

Marking scheme example

The following elements will make up the final examination mark for the degree of MSc in Human Molecular Genetics, **each component will be marked out of 100% following the detailed marking scheme and then the final mark calculated by adjusting so that each component contributes the proportional percentage shown in brackets:**

- (a) Three Written Examinations (45%)
- (b) Assessment of Project Report and Oral Examination (40%)
- (c) Assessment of Coursework (15%)

Following the oral examinations in September, recommendation of candidates for the award of the degree of MSc in Human Molecular Genetics will be based on the following considerations. A pass mark for the MSc, i.e. award recommended, is an average mark of 50% or retake any failed element at the next natural sitting of the examination. Only one attempt at a retake is normally permitted. **Candidates achieving an overall mark of 60% or greater in each of the three components will be recommended for a Pass with Merit.** Candidates achieving an overall mark of 70% or greater in each of the three components will be recommended for a Pass with Distinction.

(a) Written Examinations

These will take place around the end of February. All written examinations are marked by two internal examiners, and are moderated by the external examiners of the course. The normal minimum pass mark for each paper is 50%. To pass the written examination element as a whole for the course, the overall aggregate mark for the three papers is required to be 50% or greater. Thus, a student may fail 1 of the 3 papers and provided their aggregate overall score is greater than or equal to 50%, they will be deemed to have passed the written examination element of the course. A student will be deemed to have failed the written examination element if (a) they obtain less than 40% on any paper, or (b) obtain less than 50% on 2 papers.

To be awarded a distinction mark for the examination element, a student must obtain an aggregate score of 70% or greater - it is expected that the marks for all papers will be 60% or greater. Thus, usually a student cannot be awarded a distinction for the examination element if they obtained less than 60% for any individual exam paper.

Students whose performance in the written examinations is unsatisfactory may be required to withdraw from the course.

Paper 1: Fundamentals of Human Molecular Genetics (15%)

This paper will consist of short answer questions and MCQs based on essential and general topics in molecular biology, clinical genetics and general genetics, and will include questions relating to the both lectures and practical sessions. The paper will last for 3 hours and students will have to answer all questions. These questions are designed to test the breadth of knowledge gained on the course.

Paper 2: Data Analysis and Experimental Strategy (15%)

This will include problems, calculations and data interpretation questions and will provide an opportunity to for students to show evidence of appreciation of experimental design issues. There will be four questions on this paper, from which students will choose three.

Paper 3: Recent Advances in Human Molecular Genetics (15%)

This paper will consist of essay questions covering lectures given on the course and recent major advances in Human Molecular Genetics. Four essays will be answered, in 3 hours, from a selection of topics (12 questions). These questions will test the student, in depth, about advanced genetics and recent progress.

(b) Assessment of Research Project

The project work will be written up in thesis form and submitted for assessment by internal and external examiners. The total mark (40%) will be based on the quality of the scientific thought and critical evaluation evident in the thesis, formal academic presentation of the work and comprehension of the project (assessed in the viva). The project thesis must be submitted by the end of August/ first week in September. This will contribute 30% to the final mark for the MSc.

The compulsory oral examination of the written project, background information and general genetics topics, will normally be held in the last two weeks of September, and will be conducted by one external and one internal examiner. The oral examination will be concerned with aspects of the research report, and may also include knowledge of general material covered in the course. It will contribute 10% to the final mark for the MSc.

(c) Assessment of Coursework

The coursework is split into three components; one experiment strategy poster (5%), one oral presentation on the research project (5%), and one assignment in computing/statistical genetics (5%).

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