence. In addition, reports on candidates' attendance and general aptitude shown during the course of instruction shall be made by those responsible for the course and taken into consideration in association with the performance of candidates in the assessment.

Candidates will be required to satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies regarding their professional behaviour by having both satisfactorily attended and completed required coursework.

A candidate shall be warned (in a timely fashion and in writing with a copy to the Director of Clinical Studies) by those responsible for the course in question ~~before the assessment takes place~~, if their ~~his or her~~ attendance and general aptitude are such as seems likely to jeopardise the candidate's ~~his or her~~ chances of passing the assessment (either work-based on course assessment or the end of year assessment).

The first assessment of candidates shall be carried out during or at the conclusion of each component of the course by the staff, as appointed by the head of the relevant department, or, in the case of Year 6, by the examiners and/or assessors. Candidates ~~in Years 4 and 6~~ shall be permitted a maximum of ~~three~~ two attempts to pass an

assessment. ~~In Year 5 the Examination Board may require candidates to be assessed in a specified module or modules on one further occasion. Candidates in Year 5 shall be permitted a maximum of two attempts in order to pass Year 5.~~

No candidate may offer any assessment on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment in Years 4, 5 or 6 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the published 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination'. If granted, this exceptional resit attempt shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, ie it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities.

It shall be the responsibility of the staff concerned, under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board, to give the candidates and the relevant examiners and/or assessors, reasonable notice of the dates on which the assessments will take place, to decide on the outcome of each assessment, and to keep departmental records of each assessment. A candidate should not normally be assessed exclusively by staff members who have been responsible for his or her instruction.

Year 4

Syllabus and Examination

In Year 4, students are required to satisfy the examiners in:

(*a*) the Laboratory Medicine course (concerning the application to human disease of the principles of Laboratory Medicine, including Histopathology, Microbiology and Infection, Clinical Biochemistry, Immunology, and Haematology);
(*b*) Medicine;
(*c*) Surgery.

Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction.

Candidates must satisfy the relevant head of department or his or her deputy, or the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies, that they have attended a course of instruction, and attained the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding in:

[For students starting before MT 2019: (*a*) The Patient Doctor 2 Course (being an introduction to clinical methods, history taking and physical examination);

(*b*) Anaesthetics;

(*c*) Clinical Pharmacology;

(*d*) Communication Skills;

(*e*) Medical Ethics and Law;

(*f*) Primary Health Care;

(*g*) Radiology;

(*h*) Special Study approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board.**]**

[For students starting from MT 2019: (*a*) Patient Doctor Course II: introduction to clinical practice (being an introduction to clinical methods, history taking and physical examination);

(*b*) Communication Skills;

(*c*) Medical Ethics and Law;

(*d*) Primary Health Care;

(*e*) Special Study approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board.**]**

No candidate shall commence Year 5 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 4, unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies at their discretion should, in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to Year 5 on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.

Assessment

A candidate in Year 4 who has been deemed to have failed ~~fails to reach a satisfactory standard~~ in any part of the assessment at the first attempt will be permitted one further attempt ~~may offer himself or herself for reassessment on one further occasion~~ and will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed.

~~If a candidate fails to reach a satisfactory standard at the second attempt in any part of the assessment, the head of department concerned, or his or her deputy, shall require the candidate to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment previously failed after completing the necessary coursework; this assessment shall be carried out and adjudged by the staff appointed by the relevant head of department.~~

No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Year 4 on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in Year 4 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy

and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination', If granted, the exceptional resit attempt will only be in the assessment component which the candidate has failed and shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, ie it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this ~~third~~ second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional attempt is unsuccessful, then their ~~his or her~~ name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students. ~~subject to appeal to the Medical Sciences Board~~.

Duties of the Examiners

In the first assessment of candidates in Year 4 each relevant pair of examiners shall be required to attend on at least one occasion each year.

Year 6 examiners may assist with the assessment in Year 4.

Year 5

Syllabus and Examination

In order to pass Year 5, candidates are required to have satisfactorily attended all courses and fulfilled individual course requirements, including completing all relevant formative assessments, for all the subjects specified in (a) to (e) below; and to have satisfied the examiners in the Year 5 Integrated Summative Assessment, both written and clinical examinations.

No candidate may sit the Integrated Summative Assessment if they have not satisfactorily attended and fulfilled all of the individual course requirements in at least four of the five subjects specified in (a) to (e) below, except in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the Director and Associate Director of Clinical Studies.

1. (a) Brain and Behaviour (encompassing Clinical Neurosciences, Ophthalmology ~~and Otolaryngology~~ and Psychiatry);

(b) Community-based Subjects (encompassing Geratology, Dermatology, Palliative Care, Primary Care and Population Health 2: Public Health);

(c) **[For students starting before MT 2018:** Orthopaedics, Rheumatology, Trauma and Emergency Medicine;**] [For students starting from MT 2018:** Orthopaedic Surgery, Rheumatology, Trauma and Emergency Medicine;**]**

(d) Paediatrics;

~~*(e)* Psychiatry;~~

~~*(f)*~~ (e) Women's and Reproductive Health with integrated Sexual Health.

2. Candidates are required to satisfy the examiners in the Integrated Summative Assessment.

The written and clinical examinations will each assess the subjects specified in (a) to (e) above, and each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction.

No candidate shall commence Year 6 until he or she has satisfactorily completed until they have passed Year 5, unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies at their discretion should, in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to Year 6 on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.

