

REPORT ON EXAMINATIONS

M.Sc. in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing 2012/13

Part I

A. Statistics

(1) Numbers and percentages in each class/category

Class	Number				%			
	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
			1	0			1	0
Distinction	6	10	6	9	28.6	43.5	40	42.9
Pass	11	12	9	12	52.4	52.2	60	57.1
Fail	3	0	0	0	14.3	0	0	0
Incomplete	1	1	0	0	4.7	4.3	0	0

(2) Vivas

All candidates were examined viva voce. This year the performance varied significantly in comparison to previous years, whereby the performance ranged from poor to excellent.

(3) Marking of scripts

Examinations were given in Weeks 0 of Hilary and Trinity Terms 2013. Scripts were single-marked by assessors followed by a script check carried out by the Course Director. Finalisation of marks by the Examiners took place during an examiners' meeting in week 7 of each term. Special Topics and Case Studies were double-blind marked by assessors. In cases where marks varied over the pass/fail borderline, or the difference in marks was greater than ten, the assessors were asked to meet and reconcile their marks. All marks were approved by the examiners during a meeting held in week 7 of Hilary and Trinity Term as well as at the final examiners' meeting before releasing them to the candidates. All dissertations were read and marked by at least two examiners; marks were approved by all examiners at the final examiners' meeting.

B. New examining methods and procedures

Examiners were informed by the Proctors' Office that all results should only be released to candidates after a formal examiners' meeting, and via OSS. For this reason this year two additional examiners' meetings were introduced in Week 7 of Hilary and Trinity Term, after which examination marks and special topic marks were formally released to the candidates via OSS.

C. Changes in examining methods etc which the examiners would wish the faculty/department and the divisional board to consider

In order to allow results to be formally released to students on a regular basis, the examiners will now hold a meeting in Week 2 and Week 7 of Hilary and Trinity Term

with the intention that all examination results be released after the Week 2 meeting, and special topic results be released after the Week 7 meeting.

D. How are candidates made aware of conventions?

The conventions are posted on the course website and are included in the course handbook. The Course Director discusses these with the candidates and the candidates are reminded of this by email on several occasions during the year.

Part II

A. General comments on the examination

None.

B. Equal opportunities issues and gender breakdown

There were 14 male and 7 female candidates; 5 male candidates and 6 female candidates passed; 5 male candidates and 1 female candidate were awarded distinctions; 2 male candidates and 1 female candidate failed the course.

C. Candidates' performance in each part of the examination

This course administers examinations internally in January and April, with each student sitting between 4 papers. Each of the two sets of examinations is split into Paper A (Mathematical Modelling) and Paper B (Numerical Analysis). Both examinations went smoothly this year with a good distribution of marks between failure and distinction ranges. Performance on the Case Studies, Special Topics and dissertations also ranged from fail to distinction level.

D. Names of members of the board of examiners

Prof. E. Süli (Chair)
Prof. H. Byrne
Dr P. Dellar
Prof. J. Tanner
Prof. D. Silvester (External Examiner)