

St George's, University of London

Scheme of Assessment

MBBS 5-year stream Year 1 (2021-22)

Overview

1. The assessments of the first and second year of the 5-year programme are known as the Clinical Science Examinations.
2. This Scheme of Assessment specifically relates to the first year of the 5-year programme.
3. In accordance with the GMC assessment guidelines (2018), assessment in the MBBS programme will be across three domains, namely:
 - Professional Knowledge (PK)
 - Professional Skills (PS)
 - Becoming a Doctor (BD)
4. A student may only have **ONE** discretionary 3rd attempt during the MBBS Programme. Under the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment*, Boards of Examiners will have the authority to approve a discretionary third attempt if a candidate meets programme-specific fast-track criteria. For candidates who do not satisfy the programme-specific fast-track criteria, a discretionary panel of Senate will consider the student's application for a discretionary third attempt. Detailed information about the fast-track criteria, procedure and timescales is published on the Student Conduct and Compliance section of the St. George's website (www.sgul.ac.uk).
5. The curriculum will be considered as forming **three curriculum themes**:
 - Basic and Clinical Sciences (BCS)
 - Patients, Populations and Society (PPS)
 - Patient and Doctor (PD)

The curriculum themes map to the assessment domains as shown in the following table:

GMC Outcomes	Professional Knowledge		Professional Skills	Becoming a Doctor
Assessment Domains	Professional Knowledge (PK)		Professional Skills (PS)	Becoming a Doctor (BD)
Curriculum Themes	BCS	PPS	Professional Skills (PS)	Patient & Doctor
Assessments	Written exams, OSPEs	Written exams	OSCE	Attendance, professional behaviour, ICAs, SSC

6. In Year 1 of the 5-year programme, the Professional Knowledge domain will cover the BCS and PPS curriculum themes, and will be subdivided into two elements that must be passed independently.
7. The Professional Knowledge domain is tested to assess knowledge and application of knowledge.
8. The Becoming a Doctor domain will assess whether students are developing the ability to apply knowledge in the clinical workplace as well as the behaviours and skills required by medical professionals.
9. Assessment in Year 1 will normally comprise the following:
 - For the Professional Knowledge domain, there will be written examinations and an anatomy examination (which may comprise an OSPE and /or written paper) at the end of the year.
 - For the Becoming a Doctor domain, assessments will be completed throughout the year across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviours, clinical workplace portfolio and SSC/projects.
10. The written examinations and OSPEs will be comprised of questions that test the Learning Objectives from Year 1. Items will be distributed so as to ensure teaching across Year 1 modules are appropriately represented in the final mark scheme.
11. The length of the written examinations and the number of OSPE stations will be announced in advance of the assessment by the Chief/Responsible Examiner.
12. The content of the assessments in the Becoming a Doctor domain will be announced in advance of the assessment by the Chief/Responsible Examiner and/or Domain Lead.
13. There will be no compensation between the two elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS).

Mark Distribution

14. The Professional Skills grade will be determined by the end of Year 2 OSCE.

15. Formative and Summative assessment – Year 1

Formative assessment:

Formative assessments are used to allow students to practise the main assessment methods that will be used summatively in the remainder of the programme. Please note that attendance of all formative exams is mandatory and if for any reason you are unable to attend you will need to complete a mitigating circumstance form which will be reviewed by a panel.

- For the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS elements), there will be a formative written examination and a formative anatomy examination at the end of the Autumn Term. Attendance at these examinations will be compulsory.
- The Becoming a Doctor domain will be assessed throughout the year on a formative basis. There will be one formatively assessed SSC in this domain during Year 1 (namely Foundation SSC). The completion of the assessments in this domain will be compulsory.

End of Year 1 Summative assessment:

- For the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS elements), there will be summative written and anatomy examinations at the end of the year.
- Marks for each of the two elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS) will be calculated based on the results of the exams at the end of Year 1, with a maximum of 100 marks for each element.

