

MPLS Divisional Board**Approved at the meeting of:**

**Chemistry Teaching Committee 28th February 2023. MPLS Divisional approval
Trinity Term 2023.**

Preliminary Examination in Chemistry**Brief note about nature of change:**

Currently the Preliminary Examination in Organic Chemistry is a longer paper with a separate biological chemistry section, however the department has integrated the biological chemistry (rather than it being a separate section). This change would make the structure and duration of organic chemistry the same as the other 3 Preliminary Examination papers, i.e. with a Section A made of compulsory short questions and a Section B in which students have a choice of longer questions.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2022/23*

[2022-23, Preliminary Examination in Chemistry \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

For students starting the MChem in MT2023.

For first examination from 2023-24.

Detail of change

Amend citation reference 1.3-1.14 as follows (new text underlined>, deleted text struck through):

- ^{1.3}1. Candidates in the Preliminary Examination in Chemistry must offer four subjects at one examination, provided that a candidate who has failed in one or two subjects may offer that number of subjects at a subsequent examination.
- ^{1.4}2. The subjects shall be as follows:
 - ^{1.5}(1) Inorganic Chemistry
 - ^{1.6}(2) Organic Chemistry

- 1.7(3) Physical Chemistry
- 1.8(4) Mathematics for Chemistry
- 1.9 One two-and-a-half-hour paper will be set for each of subjects (1), (2), (3), and (4); ~~one three-hour paper will be set for subject (2).~~
- 1.10 3. Candidates are required to complete an adequate course of laboratory work as specified in the Course Handbook. The Director of Teaching Labs shall make available to the chair of the examiners records showing the extent to which each candidate has pursued an adequate course of practical work. Only work completed and marked by 5 p.m. on Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term will be taken into account.
- 1.11 4. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the examination if they have satisfied the ~~Moderators~~ Examiners in all four papers detailed in clause 2, [and in the practical work requirements as outlined in clause 3,] either at a single examination, or at two examinations, as set out in clause 1. Failure to complete the practical work to the satisfaction of the ~~Moderators~~ Examiners, in the absence of appropriate documentary evidence, will normally constitute failure of the Preliminary Examination. A candidate who fails the practical work will be required to re-take the entire academic year.
- 1.12 5. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the examination if they have satisfied the ~~Moderators~~ Examiners in all four subjects *either* at a single examination *or* at two examinations in accordance with the proviso to clause 1, and provided further that the same subjects as were failed at the first sitting have been passed at the same attempt at a subsequent examination.
- 1.13 6. The ~~Moderators~~ Examiners may award a distinction to candidates of special merit who have satisfied them in all four subjects at a single examination.
- 1.14 7. The ~~Moderators~~ Examiners will not provide calculators but unless otherwise specified will permit the use of any hand-held pocket calculator subject to the conditions set out under the heading ‘Use of calculators in examinations’ in the *Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations* and further elaborated in the Course Handbook.

Explanatory Notes

This ensures that all the preliminary examinations in chemistry have the same structure, simplifying and slightly reducing the examination loads on the students. The need to ensure that the candidates have engaged with the Biological Chemistry content is not compromised as short questions on this topic will be included in the compulsory Section A. This was discussed and agreed by the JCCU on 25th January 2023.