



**REGULATIONS RELATING TO EXAMINATION PROCEDURE, OFFENCES &
PUNISHMENTS FOR EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE
SEMESTER-BASED COURSE UNIT SYSTEM***

Regulations made by the Senate of the University of Peradeniya and approved by the Council under Section 136 read with Sections 29, 45 and 46 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 as amended by the Universities (Amendment) Act No.7 of 1985.

Examination of a course/course unit may consist of several assessment components (quizzes, within semester and end-semester examinations, term papers, assignments, etc.)

31.1 Regulations

These Regulations may be cited as the Examination Procedure, Offences & Punishment Regulation No.1 of 2008.

31.1.1 Part I - Examination Procedure

1. A candidate is expected to be outside the examination hall at least 15 minutes before the commencement of each paper, but shall not enter the hall until he/she is requested to do so by the supervisor.
2. On admission to the hall a candidate shall occupy the seat allotted to him/her and shall not change it except on the specific instruction of the Supervisor.
3. For examinations which have duration of one or more hours, a candidate shall not be admitted to the examination hall after the expiry of half an hour from the commencement of the examination. A candidate shall not be allowed to leave the hall until half an hour has elapsed from the commencement of the examination or during the last 15 minutes of the paper.
4. However, under exceptional circumstances or in cases where the duration of the examination is less than one hour, the supervisor in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty concerned may use his discretion in the enforcement of Rule 3.

* Regulations relating to examination procedure, offences and punishments for examinations conducted under the old system, please refer section 31 of the University Calendar 2007/08.

5. A candidate shall have his/her student record book/student identity card/admission card with him/her in the examination hall on every occasion he/she presents himself/herself for a paper. His/her candidature is liable to be cancelled if he/she does not produce the student record book/student identity card/admission card when requested to do so. If he/she fails to bring his/her student record book/student identity card /admission card, he/she shall sign a declaration in respect of the paper for which he/ she had not produced the student record book/student identity card/admission card in the form provided for it, and produce the student record book/student identity card/admission card to the Registrar or the relevant Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar within the next three working days. If a candidate loses his/her student record book/student identity card/admission card during the examination period, he/she shall obtain a duplicate of student record book/student identity card/admission card as the case may be from the Registrar or relevant Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar for production at the examination hall.
6. A candidate shall not have on his/her person or in his/her clothes or on the admission card, time-table, student record book/student identity card, any notes, signs or formulae, etc., except those items that are permitted. All unauthorized items which a candidate has brought with him/her should be kept at a place indicated by the Supervisor/Invigilator.
7. A candidate may be required by the supervisor to declare any item in his/her possession or person.
8. No candidate shall copy or attempt to copy from any book or paper or notes or similar material or from the scripts of another candidate. A candidate shall neither help another candidate nor obtain help from another candidate or any other person. A candidate shall not conduct himself/herself so negligently that an opportunity is given to any other candidate to read anything written by him/her or to watch any practical examination performed by him/her. No candidate shall use any other unfair means or obtain or render improper assistance at the examination.
9. If any candidate was found to have copied from another candidate by an examiner at the time of marking, he/she would be treated as having committed a punishable offence.
10. No candidate shall submit a practical book or field book or dissertation/thesis or project study or answer script or assignment which has been prepared wholly or partly by anyone other than the candidate himself/herself. This section, however, does not apply to group projects of students.

11. A candidate shall bring his/her own pens, ink, mathematical instruments, erasers, pencils or any other approved equipment or stationery which he/she has been instructed to bring. The use of a calculator will be permitted only for papers that contain a rubric to that effect.
12. Examination stationery (i.e., writing paper, graph paper, drawing paper, ledger paper, precis paper, etc.) will be supplied at the examination hall as and when necessary. No sheet of paper or answer book supplied to a candidate may be torn, crumpled, folded or otherwise mutilated. No papers other than those supplied to him/her by the Supervisor/Invigilator shall be used by candidates. All material supplied, whether used or unused, shall be left behind on the desk and not removed from the examination hall.
13. Every candidate shall enter his/her Index Number/Registration Number on each answer book and on every continuation paper. He/She shall also enter all necessary particulars as required. A candidate who inserts on script an Index Number/Registration Number other than his/her own is liable to be considered as having attempted to cheat.

