

Examiners' Report:  
FHS Mathematics and Philosophy Part A  
Michaelmas Term 2021

January 6, 2022

**Part I**

**A Statistics**

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

See Table 1, page 1.

Table 1: Numbers in each class

Range	Numbers					Percentages %				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
70–100	4	5	4	0	4	25	29.41	26.67	0	30.77
60–69	9	7	4	11	4	56.25	41.18	26.67	73.33	30.77
50–59	2	5	6	4	5	12.5	29.41	40	26.67	38.46
40–49	1	0	1	0	0	6.25	0	6.67	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	16	17	15	15	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 the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the University changed the examinations to an open-book format and rolled out a new online examinations platform. An additional 30 minutes was added on to the exam duration to allow candidate the technical time to download and submit their examination papers via Inspira.

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

The department intends to hold in person exams in Trinity Term 2022.

## **D. Notice of examination conventions for candidates**

The first notice to candidates was issued on 22nd March 2021 and the second notice on the 30th April 2021.

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 Barbara Galinska, 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. Jelena Grbic and Prof. John Billingham for generously performing their special roles in this process.

#### **Timetable**

The examinations began on Monday 14th June and ended on Friday 25th June.

#### **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.

#### **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								
	2021			2020			2019		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
70–100	0	4	4	1	4	5	1	3	4
60–69	2	7	9	1	6	7	1	3	4
50–59	2	0	2	4	1	5	4	2	6
40–49	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	11	16	6	11	17	6	9	15

  

Class	Percentage								
	2021			2020			2019		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
70–100	0	36.36	25	16.67	36.36	26.51	16.67	33.33	26.67
60–69	40	63.64	56.25	16.67	54.55	35.61	16.67	33.33	26.67
50–59	40	0	12.5	66.67	9.09	37.88	66.67	22.22	40
40–49	20	0	6.25	0	0	0	0	11.11	6.67
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	16	30.81	9.28	67.81	13.55
A2	16	60.25	12.32	65.94	6.7
A3	9	36.44	7.06	69.44	12.32
A4	6	22.33	8.71	56	15.23
A5	13	34.69	10.85	64.46	15.68

### 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**

### **1. Prizes**

The Gibbs Prizes for Mathematics & Philosophy Part A was awarded to:  
Jonathan Medcalf, Brasenose College

## **F. Names of members of the Board of Examiners**

- **Examiners:**

Prof Jan Obloj (chair)  
Dr Neil. Laws  
Prof. Konstantin Ardakov  
Prof. Alan Lauder  
Prof. Zhongmin Qian  
Prof Jelena Grbic (External Examiner)  
Prof John Billingham (External Examiner)

- **Assessors:**

Prof. Charles Batty  
Dr Joshua Bull  
Prof. Sam Howison  
Prof. Philip Maini  
Prof. Balazs Szendroi  
Prof. Kevin McGerty  
Dr Andre Henriques  
Prof. Renaud Lambiotte  
Prof. Yuji Nakatsukasa  
Prof. Tom Sanders  
Prof. James Maynard  
Prof. Marc Lackenby  
Prof. Chris Beam  
Prof. Matthias Winkel  
Prof. Kobi Kremnitzer  
Prof. Andrew Dancer  
Prof. Qian Wang  
Ioan Stanciu  
Priya Subramanian  
Tiago Jardim da Fonseca