The BCS element will be weighted as per the table below:

BCS	Written BCS	85%
	Practical OSPE	15%

- For the Becoming a Doctor domain, a number of portfolio items that are introduced in Year 1 must be completed to an acceptable grade by the end of Year 2. Any elements that are not graded acceptable will be assessed by the grading committee on a case-by-case basis.
16. **Progression:** Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 will be determined by the results of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS elements).
17. Students will need to pass both elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (i.e. pass both BCS and PPS elements in their own right) to progress to Year 2.

Marking arrangements and Standard Setting

Professional Knowledge (BCS and PPS elements)

18. Candidates **at the end of the Year 1 examinations** will be graded as one of the following categories for each element (BCS and PPS):
- **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical pass mark or above
 - **C (Cause for Concern):** not yet competent – up to and including 2 standard errors of measurement (SEM) below the numerical pass mark
 - **U (Unacceptable):** poor – more than 2 SEM below the numerical pass mark
19. The pass standard for the written examinations and anatomy examination will normally be determined using an internationally recognised standard setting methodology (e.g. Cohen or Angoff).
20. When only a small number of students sit an examination (e.g. a resit or deferred assessment) the passmark will be determined using the Angoff method and the C/U boundary will be calculated as passmark minus 10% (e.g. if the passmark was 60%, the C/U boundary would be set to 50%).
21. For the examination of the PPS component in the Professional Knowledge domain candidates' percentage marks will be rounded to one decimal place (e.g. 51.15% will be rounded up to 51.2% and 51.14 will be rounded down to 51.1).
22. For BCS assessments, candidates' percentage marks for each examination component (written exam and OSPE) are rounded to one decimal (see paragraph 21), then multiplied by a weighting factor as detailed in Paragraph 15.

Becoming a Doctor

23. This domain will be assessed on a summative basis in Year 2.
24. Feedback on the assessments that comprise this domain will be distributed to candidates.
25. The Becoming a Doctor leads will consider, and meet where necessary, students displaying poor professional behaviour (including attendance) or poor performance in relation to other aspects of the domain such as completion of workplace assessments. The Becoming a Doctor Grading Committee will allocate grades at the end of the academic year and report to the Board of Examiners any unsatisfactory performance within the domain via the allocation of a grade for all students, but this is not summative in Year 1. The Becoming a Doctor Progress Meetings and Grading Committees in all future years, may consider any evidence assimilated from the point of entry to the MBBS programme, including Year 1 where assessment is formative.
26. ***The Becoming a Doctor domain*** will be graded as follows:
- **A (Acceptable)**
 - **B (Borderline)**
 - **C (Cause for concern)**
 - **U (Unacceptable)**

Details regarding how the overall BD domain grade is determined based on the individual grades obtained in each BD element are provided in the Becoming a Doctor Handbook.

Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 at first attempt

27. At the end of Year 1, candidates will be awarded a grade for each element of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS, PPS). These will be categorised as detailed in paragraph 18.
28. A candidate, whose grade in both elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS, PPS) is **Acceptable** shall have passed the year and may proceed to Year 2 of the MBBS programme.
29. A candidate whose grade in any assessment domain (including **either or both** elements of the Professional Knowledge domain) is **Cause for Concern**, will be given the option to enter the resit examination(s)/assessment(s) in each such assessment domain. Alternatively, a student may choose to repeat Year 1.
30. A candidate whose grade in any one assessment domain (or component of) is **Unacceptable** will be required to repeat Year 1. Candidates repeating the year will be required to sit all domains of assessment, including all elements of Becoming a Doctor, regardless of whether they have passed the domain or domain element in a previous academic year.

Re-sit Examinations/Assessments

For candidates entering the resit period at 2nd attempt in the same academic year as the 1st attempt

31. The resit period for the Professional Knowledge domain will normally take place between the July and August Board of Examiners.
32. For the Professional Knowledge domain, candidates who elect to resit will be required to resit only the domain element(s) they failed (BCS and/or PPS).