A script that bears no Index Number/Registration Number, or has an Index Number/Registration Number which cannot be identified, is liable to be rejected. No candidate shall write his/her name or any other identifying mark on the answer script unless otherwise authorized.
14. All calculations and rough work shall be done only on paper supplied for the examination, and shall be cancelled and attached to the answer script. Such work should not be done on any other material. Any candidate who disregards these instructions runs the risk of being considered as having written notes or outline of answers with the intention of copying.
15. Any answer or part of an answer, which is not to be considered for the purpose of assessment, shall be neatly crossed out. If the same question has been attempted in more than one place the answer or answers that are not to be considered shall be neatly crossed out.
16. Candidates are under the authority of the supervisor and shall assist him/her by carrying out his/her instructions and those of the Invigilator during the examination and immediately before and after it.
17. Every candidate shall conduct himself/herself in the examination hall and its precincts as not to cause disturbance or inconvenience to the supervisor or his staff or to other candidates. In entering and leaving the hall, he/she shall conduct himself/herself as quietly as possible. A candidate is liable to be excluded from the examination hall for disorderly conduct.

18. Candidates shall stop work promptly when ordered by the Supervisor/Invigilator to do so.
19. Absolute silence shall be maintained in the examination hall and its precincts. A candidate is not permitted for any reason whatsoever to communicate or to have any dealings with any person other than the Supervisor/Invigilator. The attention of the Supervisor/Invigilator shall be drawn by the candidate by raising his/her hand from where he/she is seated.
20. During the course of answering a question paper no candidate shall be permitted to leave the examination hall temporarily. In case of an emergency, the Supervisor/Invigilator may grant him/her permission to do so but the candidate will be under his/her surveillance.
21. No person shall impersonate a candidate at the examination, nor shall any candidate allow himself/herself to be impersonated by another person.
22. Any candidate receiving unauthorized assistance from any person shall be deemed to have committed an examination offence.
23. If circumstances arise which in the opinion of the supervisor render the cancellation or postponement of the examination necessary, he/she shall stop the examination, collect the scripts already written and then report the matter as soon as possible to the Dean of the relevant Faculty.
24. The Supervisor/Invigilator is empowered to require any candidate to make a statement in writing on any matter which may have arisen during the course of the examination and such statement shall be signed by the candidate. No candidate shall refuse to make such a statement or to sign it. If such a candidate refuses to make such a statement or refuses to sign it, the Supervisor/Invigilator shall make his own statement and report the matter to the Dean of the relevant Faculty.
25. No candidate shall contact any person other than the Vice-Chancellor, Dean, Head of the Department, the Registrar or the relevant Senior Assistant Registrar regarding any matter concerning the examination.
26. Every candidate shall hand over the answer script personally to the Supervisor/Invigilator or remain in his/her seat until it is collected. On no account shall a candidate hand over his/her answer script to an attendant, a minor employee, or another candidate.

27. Every candidate who registers for a course/course unit shall be deemed to have sat the examination of that course/course unit unless he/she withdraws from the course/course unit within the prescribed period for dropping courses/course units. He/She should submit a medical certificate in support of his/her absence, prior to the commencement of the examination. If such a document cannot be submitted before the commencement of the examination, a candidate shall inform of his/her inability to attend the examination to the Dean of the Faculty within a week after the commencement of the examination. The medical certificate shall conform to the Senate Regulations. (See Appendix I.)
28. When a candidate is unable to be present for any part/section of an examination of a course/course unit, he/she shall notify or cause to be notified this fact to the Dean of the Faculty and relevant Senior Assistant Registrar or Assistant Registrar immediately. This should be confirmed in writing with supporting documents by registered post within two weeks.
29. A student will be eligible for honours if all requirements for the award of honours are met within the prescribed period for the degree. However, candidates found guilty of an examination offence shall not be eligible for honours.
30. No student shall sit an examination of a course/course unit, if he/she has exhausted the number of attempts that he/she is allowed to sit that particular examination, unless he/she has been granted special permission to do so by the Dean of the relevant Faculty.

