

Dear Student,

This newsletter is intended to provide you with up-to-date information about the mid-year assessment in Pathology and about access to study areas.

1. Mid Year Assessment

The mid-year assessment will examine *all* material covered in Session 1. The assessment will contribute 300 marks (30%) of the total mark for 3rd year Pathology. The practical examination will be held on Thursday 16th June (morning) and the theory on 21st June (1:45-4 pm) (NB: the theory date is provisional but is unlikely to be amended). Details of assembly times for the practical examination will be posted to your WebCT course.

The theory paper (2 hours) (200 marks) is of the same format used in 2002-4. It will comprise three short answer questions and a variety of objective items, as shown on pages 11-15 of the manual. When dealing with the true-false questions in Part B, you are asked to identify statements which you are confident are correct, as well as all those you are confident are incorrect, but guessing is most unwise. You are reminded that in the multiple choice questions in Part D, there will often be more than one correct statement and you are required to exercise judgement in selecting the *best* or *most appropriate* answer i.e. that which is most relevant to disease and/or its consequences.

The practical examination (1½ hours) (100 marks) will consist of 3 histopathology slides, one of which will be a virtual slide. You will be required to describe one of the three slides in detail. For all three slides, you may be required to state a diagnosis or offer a differential diagnosis. A differential diagnosis is a short list of diseases which you think might fit the changes you have observed. Note that when you are asked to state a diagnosis, you cannot get full marks if you only provide a differential diagnosis. You will be asked about the relationship between the abnormalities and the clinical manifestations, and will be required to provide answers to a small number of questions related to the disease processes, as shown on page 16 of the manual.

2. Museum and Laboratory Access

The Museum will re-open on Monday 23rd May. There will still be a lot of re-labelling to be done and until this is completed, please DO NOT remove specimens from the shelves. Full access should be available within 3 weeks. You should by now be sufficiently advanced in your study of Pathology to be able to make significant use of the Museum. Please do not attempt to rote learn the specimens by diagnosis or worse still by number! What you *are* expected to do is to recognise the features which are characteristic of each disease and to understand why these appearances indicate such a diagnosis. In the latter part of the year there is heavy use of the Museum by 4th year students, so you would do well to avoid the rush.

Opening times for the Museum in its new location (ground floor, Samuels Building) have not yet been finalised but you will as before be required to use your I.D. card to gain access. Both room 502 and room 106 will be accessible from approximately 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each week day, although priority is of course given to timetabled classes.

Finally, a reminder: please do not attend tutorials or practical classes other than those to which you have been allocated. This is unfair to the students allocated to the group.

R. K. Kumar
Head of Pathology Teaching
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