



MSc IN MATHEMATICAL MODELLING AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING 2020-21 Notice to Candidates

This circular contains information about:

- standardized marks (USMs) and classification;
- the format of, and procedure for, sitting exam papers in the MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing;
- how to scan your exam solutions for electronic submission;
- late submission penalties.

The full Regulations for the MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing examination are contained in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Full particulars about the syllabus and other information can be found on the Mathematical Institute Course Management webpages which supplement the Course Handbook 2020-21 issued by the Mathematical Institute.

Timetable

Hilary Term Examinations will take place on Thursday 14th January at 9.30am GMT and Friday 15th January at 9.30am GMT

Trinity Term Examinations will take place on Thursday 22nd April from 9.30am BST and Friday 23rd April from 9.30am BST

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; they are powerless in such matters.

Prof Jared Tanner
Chair of MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing Examiners
November 2020

Format of Examination Papers

Paper A1: Mathematical Methods I

Paper B1: Numerical Linear Algebra and Numerical Solution of Differential Equations

Paper A2: Mathematical Methods II

Paper B2: Further Numerical Linear Algebra and Continuous Optimization

Each paper should be completed in 2.5 hours, however, for online examinations, you will receive an additional 30 minutes for downloading and uploading your exam. This means you have a total of 3 hours from the time of download to submit your paper. Each paper consists of 6 questions (each question is marked out of 25). The rubric states “You may attempt as many questions as you like but you must answer at least one question in each section. Your best answer in each section will count, along with your next best answer(s), making a total of four answers.”

Trial Run

The MSc will conduct a trial run prior to the examination to ensure that everyone can access the Weblearn website and download and upload files there. Weblearn has a test site which you should all be able to access using your single sign on. The exercise will require you to log in, download a sample paper there and upload a document with several pages. You may need to download a paper on another subject. Your upload can be anything; there is a maximum upload size of 40MB. We will send you more information regarding the trial run once the Weblearn test site has been set up.

Conduct of Examination Sessions

Due to Covid-19, all papers will be at home open book exams. Please see the following link for further guidance from the University of Oxford on Open Book examinations.
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/Open%20Book%20Exam%20Guide%20for%20Candidates.pdf>

The papers will be available for download via Weblearn on the release dates and time outlined on the first page of this document. You will be provided more information on how to access the papers closer to the time of assessment.

To account for timezone differences, the exam will be open for download and submission for a 24-hour period but you must sit the exam according to times listed below

If you are in the **UK or in the time zones GMT +1 to +6**: you will sit the exam at 09:30 GMT

If you are in any **other time zone**, you can start your exam at any point from 09:30 GMT onward, but must start not later than 10:00AM local time. This flexibility is to allow you to sit during daytime hours.

The exam should take you **2 hours 30 minutes to complete**, and you will be allotted an additional **30 min for downloading the exam, uploading your solutions, and for any unforeseen technical difficulties**. Therefore, you are required to upload your paper within 3 hours of downloading it. Your exam time will start as soon as you click on the link to the examination paper. Please don't click on the link to open and download your paper until you are ready to start. This will be the equivalent of an invigilator saying ‘You may turn over the exam paper now.’

Please note in particular that Penalties may be applied when marking your exam answers, if you start your exam later than the times detailed [in the guidance] and do not have approved alternative exam arrangements in place to start at different times.

Honour Code

When you submit your exam answers at the end of your open-book exam, you will be asked to agree to the following pledge: I acknowledge the University Honour Code and I hereby confirm that the submitted work is entirely my own and I have not (i) used the services of any agency or person(s) providing specimen, model or ghostwritten work in the preparation of the work I submit for this open book examination; (ii) given assistance in accessing this paper or in providing specimen, model or ghostwritten work to other candidates submitting for this open-book examination.

Queries

To prevent students who take the exam at different times being advantaged or disadvantaged, the examiners have agreed that they will not answer queries relating to the exam paper. You should note any errors or points for clarification that you find on the paper, and after submitting your script should email these to mmsc@maths.ox.ac.uk; these concerns will be taken into account by the examiners.

Handing-in and Formatting of Scripts

Read this section very carefully.

The first page of your submission should be the completed examination coversheet. You must write in blue or black ink to ensure readability. Each question should begin on a new page. You must order your pages by section and question number. Candidates should submit ONE pdf file, compiling the answers of all of their questions, in order, through Weblearn.

Please note your name or any other identifiable information must not be in the file nor in the title of the file.

As this is an electronic submission, you may use a tablet and stylus to write (in blue or black ink) your exam solutions. If you choose to handwrite your solutions, you will have to scan your papers into a pdf format. For those who do not have access to a typical scanner, the department has written guidance on how to 'scan' a document with a smart phone or tablet. Please see the link below for details on how to scan a document using a mobile device:

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/it/faqs/files/phone-scanning>

Rough work

If there is rough work within the files that you will be scanning, please cross this through before scanning the file.

Illegible scripts

Please write legibly. Examiners may require illegible scripts to be transcribed, the cost of which is charged to the candidate. In addition, as this is an electronic submission, it is your responsibility to ensure that the file you upload is able to be downloaded and opened. We will not accept any late submissions, due to incorrect, corrupt or broken files.

For scanned handwritten files please ensure the following:

- the handwriting is large enough to be easily marked
- the writing is done with a blue or black ink
- the photo 'scan' is taken in good lighting
- no writing is accidentally cropped out of frame during the scan

Illness

If you are prevented by illness or other cause from attending any part of the examination you should ensure that the Senior Tutor of your college is informed immediately so that they can refer the case to the Proctors. In the case of illness a medical certificate will be required. In the absence of Proctorial permission to be absent the consequence of non-attendance will be failure of the paper.

Late Submission or Failure to Submit Coursework

For detailed information relating to late submission or failure to submit coursework please see the MMSC Examination Conventions 2020-21 which can be downloaded from:

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/postgraduate-courses/msc-mmssc>

MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing

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. Assessors are appointed to assist the examiners and in particular the core course lecturers take on the role of assessors in setting, checking and marking the written exam papers.

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 Chair of Examiners.

Examination conventions can be downloaded from the course webpage:

<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/postgraduate-courses/msc-mmssc>

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, who may offer advice or make recommendations to examiners.

Standardized Marks and Class Descriptors

Information relating to standardised marks, class descriptors, and classification can be located in the MMSC Examination Conventions 2020-21 which can be downloaded from:

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/postgraduate-courses/msc-mmssc>