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Course: Pharmacy (MPharm)

Currently on my course we do 5 modules, four of which are test on. These are:

- Biochemical Basis of Therapeutics (BBT) - basically a lot of biology
- Chemistry of Drugs (COD) - Chemistry which includes a lot of mechanisms
- Physical Pharmaceutics (PP) - Physics, however a substantial amount of A-Level Maths
- Pharmacy Practice and Biopharmacy (PPB) - Mixture of biology, maths and skills.

All students have a chemistry a-level and at least one of biology, physics or maths (some have even done all - how painful).

Some students, including me, who did not take either a-level physics or maths will find it difficult at first, however the first few months or so are used to get everyone up to the same level.

The course is a combination of lectures, practicals, workshops and tutorials. The practicals are when we do experiments, and the write up report is considered coursework. Coursework counts as 40% of that module.

Workshops are used to go over specific topics in depth and to groups of students compared to everyone at once. This allows us to ask questions, get some help and is a more interactive way of learning.

Tutorials are similar, but the groups are even smaller, and gives the opportunity to go over anything the class needs, and to go over practice questions.

Topics within each module:

BBT:

- Proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acids, enzymes, cellular metabolism, membrane transport, cell structure, cell physiology, human anatomy and pharmacology.

COD:

- Chemical structure and bonding, electronic effects, stereochemistry, metals in biology, acids and bases, nitrogen containing compounds, electrophilic addition, electrophilic substitution, nucleophilic substitution, Elimination, nucleophilic addition, addition-elimination, redox. spectroscopy and pharmaceutical analysis.

PP:

- Interatomic interactions, thermodynamics, surface and interfacial phenomena, electrolytes, dissolution diffusion and absorption, adsorption, polymers in pharmacy, micelles, emulsions, colloids and gels, creams, suspensions and rheology
(Also get a monthly online math quiz)

PPB:

- clinical pharmacy, pharmacy law and ethics, social and behavioural science, foundations of clinical practice, pharmaceutical calculations, pharmacokinetic principles, drug metabolism and biopharmaceutics

We get two practice COD tests, one in January and one in March, these count as coursework. Also one PP test at the end of February and a OSCE test which comes under PPB.

Attached is a picture showing a COD question with its answer, this is just an example of what could come up in the May exam in section B.

All exams consist of three sections. Section A is a multiple choice, however it is negatively marked, so for every three incorrect answers you are deducted one mark - this section exams breadth of knowledge.

Section B you are given the choice to answer 6 out of 8 questions, each are 5 marks, this section exams depth of knowledge.

Section C you are given the choice to answer 2 out of 4 questions, each question holds 20 marks, this can be an essay style question. This exams further depth in knowledge.