33. The written resit examinations shall be set for each domain element (BCS and PPS) and shall cover the content of Year 1 using similar methods of assessment as those used in the first sit examinations.
34. A candidate, whose grade at each resit examination(s)/assessment(s) entered is **Acceptable** shall have passed the year and may proceed to Year 2 of the MBBS programme.
35. A candidate, whose grade at any resit examination(s)/assessment(s) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable** will be deemed to have failed the examination and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3rd discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (see paragraph 4).

Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 following a repeat of the year at 2nd attempt

36. A candidate who is repeating the year at second attempt will be entered into all domains of assessment, including all elements of Becoming a Doctor, regardless of whether they have passed the domain or domain element in a previous academic year.
37. A candidate whose grade in both elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS or PPS) is **Acceptable** shall have passed the year and may proceed to Year 2 of the MBBS programme.
38. A candidate, whose grade in any one element of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS or PPS) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable** on the second attempt, will be deemed to have failed the examination and therefore the programme.
39. Such students shall be considered by the Discretionary Panel for a final attempt in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study. Candidates offered a final attempt at the year by the Discretionary Panel will be required to sit all domains of assessments in Year 1, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of) in a previous academic year (see paragraph 4).
40. All grades may be made available to the discretionary panel, including formative grades, and from the Becoming a Doctor domain.

Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 following a repeat of the year at 3rd Discretionary Attempt

41. Candidates offered a third and final attempt will be required to repeat the year and sit all domains of assessment, including all elements of Becoming a Doctor, regardless of whether they have passed the domain or domain element in a previous academic year.
42. A candidate, whose grade in both elements of Professional Knowledge (BCS, PPS) is **Acceptable**, shall have passed the year and may proceed to Year 2 of the MBBS programme.
43. A candidate, whose grade in any one assessment domain (including either or both elements of Professional Knowledge) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable**, on the third attempt, shall be deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

Students re-enrolling/re-joining a year of a programme following an approved period of absence OR students who are required/have elected to repeat a year

44. Candidates re-enrolling/re-joining Year 1 following an approved absence (e.g. interruption of studies) will be examined in accordance with the scheme of assessment in place in the academic year in which the re-enrolment/re-joining takes place.
45. Any candidate required to repeat a year or any candidate who elected to repeat a year, will be examined in accordance with the scheme of assessment in place in the academic year in which the repeat year takes place.
46. Any candidate returning from an approved absence (e.g. interruption of studies) part way through an academic year will have their assessment requirements (i.e. the assessments in which they will be formatively and summatively examined) determined on a case-by-case basis.

Student ranking

47. A decile ranking will be provided for students at the end of Year 1 based on the marks of their summative Professional Knowledge assessments. This is for student reference information only to provide a measure of how a student compares to their peers. End-of-Year-1 rankings will not contribute to the Clinical Science rankings which will be determined by the ranking at the end-of-Year-2 assessments. Rankings will be determined by the weightings in the table below:

Professional Knowledge element	Weighting factor
BCS	70%
PPS	30%

Board of Examiners and Management Arrangements

Board of Examiners

48. There shall be an MBBS Board of Examiners constituted in accordance with the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study.
49. The Board of Examiners has ultimate responsibility for the standard of the examinations and their fair and proper conduct.
50. The Board of Examiners will determine progression from Year 1 to Year 2.

External Examiners

51. There is a detailed job description for External Examiners, available separately.
52. External Examiners will be invited to attend the meeting of the Board of Examiners

Chief Examiners

53. There will be a Chief Examiner for the year. It is the responsibility of the Chief Examiners to oversee a master blueprint for the examinations across the year.
54. The Chief Examiner shall oversee the activities of the Module and Theme Responsible Examiners; shall arrange standard-setting and quality assurance meetings.

Annual Report:

55. The Chief Examiner shall co-ordinate production of an annual report on the conduct and standard of the examinations to the Chair of the Board of Examiners and the Course Committees.