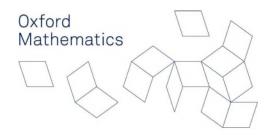# FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY
PART B 2025

First Notice to Candidates

This circular contains information about:

- the format of papers in Part B;
- classification conventions and marking schemes;
- the use of calculators and statistical tables.

The full regulations for the Part B examination are contained in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Full particulars about the syllabus and other information can be found on the Mathematical Institute's website: https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/undergraduate-courses

The timetable for the examination will be set by the Examination Schools and will be made available to you through Student Self Service. Timetabling is an extremely complicated process and once the timetable is published it cannot be changed. If you are unable to take a paper at the stipulated time for a religious or other compelling reason, you should ask your college to make the appropriate application on your behalf. Please do not ask the examiners; they do not have authority to act on such matters.

Notices concerning coursework submission, extended essay submission and penalties for late submission have been issued separately.

A Second Notice will be sent out later with information about practical arrangements in the Examination Schools, including use of candidate numbers, handing in of scripts, and so on.

Professor Ben Green
Chair of Part B Examiners
February 2025

FHS 2025 Mathematics and Philosophy Part B

The formal procedures determining the conduct of University examinations are established and enforced by the Proctors.

The Examiners are nominated by the Nominating Committees in the Mathematical Institute and the Faculty of Philosophy and these nominations are submitted for approval by the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors. Formally, the Examiners are independent of the Mathematical Institute and the Faculty of Philosophy, and of those who lecture courses. However, the Examiners are expected to consult with course lecturers in the process of setting questions.

It must be stressed that to preserve the independence of the Examiners, candidates are not allowed to make contact directly about matters relating to the content or marking of papers. Any communication must be via the Senior Tutor of your college, who will, if they deem the matter of importance, contact the Proctors. The Proctors in turn communicate with the Chair of Examiners.

Classification Conventions and Marking Schemes

The Part B Examination Conventions are available online at:

https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/undergraduate-courses/examinations-assessments/examination-conventions.

The conventions are a guide to the Examiners and candidates, but the regulations set out in the Examination Regulations have precedence. The Examiners normally adhere to the published examination conventions, subject to the guidance of the appointed external Examiners, and other bodies such as the Joint Committee for Mathematics and Philosophy, the Mathematical Institute, the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the Humanities Division, the University's Education Committee and the Proctors.

Format of Examination Papers

Mathematics Papers
Schedule 1 (B1.1, B1.2, B2.1, B2.2, B2.3, B3.1, B3.2, B3.3, B3.4, B3.5, B4.1, B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B8.1, B8.2, B8.4, B8.5, B8.6, SB3.1)
These are unit papers, containing three questions. Each question is marked out of 25. A unit paper lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes, and the rubric states "You may submit answers to as many questions as you wish but only the best two will count for the total mark".

Schedule 2 (BOE, BO1.1, Lambda Calculus and Types, Computational Complexity, Combinatorial Optimisation)
For the courses below where coursework is a part of the assessment, candidates are asked to refer to the separate notice regarding the submission deadlines and penalties for late submission.

BOE Other Extended Essay in Mathematics (double unit)
USM marks will be assigned to extended essays with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics papers and are assessed independently by two assessors appointed by the Examiners. In arriving at these marks, the relative weights attached to content, mathematics and presentation will be 25%, 50% and 25%, respectively.

BSP Structured Projects (double unit)
Candidates will be assessed on their written project, oral presentation and peer review. The weightings for these three components are 75%, 15%, 10%, respectively. For the written projects the weighting will be further divided between general explanation and discussion of the problem (50% of available marks) and mathematical calculations and commentary (50% of available marks).

BO1.1 History of Mathematics (double unit)

The written examination will last two hours. It will have two sections: A (Extracts) with six questions and B (Essays) with three questions. Candidates will be expected to attempt two questions from Section A and one from Section B. The reading course mini-project will consist of an essay of 3000 words; essay topics set by the examiners will be released to the candidates in Week 7 of Hilary Term.