31.1.2 Part II – Examination Offences and Punishments

1. Offences

- 1.1 Any candidate who violates Examination Rule 6 shall be deemed guilty of the offence of possession of unauthorized documents/items and his/her candidature for the examinations of that semester shall be cancelled and he/she shall be prohibited from sitting any examination of this university for a period varying from 1 - 5 semesters.
- 1.2 Any candidate who violates Examination Rule 8 or 9 shall be deemed guilty of the offence of copying and therefore his/her candidature shall be cancelled from the examinations of that semester and he/she, shall be prohibited from sitting any examination of this university for a period of five semesters.
- 1.3 Any candidate who violates Examination Rule 10 shall be deemed guilty of the offence of having cheated at the examination and his/her candidature for the examinations of that semester shall be cancelled and he/she shall be prohibited from sitting any examination of this university for period varying from 1 - 9 semesters.
- 1.4 Any candidate who is detected removing examination stationery and other material provided for the examination (Rule 12) shall be deemed guilty of an examination offence and his/her candidature for the examinations of that semester shall be cancelled and he/she shall be liable to be prohibited from sitting any examination of the university for a period of three semesters.
- 1.5 Any candidate who violates any one or more of the rules in 7, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 shall be deemed guilty of the offence of disorderly conduct and his/her candidature shall be cancelled from the examinations of that semester and he/she shall be prohibited from sitting any examination of this university for a period of three semesters.
- 1.6 Any candidate who violates Examination Rule 21 shall be guilty of the offence of impersonation and his/her candidature for the examinations of that semester shall be cancelled and he/she shall be prohibited from sitting any examination of this university.

Impersonator/s may also be liable to any punishment under the Penal Code/Criminal Law. In the event the impersonator is found to be a graduate of this university, his/her degree shall be withdrawn.

- 1.7 Any candidate who violates Examination Rule 22 shall be guilty of an examination offence and his/her candidature for the examinations of that semester shall be cancelled and he/she shall be prohibited from sitting any examination of this university for a period of 1 - 5 semesters.
- 1.8 Any candidate found aiding and abetting in the commission of any of the above examination offences shall be deemed to have committed that offence and shall be punished in respect of the offence in accordance with the provisions of the relevant section.
- 1.9 Any other offence which is not covered in the above sections alleged to have been committed by a candidate and reported to the relevant authority by a supervisor or examiner shall be inquired into and appropriate action taken.

31.1.3 Part III - Procedure Regarding Examination Offences Committed by Candidates

1. There shall be an Examination Disciplinary Committee of not less than 3 members of whom at least one member is from outside the Faculty, appointed for each case by the Dean of the relevant Faculty to inquire into and make recommendations (including punishments) on examination offences referred to it. Member(s) outside the Faculty shall be selected from a panel of members appointed for this purpose by the Vice-Chancellor.

2. Classification of Offences

Examination offences may be broadly classified as follows:

- 2.1 Possession of unauthorized documents/items
- 2.2 Copying
- 2.3 Cheating
- 2.4 Removal of stationery
- 2.5 Disorderly conduct
- 2.6 Impersonation
- 2.7 Unauthorized assistance
- 2.8 Aiding and abetting in the commission of above offences
- 2.9 Other offences.

