

## Examination Conventions in Theoretical Chemistry 2010

These conventions have been approved by the Chemistry Academic Board (CAB). They should be read together with the current *Examination Regulations*. See especially the relevant part of the *Examination Regulations*: (p769-770 in the 2009 edition), but general regulations found elsewhere also apply. CAB reviews the conventions, regulations and handbook annually, and the Examination Conventions may be subject to minor adjustment during any academic year. The Examiners have discretion to deviate from what is laid down, where appropriate and according to circumstances.

If any student or academic staff member finds any part of the Regulations or Conventions obscure, enquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of CAB, through the Faculty office in the first instance ([nina.jupp@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nina.jupp@chem.ox.ac.uk)). Such enquiries are welcome, as clarification helps everybody. It is not appropriate to address the Examiners on such matters.

A number of different assessments are combined in this course. Each assessment is marked and assigned a grade by the assessor according to the following scheme.

Marking Scale		
<b>A+</b>		Outstanding – the student’s assignment was excellent and was moreover of outstanding quality at the MSc level. Distinction is awarded at this level.
<b>A</b>		Excellent – the student has demonstrated an excellent understanding of almost all of the material, and has completed almost all of the assignment satisfactorily.
<b>A-</b>		Very good – the student has demonstrated a very good understanding of most of the material, and has completed most of the assignment satisfactorily.
<b>B+</b>		Good – the student has demonstrated a good understanding of much of the material, and has completed most of the assignment satisfactorily.
<b>B</b>		Adequate – the student has demonstrated an understanding of the material and an ability to apply their understanding that together are sufficient to pass
<b>B-</b>		Borderline failure – the student has failed to reach the standard required to pass in this subject, but not by much. The student should receive some credit for the assignment, and this may help them to pass overall.
<b>C+</b>		Unsatisfactory – the student has completed some parts of the assignment successfully, but has fallen clearly short of the standard required to pass.
<b>C</b>		Very poor – the student has failed to complete the simplest parts of the assignment successfully
<b>C-</b>		Extremely poor – the student has failed to demonstrate the most basic competence in this subject.

The interpretation of these Descriptors is at the discretion of the Examiners.

### **Mathematics courses.**

Calculus of many variables, Special Functions and Differential Equations.

Complex Analysis and Integral Transforms.

For each course there will be a term paper ('test'). Each paper will be marked according to the outline scheme printed on the question paper and assigned a grade according to the scheme above.

### **Lecture courses**

*Michaelmas term:* Quantum Mechanics; Statistical Mechanics.

*Hilary term:* Electronic Structure Theory; Applications of Statistical Mechanics.

*Trinity term:* Introduction to Many-Body Theory.

Assessed problem sets must be handed in to the Examination schools by the deadline prescribed in the examination regulations. It will be marked by the lecturers and assigned a grade as above.

### **Dissertation**

Candidates shall submit a short dissertation on a topic selected by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the Coulson Professor of Theoretical Chemistry or an appointed deputy. Between thirty-five and sixty-five typed pages is the preferred length.

The dissertation is examined by Thesis and by *viva voce* examination. Dissertations will be read and marked independently by two Examiners, who will also conduct the viva. Separate marks will be reported for each element of assessment (i.e. dissertation and viva).

The pass mark on each element will be B.

In deciding outcome, account will be taken of any medical or other proper certificates received.

### **Marking conventions**

All term papers ('tests') are marked according to an outline scheme printed on the paper. Assessors have discretion to vary this scheme as necessary. All parts of questions answered will be marked unless clearly crossed out by the candidate.

Any discrepancies between thesis grades assigned by the two Examiners will be resolved by discussion between the examiners until consensus is reached. In the (improbable) event that the latter does not occur, the thesis will be read and graded by a third independent assessor.

At the end of the course, the internal and external Examiners scrutinize all submitted work and grades allocated by assessors, to ensure consistency of standards and to decide on an overall outcome.

### **Classification**

The Examiners will use all the grades available to decide on a final outcome. A pass will be awarded for an overall performance graded B or above. A distinction will be awarded for an overall performance graded A+.