Assessment

~~A candidate in Year 5 who fails to reach a satisfactory standard in any individual course module assessment at the first attempt and is required by the Examination Board to be reassessed, will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed.~~

~~A candidate must reach the threshold pass mark for Year 5 (from the sum of cumulative marks awarded from each course module assessment) and satisfy the Examination Board in a minimum of five out of the six modules, or the candidate will be deemed to have failed the fifth year of the course. A candidate who has been deemed to have failed will be allowed only one further attempt to pass Year 5 and will be required to repeat the fifth year of the course in its entirety. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt then his or her name shall be removed from the University Register of Clinical Students subject to appeal to the Medical Sciences Board.~~

A candidate in Year 5 who has been deemed to have failed in any part of the Integrated Summative Assessment at the first attempt will be permitted one further attempt and will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed.

~~If a candidate fails to reach a satisfactory standard at the second attempt in any part of the assessment, the head of department concerned, or his or her deputy, shall require the candidate to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment previously failed after completing the necessary coursework; this assessment shall be carried out and adjudged by the staff appointed by the relevant head of department.~~

No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Year 5 on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in Year 5 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination', If granted, the exceptional resit attempt will only be in the assessment component which the candidate has failed and shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, ie it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional attempt is unsuccessful, then their name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students.

~~*Duties of the Examiners*~~

~~In the first assessment of candidates in the individual course module assessments of Year 5 each relevant pair of examiners/specialty advisors shall be required to attend on at least one occasion in each year.~~

Year 6

Syllabus and Examination

In Year 6, students are required to satisfy: (a) the examiners in General Clinical Studies; and (b) the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies in Vocational Skills. Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction. Students who fail an assessment will have to forfeit part or all of the elective for a period of intensive clinical training.

1. General Clinical Studies

Students are required to satisfy the examiners in Medicine and Surgery encompassing Communication Skills, Radiology, and Clinical Pharmacology.

Candidates must satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies that they have attended a course of instruction in Clinical Options approved by the Medical Sciences Board.

2. Vocational Skills

Students are required to satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies that they have provided work to a satisfactory standard in:

(*a*) **[For students starting before MT 2017:** Special Study as approved by the Medical Sciences Board;**] [For students starting from MT 2017:** Special Study approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board;**]**
(*b*) A Course to prepare students for work as a Foundation 1 doctor;
(*c*) An Elective (students who fail an assessment may be required to complete remedial clinical work. These students will forfeit part, or all, of the elective and instead will be required to produce a satisfactory report at the end of an additional clinical attachment);
(*d*) A student assistantship with a clinical team; and
(*e*) An assessment in procedural skills.

Assessment

A candidate in Year 6 who ~~fails to reach a satisfactory standard~~ has been deemed to have failed ~~at the first attempt~~ in any part of the assessment in medicine and surgery at the first attempt will be permitted one further attempt and will only be required to be reassessed ~~be deemed, normally, to have failed the complete assessment and may offer himself or herself for reassessment on one further occasion. A candidate in this position will usually be required to be reassessed in all parts of the assessment, unless the examiners specifically direct that there be reassessment only~~ in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed. ~~in which the candidate has failed to reach a satisfactory standard. If a candidate fails to reach a satisfactory standard at the second attempt in any part of the assessment, then the candidate shall be deemed to have failed the complete assessment.~~ The examiners shall require the candidate to be reassessed after completing the

necessary coursework; this assessment shall be carried out and adjudged by the examiners.

~~In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this third attempt then his or her name shall be removed from the University Register of Clinical Students subject to appeal to the Medical Sciences Board.~~

No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Year 6 on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in Year 6 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination', If granted, the exceptional resit attempt will only be in the assessment component which the candidate has failed and shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, ie it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional attempt is unsuccessful, then their name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students.

Duties of the Examiners

1. General Clinical Studies

The examination shall be arranged and conducted by the Year 6 Examination Board under the direction of the Chair of Examiners and the Principal Examiners in Medicine and Surgery.

In considering whether a candidate has passed the assessment, the examiners may fail a candidate who does not satisfy them in one part of the assessment, even if he or she has satisfied them in other parts at that stage.

2. Vocational Skills

Candidates shall be required to submit to the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies such evidence as they require of the successful completion of their work.

In considering whether candidates shall have passed the assessment, the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies may fail a candidate who has provided either none or insufficient evidence of satisfactory completion of one part of the course, even if he or she has satisfied them in other parts of the course.

Explanatory Notes:

1. The NEO and Psychiatry modules in Year 5 are being combined to allow greater opportunity for interdisciplinary learning. This will provide the opportunity to move away from the current modular structure of Year 5, which promotes specialty-bound learning. In NEO and Psychiatry, there is overlap of topics between the two specialties. The new structure will enable the strengths of both courses to be optimised, reducing the burden on lecturers and admin staff. Students will have an educational experience that is better aligned with clinical practice and follows the direction of postgraduate training. The structural change will also give a platform for the development of a more integrated assessment in preparation for the introduction of a year 5 synoptic assessment and the GMC's Medical Licensing Assessment.

2. The number of attempts have been brought in line with the Preliminary Examination in Medicine and the First BM.

3. The changes to the delivery of Year 5 will decrease the assessment burden on students, align with the GMCs Medical Licensing Assessment and consolidate knowledge, preparing students to enter Year 6. Synoptic written and clinical examinations will take place at the end of Year 5, with formative assessment in each course module.