



## OXFORD MASTERS IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES 2020-2021

### First Notice to Candidates

This circular contains information about:

- the format of papers in Part C;
- technical time;
- classification conventions and marking schemes;
- the use of calculators;
- dissertations.

The full regulations for the MSc in Mathematical Sciences examinations are contained in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Full particulars about the syllabus and other information can be found in the MSc in Mathematical Sciences Course Handbook and the synopses of lecture courses for Part C 2020-21, which are available online at:

<https://courses.maths.ox.ac.uk/overview/postgraduate#51629>.

The timetable for the examination will be set by the Examination Schools and will be made available to you through Student Self Service. Timetabling is an extremely complicated process and once the timetable is published it cannot be changed. If you are unable to take a paper at the stipulated time for a religious or other compelling reason, you should ask your college to make the appropriate application on your behalf. Please do not ask the Examiners as they are powerless in such matters.

Candidates offering a mini-project will receive a separate notice relating to arrangements for submission.

A second notice will be emailed out later with information about practical arrangements.

**Professor Luc Nguyen**  
OMMS Chairman of Examiners  
Mathematical Institute  
February 2021

## 2021 MSc in Mathematical Sciences (OMMS)

The formal procedures determining the conduct of University examinations are established and enforced by the Proctors.

The examiners are nominated by the Nominating Committee in the Mathematical Institute and these nominations are submitted for approval by the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors. Formally, examiners are independent of the Department and of those who lecture courses. However, for written papers in Mathematics, examiners are expected to consult with course lecturers in the process of setting questions. It must be stressed that to preserve the independence of the examiners, candidates are not allowed to make contact directly about matters relating to the content or marking of papers. Any communication must be via the Senior Tutor of your college, who will, if he or she deems the matter of importance, contact the Proctors. The Proctors in turn communicate with the Chairman of Examiners.

The MSc in Mathematical Sciences examination conventions are available online at:

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/postgraduate-courses/omms-part-c/examinations-and-assessments/part-c-and-omms>

These conventions are a guide to the examiners and candidates but the regulations set out in the Examination Regulations have precedence. The examiners normally adhere to the published examination conventions, subject to the guidance of the appointed external examiners, and other bodies such as the Mathematics Teaching Committee, the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the University's Education Committee and the Proctors.

## Format of Assessments

### **Mathematics Unit Papers: C1.1 –C8.6 (other than C3.9, C5.4, C6.5 and C7.1)**

Part C unit papers will be online open-book examinations, each of one hour and 45 minutes in duration (plus 30 minutes technical time – see below). Each paper will consist of three questions, each marked out of 25. Candidates may submit answers to as many questions as they wish, but only the best two answers will count for the total mark.

### **Mathematics Mini-Projects: C3.9, C5.4, C6.5**

USM marks will be assigned to mini-projects with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics papers. Candidates offering a mini-project will be emailed a separate notice with further information.

### **Physics Paper (C7.1) – double unit**

The C7.1 paper will be an online open-book examination. This paper is assessed by the Physics department and is known as C6 Theoretical Physics in the Physics department. Candidates are advised to consult the Physics website for a copy of the Physics formula sheet available to candidates in this examination. This paper will be an online open-book examination. The exact duration and number of questions in this paper will be confirmed through the Physics department in due course. As a reference, this course has in the past been assessed by an examination of 3 hours in duration, with candidates being required to submit answers to 4 out of 8 questions.

### **Statistics Papers (SC1, SC2, SC4–SC7, SC9 and SC10)**

These courses are single units, all taking the form of an online open-book examination. Each paper is examined by a one hour and 45 minute paper, with three questions. The rubric states that "You may submit answers to as many questions as you wish but only the best two will count for the total mark".

### **Statistics Paper: SC8 Topics in Computational Biology**

This course is a single unit and is assessed by mini-project. Candidates taking this option will receive further information from the Statistics examiners.

## Computer Science Papers

Candidates are advised to consult the Computer Science Course Handbook for further details regarding the courses Categories, Proofs and Processes, Quantum Computer Science, Automata, Logic and Games, and Computer Animation. The USMs for these units are awarded by the Computer Science Examiners. Candidates entering for these options will be emailed a copy of the notice from the Computer Science Examiners.

## CCD Dissertation on Mathematical Topics (double unit)

USM marks will be assigned to dissertations with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics papers. In arriving at these marks, the relative weights attached to content, mathematics and presentation will be 25%, 50% and 25%, respectively. Further information on the dissertations is included below.

## COD Dissertation on the History of Mathematics (double unit)

USM marks will be assigned to dissertations with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics papers. In arriving at these marks, the relative weights attached to content, and style and presentation will be 75% and 25%, respectively. Further information on the dissertations is included below.

## Technical Time

In addition to the time you have for each examination, you will be given an extra 30 minutes of technical time for uploading and submitting your exam script.

## Classification Conventions and Marking Schemes

Please see sections 7–9 of the examination conventions, which are available at:  
<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/undergraduate-courses/examinations-assessments/examination-conventions>.

## Calculators

As 2021 examinations will take place in an open-book format, candidates should note that there is no restriction on the use of calculators.

## Dissertations

### Submission of Electronic Copy

- Candidates must submit an electronic version of their dissertation via the Mathematical Institute website by **12 noon on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April**. We will not need a hard-copy version of your dissertation.  
CCD: <https://courses.maths.ox.ac.uk/node/49739/assignments>  
COD: <https://courses.maths.ox.ac.uk/node/49740/assignments>
- Please give the file you are submitting your candidate number as its name. You should not include any identifying information other than your candidate number.
- Please note that it is essential that the electronic copy is submitted on time.
- The electronic copy of your dissertation will be screened by Turnitin for plagiarism; further information about this may be found in the attached notice. You will be asked to confirm that you have read the notice and that you agree to your work being screened and used as described in the notice.

## Declaration of Authorship

On submission, you will be asked to complete a section declaring your authorship.

## Plagiarism

Candidates are reminded of the importance of avoiding any suspicion of plagiarism, as explained in the "Guidance Notes on Projects". For further guidance, please see:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>.

## Late Submission of or Failure to Submit Coursework

The Examination Regulations stipulate specific dates for submission of coursework to the examiners; this includes the Part C dissertations, mini-projects and any coursework you need to complete if you take a course taught by another department. Rules governing late submission and any consequent penalties are set out in full in the Examination Regulations (Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations, Part 14).

If you will be prevented by illness or other urgent cause from submitting your coursework on time you should contact your college office or college tutor as soon as possible. Your college is able to submit an application for an extension of time to the Proctors on your behalf.

The scale of penalties agreed by the board of examiners in relation to late submissions of assessed items, without an accepted reason, is set out below.

Table 1. Late Submission Tariff

Lateness	Penalty
Up to 4 hours	1%
4–24 hours	10%
24–48 hours	20%
48–72 hours	30%
72 hours– 14 days	35%
More than 14 days late	Fail

Note: The penalty will be a percentage reduction of the maximum total mark available for the work. For example, if a 10% penalty is applied to an assessment given a USM out of 100 then 10 marks would be deducted. The final mark awarded after application of the penalty cannot be below 0.

Failure to submit a required element of assessment, without an accepted reason, will result in the failure of that assessment. In this case, the mark for any resit of the assessment will be capped at a pass.