

**MDCAT Syllabus & Table of Specifications (TOS) Conference**  
**(12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020)**  
**Pakistan Medical Commission Secretariat, Islamabad**

A Conference was called from 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), Secretariat, Islamabad regarding MDCAT Syllabus & Table of Specifications (TOS) Conference. The conference started with recitation of the Holy Quran.

The President PMC in Chair, welcomed all members.

Following have attended the Conference:

S #	Name
1.	<b>Dr. Arshad Taqi</b> President Medical & Dental Council
2.	<b>Maj. Gen.(R) Saleem Ahmad</b> Pro-Vice Chancellor, National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), Rawalpindi
3.	<b>Prof. Dr. Junaid Sarfraz Khan</b> Registrar, NUMS, Rawalpindi
4.	<b>Prof. Dr. Tanveer Khaliq</b> Vice Chancellor, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), Islamabad
5.	<b>Dr. Fouzia Sultan</b> Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), Islamabad
6.	<b>Mr. Anayat</b> Manager Reg. NUMS, Rawalpindi
7.	<b>Dr. Naveed Yousuf</b> Director, IBCC, Islamabad
8.	<b>Prof. Dr. Saqib Mehmood</b> University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore
9.	<b>Dr. Allah Rakha</b> UHS, Lahore
10.	<b>Mr. Tahir Ayub</b> Deputy Director Academics, Khyber Medical University, Peshawar
11.	<b>Dr. Asim Ali Shah</b> Director ETEA, Peshawar
12.	<b>Prof. Yousaf Khan</b> Prof. of Chemistry, ETEA, Peshawar
13.	<b>Mr. M. Murtaza Khan</b> ETEA, Peshawar
14.	<b>Dr. Nabiha Farasat</b> Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta



Paper Setting Committee Meeting held on 12-14 October, 2020.

Day 1

- The chairperson opened the meeting and explained the objectives of calling this meeting, which included
  1. To assess the course content for MDCAT conducted by NUMS and identify topics that are not included in the curricula of the testing bodies in the Provinces and Capital
  2. To agree on the difficulty level of the exam and weightage of individual subjects
  3. To agree on the table of contents
- Gen. Saleem informed the participants that NUMS had recently conducted entrance exams for admission into their affiliated medical colleges. He apprised the participants on the process followed to ensure their course content was aligned with the contents of all Intermediate and Secondary Boards and provincial and federal examining bodies.
- Registrar NUMS explained the structure of the test conducted by the test
- In response to request for comments from the chair, representatives from ETEA, UHS and IBCC agreed that the course content and difficulty levels representative of a common national curriculum.
- Representative from Balochistan needed to request the vice chancellor Bolan University to seek advice from respective subject specialists
- Dr. Naveed Yousaf, on behalf of IBCC undertook to get the syllabus scrutinized by subject specialists in IBCC
- It was agreed that the group will meet during next 2 days with the following agenda
  - Agree on the difficulty level and weightage of individual subjects in the test on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October
  - Discuss and finalize the table of contents on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October
- It was also agreed that each province will, if needed seek the advice of their subject specialists

Day 2

- Dr. Saqib Mahmood conveyed a message from Vice Chancellor UHS that the university no longer represented the provincial government as the testing body for admissions into medical colleges in the province and they had not received any instructions from the provincial government to get the curriculum of MDCAT scrutinized by their subject specialists. They will participate in this meeting informally and give their input in light of their previous experience in holding these exams.
- Dr. Naveed Yousaf, on behalf of IBCC informed that their subject experts are going through the syllabus proposed by NUMS, their response was expected within a day.
- After a brief discussion there was agreement on the weightage of four subjects included in the test (Annexure 1).



- There was a discussion on the difficulty index, there was a proposal to announce the cutoff after the results had been compiled. The committee was informed that cutoff has already been announced. It was agreed that test items will be categorized into Easy, Moderate and Hard instead of the 5 categories proposed earlier (Annexure 2).
- Cognitive level of the test items was agreed (Annexure 3).

### Day 3

- Dr. Naveed Yousaf informed that subject specialists in IBCC have confirmed that the syllabus proposed by NUMS is aligned with common curriculum of all four provinces. He promised to issue a letter of confirmation from IBCC to this effect.
- Dr. Nabih Farasat informed the committee that a report on scrutiny of the syllabus by content experts is expected in a day or two
- Gen. Saleem informed the committee that NUMS will finalize the table of specifications in accordance with the recommendations of all participants and mail the document to PMC on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 for approval by the Council.

### Annexure-1

Total MCQs : 200			
S #	Subject	Weightage	
		Percentage	Questions
1	Biology	40	80
2	Chemistry	30	60
3	Physics	20	40
4	English	10	20
Total		100	200

### Annexure-2

Difficulty Index (%)	
Easy	30
Moderate	50
Hard	20

### Annexure-3

In Biology, Chemistry and Physics sections 70% questions will be recall (C 1) and 30% at understanding level (C 2).



(SECRETARY)  
Pakistan Medical Commission