

Examiners' Report: Final Honour School of Mathematics & Philosophy Part B Trinity Term 2014

October 28, 2014

Part I

A. Statistics

- **Numbers and percentages in each class.**
See Table 1, page 1.

Table 1: Numbers in each class

	Number					Percentages %				
	2014	(2013)	(2012)	(2011)	(2010)	2014	(2013)	(2012)	(2011)	(2010)
I	7	(7)	(9)	(8)	(6)	46.67	(43.75)	(39.13)	(33.33)	(31.6)
II.1	5	(8)	(13)	(15)	(10)	33.33	(50)	(56.52)	(62.50)	(52.6)
II.2	3	(1)	(0)	(1)	(3)	20	(6.25)	(0)	(4.17)	(15.8)
III	0	(0)	(1)	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(4.35)	(0)	(0)
P	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
F	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Total	15	(16)	(23)	(24)	(19)	100	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

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

Not applicable.

- **Marking of scripts.**

All Philosophy scripts, essays and theses were double-marked, after which the two markers consult in order to agree a mark between them. If the two markers are unable after discussion to agree a mark, the mark is decided by a third examiner, within the range of the two initial marks. All Mathematics scripts were, as is the normal practice, single-marked according to carefully checked model solutions and a pre-defined marking scheme closely adhered to. A comprehensive independent checking

procedure is also followed. (See the Mathematics Part B report for details). BE extended essays and coursework for O1 History of Mathematics were blind double marked

B. New examining methods and procedures

None.

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

Following the changes to Mathematics Part A, the weightings applied to the individual Part A and B Mathematics papers will be changing. The overall weightings of Part A and Part B will remain unchanged. An extract from the examination conventions for 2014–15 is given below.

“In calculating these averages, USMs for individual papers in Mathematics are first weighted to take account of the proportion of the course examined in each subject, and then scaled so that Parts A and B are weighted in the ratio 2 : 3. This gives the following weights:

Paper A2	16
Each of Papers A1(C/P), A3, A4, A5, A8, ASO	8
Part B Mathematics unit	15

(Thus, in particular, the four Part A Mathematics papers jointly carry the same weight as 2 Part A papers in the Honour School of Mathematics, and 2/3 of the weight, 60, of four Part B units in Mathematics.)

No weighting is applied to USMs for Philosophy papers.”

D. Notice of examination conventions for candidates

The candidates were given details of the examining conventions in the notices that were sent out by the examiners.

These are available on-line at

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

Part II

A. General Comments on the Examination

The examiners are very grateful to James Knight in the Philosophy Faculty and Helen Lowe, Waldemar Schlackow and Charlotte Turner-Smith 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 Philosophy and in Mathematics who set papers and marked scripts and theses of candidates in this examination.

The internal examiners are grateful to the external examiners Prof. Richard Thomas (Mathematics) and Prof. Walter Dean (Philosophy) for generously performing their special roles in this process.

Prizes

The following prizes were awarded:

Gibbs Prize (performance in Mathematics papers): Raffael Singer, Lady Margaret Hall
 Gibbs Prize (performance in Philosophy papers): Rose Ryan Flynn, Worcester College.

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

Table 2, page 3 shows percentages of male and female candidates for each class of the degree.

Table 2: Breakdown of results by gender

Class	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
I	7	46.67	6	54.55	1	25
II.1	5	33.33	4	36.36	1	25
II.2	3	20	1	9.09	2	50
III	0	0	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	100	11	100	4	100

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

See Table 3, page 4 for the number of candidates taking each Mathematics paper, together with statistics for the raw marks (average and standard deviation), and USMs (average and standard deviation) attained on each paper by this cohort. It should be noted that the total raw marks for a unit are 50 whilst the USMs are scaled to a maximum of 100. In accordance with University guidelines, statistics are not given for papers where the number of candidates was five or fewer.

Table 3: Statistics by paper (Mathematics papers)

Paper	Number of Candidates	AvgRaw	StdevRaw	Avg USM	StdevUSM
B1a	14	32.86	8.74	64.5	12.02
B1b	15	37.53	7.7	64.73	13.63
B2a	1	-	-	-	-
B3a	1	-	-	-	-
B3b	1	-	-	-	-
B3.1a	5	-	-	-	-
B4a	4	-	-	-	-
B4b	2	-	-	-	-
B9a	8	37.5	7.67	68.12	9.67
B9b	4	-	-	-	-
B10a	1	-	-	-	-
B10.1b	1	-	-	-	-
B11a	2	-	-	-	-
B11b	8	23.75	6.54	56.62	10.27
BE Essay	1	-	-	-	-
O1	3	-	-	-	-
N1b	3	-	-	-	-

See Table 4, page 4 for the number of candidates taking each Philosophy paper, together with statistics for the USMs (average and standard deviation) attained on each paper by this cohort. In accordance with University guidelines, statistics are not given for papers where the number of candidates was five or fewer.

Table 4: Statistics by paper (Philosophy papers)

Paper	Number of Candidates	Avg USM	StDev USM
102 Knowledge and Reality	12	63.46	5.15
103 Ethics	2	-	-
104 Philosophy of Mind	1	-	-
107 Philosophy of Religion	2	-	-
108 The Philosophy of Logic and Language Exam	5	-	-
109 Aesthetics and Philosophy of Criticism Exam	2	-	-
114 Theory of Politics	1	-	-
115 Plato: Republic	1	-	-
117 Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein	5	-	-
118 The Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein	1	-	-
122 Philosophy of Mathematics	15	63.87	5.48
124 Philosophy of Science	1	-	-
129 Early Modern Philosophy	3	-	-

Section D: Comments on papers and individual questions

See reports from Mathematics Examiners and from Philosophy Examiners.

E. Comments on performance of identifiable individuals and other material which would usually be treated as reserved business

Removed from the public version of the report.

F. Names of members of the Board of Examiners

Prof. Charles Batty
Prof. Walter Dean (external examiner)
Prof. Nigel Hitchin
Prof. Ofra Magidor (chair)
Prof. James Studd
Prof. Richard Thomas (external examiner)