

MPLS Divisional Board

Approved by the PVC (Education) on behalf of Education Committee Trinity Term 2022, MPLS Education Committee Hilary Term 2022 and Earth Sciences Teaching Committee Hilary Term 22.

Preliminary Examination in Earth Sciences

Brief note about nature of change:

Reorganisation of practical work so that this is assessed at multiple points throughout the first year rather than as a practical exam in TT.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2021/22*

[2019-20, Preliminary Examination in Earth Sciences \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/examinations/2019-20-preliminary-examination-in-earth-sciences)

Effective date

For students starting in MT 2022.

For first examination in 2022-23.

Detail of change (as underlined)

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- ^{1.3}1. The Preliminary Examination in Earth Sciences shall consist of 5 compulsory papers taken at one examination, subject to the conditions of clause 5 below:
 - ^{1.4}(a) Paper 1: Planet Earth
 - ^{1.5}(b) Paper 2: Fundamentals of Geology (Theory)
 - ^{1.6}(c) ~~Paper 3: Fundamentals of Geology (Practical)~~
 - ^{1.7}(c ~~d~~) Paper 3 4: Chemistry, Physics and Biology for Earth Sciences
 - ^{1.8}(e) Paper 4 ~~5~~: an approved paper in Mathematics
 - ^{1.9}The syllabus for these papers shall be published annually in the course handbook, not later than the beginning of Michaelmas Full Term for examination three terms thence.

- 2. An approved set of practical assessments at regular times during Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity terms, subject to the conditions of clause 6 below.
- ^{1.10} 3 ~~2~~. In addition to the above four ~~five~~ papers a candidate in Earth Sciences shall be required to submit to the examiners such evidence as they require of the successful completion of field work normally pursued during the three terms preceding the examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in this regard will be required to sit a further paper, which may only be taken once.
- ^{1.11} 4 ~~3~~. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the examination if they have:
 - ^{1.12} (a) satisfied the Examiners in the four ~~five~~ papers in clause 1 either at a single examination or at two examinations in accordance with clause 6 ~~5~~, and
 - (b) satisfied the Examiners in the set of practical assessments in clause 2, either at a single sitting or two sittings in accordance with clause 6, and.
 - ^{1.13} (c) ~~h~~ satisfied the additional requirements in clause 3 ~~2~~.
- ^{1.14} 5 ~~4~~. The Examiners may award a distinction to candidates of special merit who have satisfied them in all four ~~five~~ papers in clause 1 and the set of practical assessments in clause 2 in one examination and in the requirements of clause 3 ~~2~~ at the first attempt.
- ^{1.15} 6 ~~5~~. Candidates who fail in one or two papers listed in clause 1 may offer that number of papers at a subsequent examination. Candidates who fail more than two papers must resit all four ~~five~~ papers at a subsequent examination. Candidates who fail in any individual practical assessment must resit that assessment at a subsequent date.
- ^{1.16} 7 ~~6~~. The examination conventions of each examination paper listed in clause 1 and for the practical assessments in clause 2 will be published annually in the course handbook.

Explanatory Notes

This revision is a result of a detailed course review that started in 2018. The new course will be first delivered in 2022-23. The change has been discussed and approved by relevant committees and is supported by students and external examiners.