

Examiners' Report:
FHS Mathematics and Philosophy Part A
Michaelmas Term 2020

March 3, 2021

Part I

A Statistics

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

See Table 1, page 1.

Table 1: Numbers in each class

Range	Numbers					Percentages %				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
70–100	5	4	0	4	6	29.41	26.67	0	30.77	46.15
60–69	7	4	11	4	6	41.18	26.67	73.33	30.77	46.15
50–59	5	6	4	5	1	29.41	40	26.67	38.46	7.69
40–49	0	1	0	0	0	0	6.67	0	0	0
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	17	15	15	13	13	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 3 on page 4

B. New examining methods and procedures

In light of Covid 19, the department took steps to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. This included changing the examinations to an open-book versions of the standard exam papers and delaying Part A examinations so that they took place in Michaelmas term 2020. An additional 30 minutes (with the exception of A2 which had 1 hour) was added on to the exam duration to allow candidate the technical time to download and submit their examination papers via Weblearn.

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

Due to the uncertainty with the pandemic, the department decided that exams will be taken online for Trinity Term 2021.

D. Notice of examination conventions for candidates

The first notice to candidates was issued on 26th February 2020 and the second notice on the 8th September 2020.

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 are very grateful to Nicole Collins, Waldemar Schlackow, Charlotte Turner-Smith, Elle Styler and the rest of the academic administration team in the Mathematical Institute for their enormous help at all stages in the conduct of this examination. We are grateful also to examiners and assessors in Mathematics who set papers and marked scripts and essays of candidates in this examination.

The internal examiners are grateful to the external examiners Prof. Prof Jelena Grbic and Prof Demetrios Papageorgiou for generously performing their special roles in this process.

Timetable

The examinations began on Monday 5th October and ended on Friday 16th October.

Mitigating Circumstances Notices to Examiners

A sub-set of the Examiners (the ‘Mitigating Circumstances Panel’) attended a pre-board meeting to band the seriousness of the individual notices. 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.

Recommendations for Next Year’s Examiners and Teaching Committee

There are no recommendations specific to Mathematics & Philosophy. General recommendations are made in the report on the Mathematics Part A examination.

B. Equality and Diversity issues and breakdown of the results by gender

Table 2 on page 4 shows percentages of male and female candidates for each class of the degree.

Table 2: Breakdown of results by gender

Class	Number								
	2020			2019			2018		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
70–100	1	4	5	1	3	4	0	0	0
60–69	1	6	7	1	3	4	5	6	11
50–59	4	1	5	4	2	6	2	2	4
40–49	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	11	17	6	9	15	7	8	15

Class	Percentage								
	2020			2019			2018		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
70–100	16.67	36.36	26.51	16.67	33.33	26.67	0	0	0
60–69	16.67	54.55	35.61	16.67	33.33	26.67	71.43	75	73.33
50–59	66.67	9.09	37.88	66.67	22.22	40	28.57	25	26.67
40–49	0	0	0	0	11.11	6.67	0	0	0
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

Table 3 on pages 4 gives the statistics for each paper of the examination.

Table 3: Overall statistics for each paper

Paper	Candidates	average Raw	sdRaw	average USM	sdUSM
A0	17	34.29	8.11	70.12	12.94
A2	17	69.24	13.9	65.53	12.46
A3	10	40	6.96	67.6	14.18
A4	4	28.5	10.08	60.75	15.76
A5	13	37.62	7.17	65.38	14.56
A8	5	34.8	5.76	65.2	7.98
ASO	2	30.5	6.36	58.5	7.78

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. Names of members of the Board of Examiners

- **Examiners:**

Prof Nikolay Nikolov (chair)
Dr Neil. Laws
Prof. Fernando Alday
Prof. Alexander Scott
Prof. Zhongmin Qian
Prof Jelena Grbic (External Examiner)
Prof Demetrios Papageorgiou (External Examiner)

- **Assessors:**

Prof. Charles Batty
Dr Joshua Bull
Prof. Ben Green
Prof Heather Harrington/Prof. Andrew Fowler
Prof. Peter Howell
Prof. Sam Howison
Prof. Philip Maini
Dr Carlo Meneghelli
Prof. Irene Moroz
Prof. Balazs Szendroi
Prof. Ulrike Tillmann
Dr Andre Henriques
Prof. Yuji Nakatsukasa
Prof. Tom Sanders
Prof. James Maynard
Prof. Marc Lackenby
Prof. Chris Beam
Adam Gal
Nils Matthes
Chris Lester
Lucie Domino
Daniel Woodhouse
Andrew Donald Mcleod