The assessment will use the following weighting principles:

a. A USM will be reported for the written paper and for the mini-project. The written paper and mini-project will each be given a weight of one unit when calculating a candidate's weighted overall average for Part B.

b. For the project, marks will be awarded for mathematical content, historical content, and presentation.

c. The extracts questions in Section A of the written paper will attract marks for treatment of context, content and significance.

d. The Section B essay will be marked using the same categories as the project.

OCS1, OCS2, OCS3, OCS4 (unit)

These are 2-hour examinations, with three questions. Candidates may answer up to 2 questions. Each question is marked out of 25. The USMs for these papers are awarded by the Computer Science Examiners. Candidates are advised to consult the Computer Science Course Handbook for further details regarding these courses.

Philosophy Papers

Aside of the thesis and some special subjects under 198, each Philosophy subject is examined in a three-hour examination. In all but two papers, candidates are required to answer three questions. The exceptions are papers 115 Plato's *Republic*, and 116 Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, for which candidates are required to answer three essay questions plus a 'passages for comment' question.

Regulations and conventions to note in Philosophy

As above, the regulations and conventions for the Part B examination are set out in the Examination Regulations and the Examination Conventions. The Examiners would like to draw candidates' attention to the following regulations and conventions governing Philosophy Papers:

Short weight

If fewer than the required number of questions are answered ('short weight'), the maximum achievable mark is lowered by the proportion of the paper missing. For example, in a paper requiring three answers where a candidate has answered only two, the maximum achievable mark, i.e. if both answers were marked 100, is 67. If both answers were marked 70, the mark for the paper would be 47.

Rubric failure

If a candidate fails to obey a rubric expressing a condition stipulated in the Examination Regulations, the Examiners may reduce the overall mark. For example, the rubric for 101: Early Modern Philosophy requires candidates to answer three questions, with at least one question from Section A (including questions on Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz) and at least one question from Section B (including questions on Locke, Berkeley and Hume). A candidate who answers *three* questions from Section A (and *none* from Section B) is liable to be judged to have disobeyed the rubric and have only the best two answers from Section A counted towards the overall mark.

Repetition

Candidates should avoid any substantial repetition of material between different examinations. Failure to do so may result in a substantial deduction of marks.

Philosophy course work

Philosophy Theses: The deadline for submission of Philosophy theses is 12 noon on 19th April 2024 (Friday of 0th week of Trinity Term), at the Examination Schools. Candidates are required to submit two copies of their thesis.   For regulations concerning length and format of theses and other matters, see https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=piahsinclphil

Plagiarism: In all submitted work candidates must avoid plagiarism, whether deliberate or accidental. Passages quoted or closely paraphrased from another person's work must be clearly identified as quotations or paraphrases, and the source of the material must be clearly acknowledged. Failure to set a high standard in this respect could lead to a charge of plagiarism, with serious disciplinary consequences. Equally, if a student summarises another person's ideas, judgements, calculations, or diagrams, reference to that person and the source should be in the text and the source included in the bibliography.

Certificate that submitted work is the student's own: The regulations specify that every candidate submitting a Philosophy thesis or essay shall sign a certificate to the effect that the thesis is his or her own work and the tutor shall countersign the certificate confirming, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that this is so.

Late submission or failure to submit: For information on penalties for late submission, or failure to submit, assessed work see section 6 (pp. 3) of the *Examination Conventions 2023-24*

Calculators and Statistical Tables

Calculators will not be permitted on the Mathematics papers, nor on most Statistics papers.

Calculators will be permitted for SB1 only, and will not be permitted for other Statistics papers.

For paper SB1 only, basic scientific calculators which have features such as exp and log, but which are non-programmable, will be allowed. For these papers any of the following will be permitted:

Casio fx-83 series,
Casio fx-85 series,
Sharp EL-531 series.

Candidates should note that no calculators will be made available in the examination room.

New Cambridge Elementary Statistical Tables will be provided for use with paper SB1. These tables will be available for inspection from reception at the Department of Statistics between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any weekday in Week 4 of Trinity Term or can be accessed online following the instructions given on the Canvas site:
https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/167098/modules#module_306703