

Finalized in the meeting of the Committee for Courses & Studies, Department of Pulmonary Medicine meeting held on 5th March, 2008

Report on Examination Reforms MD (Pulmonary Medicine) 2008

The examination is conducted to evaluate and certify the candidate's level of knowledge, skill and competence and how far the objectives of the course have been achieved at the end of the training. The examination shall be held at the end of the third year. The examination consists of 1) theory, 2) clinical, 3) practical, and 4) viva-voce.

I. THEORY EXAMINATION

(a) Title of Papers and composition

A change in the title of papers and topics covered under each has been necessitated by the advances and developments in the field of Pulmonary Medicine. This will allow a more comprehensive and equitable coverage of important areas. The changes proposed are as under:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p>The topics covered under each paper are as follows:</p> <p>Paper 1 :Applied Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Pathology, Immunology, Microbiology and PathoPhysiology in relation to Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases</p> <p>Paper II: Clinical aspects of Tuberculosis</p> <p>Paper III: Clinical aspects of Respiratory Diseases other than Tuberculosis</p> <p>Paper IV: Epidemiology, Control Programmes, Social-Preventive Rehabilitative aspects of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases</p>	<p>The topics covered under each paper shall be as follows:</p> <p>Paper I: Preclinical and Paraclinical Sciences in relation to Pulmonary Medicine</p> <p>Paper II: Pulmonary Infections</p> <p>Paper III: Pulmonary Diseases other than Infections</p> <p>Paper IV: Recent advances, Epidemiology, Control Programmes, Occupational and Environmental Health, Social and Preventive aspects including Rehabilitation, as applied to Pulmonary Medicine</p>

(b) Pattern of Questions

A need is felt to frame the question papers with the objective to test the candidate's fundamentals, comprehension and clinical skills in management. In order to allow more areas to be covered, short-note and short-answer questions need to be increased.

Existing Provisions/conventions	Proposed Amendments
<p>The questions include a mix of two-thirds as essay-type questions and remaining as short-notes</p>	<p>The questions in the papers will cover the areas listed against each and include a mix of essay type and short-note questions with greater emphasis on the latter. The essay type questions may be on clinical scenarios.</p>

(c) Duration of Examination

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
The duration of examination in each paper shall be of 3 hours.	No change

(d) Marks

At present, the papers are examined but no marks are given. The examiners form a subjective impression about the candidates performance in theory. It is felt that an objective system of evaluation needs to be adopted. The system should be uniform for all disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
No marks are awarded for theory papers	Whenever the University adopts a system of evaluation through marks/grades for disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the same shall apply automatically

II. PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The examination consists of Clinical and Practical examination and Viva-voce.

A. Clinical Examination

A need is felt to change the system of assessing the clinical skills of the candidates and also incorporate examination of critically ill patients to examine the appropriateness of response to a given clinical situation. There is also no standard and objective system of evaluation of the candidates performance. The proposed changes in the pattern of clinical examination and evaluation are given below.

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p>The Clinical Examination consists of examination and discussion of 1 long case and 2 short cases</p> <p>Long case includes a detailed history and examination of the patient followed by presentation to the Board of examiners who examine the candidate on all aspects of management including diagnosis, investigations and treatment. The short cases consist of examination of the patient followed by presentation and discussion on management.</p> <p>The candidates are evaluated on a subjective impression by the examiners or by non-standardized grades for each case separately.</p>	<p>The Clinical Examination will consist of examination and discussion of 1 long case, 1 short case and 1 bedside examination of an ICU/noncritical patient with file discussion.</p> <p>Long case will include a detailed history and examination of the patient followed by presentation to the Board of examiners who will examine the candidate on all aspects of management including diagnosis, investigations and treatment. The short case will consist of examination of the patient followed by presentation. The focus shall be on elicitation and demonstration of physical signs and a systematic approach to possible diagnosis and differential diagnosis. The bedside examination of ICU/noncritical</p>

	<p>patient will focus on physical signs and assessment of current state. Investigations carried out shall be provided to the candidate and the management skills of the candidate will be evaluated.</p> <p>Emphasis in clinical examination is to be laid on <i>Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)</i> consisting of writing of the case sheet, written documentation of the diagnosis, investigations and management. Each case shall be evaluated separately.</p> <p>An objective system of evaluation is desirable. Whenever the University adopts a system of evaluation through marks/grades for disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the same shall apply automatically</p>
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B. Practical Examination

A need is felt to make the practical examination more objective and also introduce a formal system of evaluation. The proposed changes are given below.

