

Examiners' Report: FHS Mathematics and Philosophy Part A; Trinity Term 2015

October 27, 2015

Part I

A Statistics

- **Numbers and percentages in each class.**

See Table 1, page 1.

Table 1: Numbers in each class

Range	Numbers					Percentages %				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
70–100	4	4	6	5	7	26.67	25	37.5	27.78	31.81
60–69	8	10	4	6	11	53.33	62.5	25	33.33	50
50–59	1	1	3	6	4	6.67	6.25	18.75	33.33	18.19
40–49	1	1	3	1	0	6.67	6.25	18.75	5.56	0
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	1	0	0	0	0	6.67	0	0	0	0
Total	15	16	16	18	22	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

- **Numbers of vivas and effects of vivas on classes of result.**

Not applicable.

- **Marking of scripts.**

The same system of checking was used as in all parts of FHS Mathematics. There are no Philosophy papers in FHS Part A in Mathematics & Philosophy.

- **Numbers taking each paper.**

See table 4 on page 5

B. New examining methods and procedures

The new Part A examination structure was introduced in 2013/14.

C. Changes in examining methods and procedures currently under discussion or contemplated for the future

The FHS Mathematics Part A paper A1 will be split from 2016. Algebra 1 will be examined in paper A0 and Differential Equations 1 will be examined in paper A1. This means it will no longer be necessary to have a separate paper A1(CP) for the joint schools, as the full cohort will take A0.

D. Notice of examination conventions for candidates

The first Notice to Candidates was issued on 3rd March 2015 and the second notice on the 12th May 2015.

These can be found at <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/undergraduate-courses/ba-master-mathematics/examinations-assessments/examination-20>, and contain details of the examinations and assessments. The course Handbook contains the web link to the full examination conventions and all candidates are issued with this at Induction in their first year.

All notices and examination conventions are on-line at <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/undergraduate-courses/examinations-assessments/examination-conventions>.

1 Part II

A. General Comments on the Examination

The examiners would like to express their gratitude to

- Nia Roderick for her dedicated work supporting Part A examinations throughout the academic year 2014/15.
- Also Helen Lowe for running the database during the final meeting and for assisting the Chair with various enquiries during the year.
- Waldemar Schlackow for his further improvements generating reports from the examination database.
- Charlotte Turner-Smith and Academic Administration in general all help behind the scenes too with script sorting/marks entry etc..
- We also thank the assessors who set their questions promptly, took care in checking and marking them, and met their deadlines. This is invaluable help for the work of the examiners.
- All the assessors and the internal examiners would like to thank the external examiner Dr. Mark Wildon for his careful reading of the draft papers, thorough scrutiny of the scripts and insightful comments throughout the year. In particular Dr Wildon's support for the Part A Examination as it transitioned to its new format over the last three years is greatly appreciated.

Timetable

The examinations began on Wednesday 17th June at 9.30am and ended on Thursday 25th June at 11.00am.

Medical certificates and other special circumstances

A sub-set of the Examiners attended a pre-board meeting to band the seriousness of circumstances for each application of factors affecting performance received from the Proctors' office. The outcome of this meeting was relayed to the Examiners at the final exam board, who gave careful regard to each case, scrutinised the relevant candidates' marks and agreed actions as appropriate. See Section E for further detail.

Determination of University Standardised Marks

For the papers that are common with Mathematics, the examiners followed the standard procedure for converting raw marks to University Standardized Marks (USM), and used the same scaling functions as applied for candidates in Mathematics. For the Paper A1(CP) the examiners chose the values of the parameters as listed in Table 2 guided by the advice from the Teaching Committee and by examining individuals on each paper around the borderlines. These are the same as those for the Mathematics candidates, apart from the C1 parameters.

Table 2: Parameter Values

Paper	C1	C2	C3
A1(CP)	38.5	28.7	16.5

B. Equal opportunities issues and breakdown of the results by gender

Table 3, page 4 shows the performances of candidates broken down by gender.

Table 3: Breakdown of results by gender

Range	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
70–100	4	26.67	4	30.77	0	0
60–69	8	53.33	7	53.85	1	50
50–59	1	6.67	0	0	1	50
40–49	1	6.67	1	7.69	0	0
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	1	6.67	1	7.69	0	0
Total	15	100	13	100	2	100

C. Detailed numbers on candidates' performance in each part of the exam

Table 4 on pages 5 gives the statistics for each paper of the examination.

Table 4: Overall statistics for each paper

Paper	Candidates	average Raw	sdRaw	average USM	sdUSM
A1(CP)	15	31.07	11.12	60.47	19.66
A2	15	60.33	21.87	65.8	16.79
A3	9	30.33	8.2	65.78	7.81
A4	3	-	-	-	-
A5	13	32.31	8.05	61.69	12.16
A8	2	-	-	-	-
ASO	3	-	-	-	-

D. Comments on papers and individual questions

There are no questions specific to Mathematics and Philosophy. Comments on all papers are made in the report on the Mathematics Part A examination.

E. Comments on performance of identifiable individuals

Removed from the public version of the report.

F. Names of members of the Board of Examiners

Dr R. Earl (Chair), Prof. C. Douglas, Dr R. Knight, Prof. S. Waters, Dr M. Wildon (External Examiner).

Assessors: Dr J. Balakrishnan, Prof. A. Dancer, Dr A. Hodges, Prof. J. Martin, Prof. C. McDiarmid, Prof. K. McGerty, Prof P. Papazoglou, Prof. Z. Qian.