3. **Punishments**
(As specified in Part II-1.1-1.9)
4. **Procedure**
 - 4.1 In all cases of violation of examination rules detected, the supervisor shall take action as outlined below and forward his/her report to the relevant Dean/Senior Assistant Registrar or Assistant Registrar
 - 4.2 In cases of disorderly conduct the supervisor shall in the first instance warn the candidate to be of good behaviour. Disorderly conduct shall be considered grave, only if such conduct in the opinion of the supervisor is considered as causing a disturbance in the conduct of the examination. Where the candidate persists in unruly or disorderly conduct, the supervisor may exclude the candidate from the examination hall and issue him a letter with a copy to the relevant Dean/Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar, cancelling his/her candidature from the examination.
 - 4.3 In all cases of examination offences detected, the supervisor shall send a report to the relevant Dean along with any material taken into custody. Material taken into custody should be authenticated by placing the signatures of the candidate and the Supervisor/Invigilator and the date, time and place of detection. A supervisor should give particulars of any incriminating material of which he/she cannot take possession. The Supervisor's report should be countersigned by one of the Invigilators.
 - 4.4 The Dean after preliminary inquiry shall place all reports of examination offences submitted by supervisors for action of the relevant Examination Disciplinary Committee for further action.
 - 4.5 Supervisor, Examiner, Head of Department or any other official of the University who detects an examination offence shall report the matter in writing to the relevant Dean, who shall after preliminary inquiry submit his findings to the relevant Examination Disciplinary Committee for further action.
 - 4.6 Any allegations regarding the commission of examination offences from whosoever received shall be submitted by the Dean after preliminary inquiry to the relevant Examination Disciplinary Committee for further action.

5. The Decision

- 5.1 The punishment recommended by the Examination Disciplinary Committee shall be submitted to the relevant Faculty Board for a decision and the decision shall be reported to the Senate for ratification.

Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar of the relevant Faculty shall be the Convener/Secretary of the inquiring committee on examination offences.

6. Appeals Board

- 6.1 There shall be an Appeals Board, consisting of three members, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to consider appeals regarding the decision referred to in 5.1 above. Any student on whom a punishment has been imposed may, within a period of two weeks from the date of communication to him/her of such punishment, appeal against such punishment to the Vice-Chancellor.

- 6.2 The Appeals Committee shall have the power to review the decision referred to in 5.1 regarding the punishment imposed and may either affirm, vary as deem necessary or set aside the decision regarding the punishment.

7. Postgraduate Institutes

- 7.1 In the case of Postgraduate Institutes, the functions of the Dean and the Faculty Board with regard to these regulations shall be performed respectively by the Director and the Coordinating Committee of the relevant Institute.

31.1.4 Appendix I - Procedure Approved by the University of Peradeniya for the Acceptance of Medical Certificates Submitted by Students for Work and Examinations

1. Students are requested to support the absence from course work or examination due to illness by a valid medical certificate conforming to the format of a medical certificate issued by a government hospital. Such medical certificate should be obtained from the following persons:

University Medical Officer (UMO)

District Medical Officer

Consultant Specialist in the particular field

Head of a Government Base Hospital

Medical Superintendent of a Provincial Ayurvedic Government Hospital

Ayurvedic Physician registered in the Council

Under exceptional circumstances, medical certificates issued by private hospitals or registered private practitioners could be considered by the University Medical Board.

2. Students who fall ill during sessions or examination time should contact the University Medical Officer at the University Health Centre immediately.

If a student falls sick at home or elsewhere during sessions or examination time he/she or his/her guardian should inform the Dean of the respective Faculty within seven (7) days by telegram/fax/e-mail followed by a letter indicating the nature of the illness and the name of the attending doctor, etc. A medical certificate supporting the illness of the student also should be sent to the Dean.

Under exceptional circumstances if a student was not able to meet the deadline mentioned above, he/she could send his/her appeal to the relevant Faculty Board.

The Dean on receipt of such medical certificate/s should follow the following procedure:

- i. In case of Western Medical Certificates submitted by students to cover absence from course work or examination:
 - a. The medical certificate should be referred to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the University for his/her observations and recommendations.
 - b. The CMO in turn examines the certificate and if he/she wishes could summon the student for examination and thereafter send his/her observations and recommendations to the Dean.
 - c. In cases where the CMO wishes to convene the Western Medical Board he/she may make arrangements to convene the Western Medical Board and refer the recommendations of the Board to the Dean.
 - d. The Dean on receipt of such recommendations from the CMO or Western Medical Board should send it to the Faculty Board for ratification.
- ii. In the case of Ayurvedic Medical Certificates submitted by students to cover absence from course work or examinations, the following procedure should be followed:

