



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dr Peter Simpson
Chemistry
School of Biomedical & Chemical Sciences
Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009

Telephone: (08) 6488 3178
Facsimile: (08) 6488 1005
Email: pgs@chem.uwa.edu.au

Tuesday 8 June 2004

Dr Mark D Cregan
Lecturer
Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences Offshore Programmes Coordinator

Dear Mark

I am replying to your letter of 3 June in which you ask for comments on the PSB Corporation pre-degree programmes in Chemistry and Biological Chemistry.

From the material you forwarded I assess that the courses offered are significantly above the standard of TEE Chemistry in Western Australia. They would be more akin to a UK "A" Level than to our Year 12. Students who had completed and passed these two courses should be well prepared for the highest level offerings in the Chemistry Discipline in first year at The University of Western Australia. They would be missing a small amount of factual detail about WA industrial processes, but their background in theoretical and practical chemistry would be impressive.

I have some minor concerns:

- *the use of so-called molecular equations is antiquated.
- *the written part of the examination in Chemistry only counts for 30%. In an Australian context, the opportunity to multi-guess 70% of the paper I regard as a poor motivator. [Singapore students are however probably more conscientious than Australian students.]
- * although the index listed a sample examination paper in Biological Chemistry, no sample paper was included in the file.

Overall however I have no hesitation in recommending these courses as suitable pre-requisites in lieu of WA TEE Chemistry.

Yours sincerely

New South Wales Leaving Certificate Examination: Chief Examiner in Combined Physics and Chemistry (1966)

Sydney University Matriculation Examination: Examiner in the Chemistry Section of Combined Physics and Chemistry (1966, 1967)

Sydney University Matriculation Examination: Examiner in the Chemistry Section of Science Level 3 (1968-1970)

WA Leaving Certificate Examination: Chief Examiner in Chemistry — Leaving Level (1972-1974)

Member of the WA Secondary Education Authority Chemistry Syllabus Committee (1989-1990)

WA Tertiary Entrance Examination: Member of the Examining Panel in Chemistry (1992)

WA Tertiary Entrance Examination: Chief Examiner in Chemistry (1993-1997)