Existing Provisions/Conventions	Proposed Amendments
<p>The Practical Examination consists of exercises on the identification, abnormalities detected, diagnosis and treatment with answers to questions on ten spots selected out of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Pathology Specimens ii) Microbiology and Pathology Slides iii) Pulmonary function tests and arterial blood gas data iv) ECG v) Polysomnography records vi) Instruments, needles etc vii) Any other spot as decided by examiners <p>There is no formal system of evaluation by marks or grades.</p>	<p>The Practical Examination will consist of exercises on the identification, abnormalities detected, diagnosis and treatment with answers to structured questions on ten spots selected out of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Pathology Specimens ii) Microbiology and Pathology Slides iii) Pulmonary function tests and arterial blood gas data iv) ECG v) Polysomnography records vi) Instruments, needles etc vii) Any other spot as decided by examiners <p>Whenever the University adopts a system of evaluation through marks/grades for disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the same shall apply automatically</p>

C. Viva-voce examination

At present, there is no formal system of evaluation of a candidate's performance in the viva-voce although non-standard grading systems are followed. In order to make the evaluation more objective, a standard system needs to be adopted.

Existing Provisions/Conventions	Proposed Amendments
<p>The candidate is asked questions on different aspects of pulmonary diseases including the diagnosis and treatment, epidemiology, control programmes and recent advances. The questions cover a broad range of topics to comprehensively evaluate the knowledge and skills acquired by the student during his training. Investigation reports, radiographs and data are provided by the examiners to the students for their interpretation.</p> <p>The candidates are evaluated on a subjective impression by the examiners or by non-standardized grades.</p>	<p>The candidate is to be asked questions on different aspects of pulmonary diseases including the diagnosis and treatment, epidemiology, control programmes and recent advances. The questions should cover a broad range of topics to comprehensively evaluate the knowledge and skills acquired by the student during his training. Investigation reports, radiographs and data would be provided by the examiners to the students for their interpretation. The number, content and level of questions should be uniform for all students. Performance is to be graded as above based on an objective assessment of the viva-voce examination.</p> <p>An objective system of evaluation is desirable. Whenever the University adopts a system of evaluation through marks/grades for disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the same shall apply automatically</p>

D. Internal assessment

It is felt that a system of internal assessment should be introduced. This will allow a better assessment of how well the objectives of the course have been achieved by a candidate. The frequency of assessments, evaluation and weightage to be given in the final examination should be uniform for all disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p>There is no provision for Internal assessment</p>	<p>It is desirable to have Internal Assessment. This would be in the form of formal theory and clinical examinations periodically throughout the three-years course.</p> <p>The frequency of assessments, evaluation and weightage to be given in the final examination will be as per the system the University adopts for disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences at any time in future and the same shall apply automatically</p>

Overall Assessment and Final Result

At present, after examining the candidate in each of the four components of the examination (theory, clinical and practical Examination and Viva-voce), the final result is based on a global assessment that is subjective or based on a non-standard system of grading and the result is declared as “Passed or Failed”. A need is felt to make the examination more objective that would also facilitate re-checking if required. A uniform marking/grading system is required. As and when the University introduces a more objective system of evaluation in the disciplines of the Faculty of Medical sciences, the same would apply automatically.

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p>There is no practice of awarding marks for the theory papers, clinical examination and viva-voce.</p> <p>The thesis must be accepted by both the reviewers or by the referee in case it is sent to him.</p> <p>The final result is declared as “Passed or Failed” at present based on a global assessment or a non-standard system of grading of the four components of the examination (theory, Clinical Examination Practical Examination Viva-voce examination)</p>	<p>In order to have objectivity in assessment and to allow a review at a later date, the performance of the students should be graded objectively in each of the four components of the examination (theory, Clinical Examination Practical Examination Viva-voce examination). The candidate should secure passing grades in each of the four components separately to be declared as successful.</p> <p>Further, the thesis must be accepted by both the reviewers or by the referee in case it is sent to him.</p> <p>Whenever the University adopts a system of evaluation through marks/grades for disciplines under the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the same shall apply automatically</p>