- a. Ayurvedic medical certificates submitted by student in respect of absence from examinations or course work should be circulated among the members of the Ayurvedic Medical Board for their observations by the Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar in charge of student registration of each Faculty in consultation with the Deans of the respective Faculties.
 - b. Each member of the Ayurvedic Medical Board may send his/her observations and recommendations on the face of the medical certificate to the Dean of the respective Faculty through the Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar of the Faculty;
 - c. In cases where the opinions of the members of the Ayurvedic Medical Board vary, the Senior Assistant Registrar or Assistant Registrar of the Faculty in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty may take steps to convene a meeting of the Ayurvedic Medical Board.
 - d. If the members of the Ayurvedic Medical Board think that the medical certificates should be examined at a meeting of the Board, the Dean of the Faculty should be informed accordingly.
 - e. If the members wish to examine the students concerned, they could be summoned before the Medical Board through the Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar of the Faculty.
 - f. The recommendation of the Ayurvedic Medical Board should be sent to the Faculty Board through the Dean of the Faculty for ratification.
 - g. The original copies of the Ayurvedic Medical Certificate submitted by students should be kept in the files of the students concerned and copies of such certificates should be sent to the Chief Medical Officer for purposes of record.
3. There shall be two Medical Boards in the University, viz., Western Medical Board and Ayurvedic Medical Board.

i. Western Medical Board

Terms of Reference

- a. The Western Medical Board shall consider cases where the Chief Medical Officer of the University has doubt about the validity of the grounds (including medical certificate) upon which the request of students to be excused for absence from course work of examinations.
- b. The Chief Medical Officer of the University shall convene the Western Medical Board if and when necessary.

- c. The Board has the right to call students before the Board when necessary for purposes of interview, examination and investigations.
- d. Recommendations of the Medical Board should be sent to the Faculty Board through the Dean of the respective Faculty.
- e. The Western Medical Board should consist of the Heads of the Departments of Medicine, Surgery and Psychiatry of the Faculty of Medicine or their nominees and the CMO of the University.

ii. **Ayurvedic Medical Board**

Composition

The Ayurvedic Medical Board shall consist of three (3) persons appointed by the Senate of the University.

Terms of Reference

- a. The Ayurvedic Medical Board shall consider Ayurvedic Medical Certificates submitted by students requesting exemption from examinations or course work and make recommendations to the Senate through the Deans of the respective Faculties.
- b. The Board shall meet at least once within a semester. The Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar in charge of student registration in consultation with the Dean of the respective Faculty shall convene meetings of the Ayurvedic Medical Board whenever necessary and co-ordinate the work between the Faculty and the Ayurvedic Medical Board.
- c. The Board has the right to call students before the Board when necessary for purposes of interviews, examination and investigations. Such requests should be sent to the students through the Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar in charge of student registration of each Faculty.

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Ayurvedic Medical Board

- a. When accepting Ayurvedic Medical Certificates, caution is to be exercised by accepting from only those who are registered in the Ayurvedic Medical Council.
- b. General or special registered Ayurvedic Medical Practitioners could recommend, on any one occasion, leave up to 14 days at a stretch. Those with more than the above amount should get an endorsement from the Medical Officer in charge of the closest Government Ayurvedic Hospital or Government Ayurvedic Dispensary.

- c. The decision on leave stipulated in Medical Certificates from Ayurvedic Hospitals, Government Dispensaries or Local Government Ayurvedic Dispensaries rests with the Board.
 - d. This Board possesses the right to question the validity of any Ayurvedic Medical Certificate.
 - e. The Board possesses the right to summon before them any student submitting an Ayurvedic Medical Certificate, if necessary.
4. When students request exemption from examinations or course work upon the basis of illness, the ultimate decision on the question of exemption, repetition of course and of eligibility for honours, shall be the functions of the relevant Faculty Board upon the recommendation of the Medical Board or the Chief Medical Officer.