

EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT FORM 2021

External examiner name:	Dr. Marco Schlichting	
External examiner home institution:	University of Warwick	
Course(s) examined:	Mathematics Part B	
Level: (please delete as appropriate)	Undergraduate	

Please complete both Parts A and B.

Part A				
	<i>Please (✓) as applicable*</i>	Yes	No	N/A / Other
A1.	Are the academic standards and the achievements of students comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which you have experience? <i>[Please refer to paragraph 6 of the Guidelines for External Examiner Reports].</i>	✓		
A2.	Do the threshold standards for the programme appropriately reflect the frameworks for higher education qualifications and any applicable subject benchmark statement? <i>[Please refer to paragraph 7 of the Guidelines for External Examiner Reports].</i>	✓		
A3.	Does the assessment process measure student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s)?	✓		
A4.	Is the assessment process conducted in line with the University's policies and regulations?	✓		
A5.	Did you receive sufficient information and evidence in a timely manner to be able to carry out the role of External Examiner effectively?	✓		
A6.	Did you receive a written response to your previous report?			✓

A7.	Are you satisfied that comments in your previous report have been properly considered, and where applicable, acted upon?			
* If you answer “No” to any question, you should provide further comments when you complete Part B.				

Part B

In your responses to these questions, please could you include comments on the effectiveness of any changes made to the course or processes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic where appropriate.

B1. Academic standards

- a. *How do academic standards achieved by the students compare with those achieved by students at other higher education institutions of which you have experience?*

Standards are similar or even higher to what I have seen at other universities in the UK.

- b. *Please comment on student performance and achievement across the relevant programmes or parts of programmes and with reference to academic standards and student performance of other higher education institutions of which you have experience (those examining in joint schools are particularly asked to comment on their subject in relation to the whole award).*

Student performance in general is very strong. Compared to other places in the UK there is a similar proportion of 1st, 2nd class performance, maybe slightly higher. There was no Fail and only one Pass and one 3rd class performance. This is lower than at other institutions but it reflects the strength of students at Oxford University.

B2. Rigour and conduct of the assessment process

Please comment on the rigour and conduct of the assessment process, including whether it ensures equity of treatment for students, and whether it has been conducted fairly and within the University's regulations and guidance.

As far as I can tell, the assessment process was conducted rigorously, fairly and within the University's regulations and guidance. Open book exams require a different set of skills compared to pre-pandemic paper exams. This makes comparison with previous years difficult. But all HE institutions were in the same situation. I am hoping the university will return to its previous, long-established examination process as soon as possible. The requirement for the number of firsts, 2nds etc to be in line with previous years is understandable but if interpreted as meaning that one must not go below the numbers of previous years it will lead to grade inflation. I was surprised to see that the proctors upheld a higher classification of a student due to an internal error which was only discovered after marks were released.

B3. Issues

Are there any issues which you feel should be brought to the attention of supervising committees in the faculty/department, division or wider University?

No.

B4. Good practice and enhancement opportunities

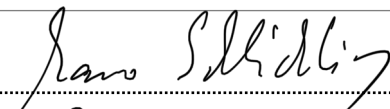
*Please comment/provide recommendations on any **good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment**, and any **opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities** provided to students that should be noted and disseminated more widely as appropriate.*

No comments.

B5. Any other comments

Please provide any other comments you may have about any aspect of the examination process. Please also use this space to address any issues specifically required by any applicable professional body. If your term of office is now concluded, please provide an overview here.

During the 3 years as external examiner at Oxford I have seen 3 different assessment frameworks: pre-pandemic, first year pandemic (with online examination and safety net) and 2nd year pandemic (with online examination but with a return to pre-pandemic procedures and rules as far as possible). I am very impressed with how the exam board, and more generally, how all examiners have adapted to the changing situation.

Signed:	
Date:	29 10 21

Please ensure you have completed parts A & B, and email your completed form to: external-examiners@admin.ox.ac.uk and copy it to the applicable divisional contact set out in the guidelines.