

Examiners' Report:
FHS Mathematics and Philosophy Part A
Trinity Term 2023

October 26, 2023

Part I

A Statistics

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

See Table 1, page 1.

Table 1: Numbers in each class

Range	Numbers					Percentages %				
	2023 (2022)	(2021)	(2020)	(2019)	2023	(2022)	(2021)	(2020)	(2019)
70–100	6	(6)	(4)	(5)	(4)	31.58	(37.5)	(25)	(29.41)	(26.67)
60–69	8	(7)	(9)	(7)	(4)	42.11	(43.75)	(56.25)	(41.18)	(26.67)
50–59	4	(2)	(2)	(5)	(6)	21.05	(12.5)	(12.5)	(29.41)	(40)
40–49	0	(1)	(1)	(0)	(1)	0	(6.25)	(6.25)	(0)	(6.67)
30–39	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
0–29	1	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	5.26	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Total	19	16	16	17	15	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 5

B. New examining methods and procedures

None.

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

None.

D. Notice of examination conventions for candidates

The first notice to candidates was issued on the 21st February 2023 and the second notice on the 18th May 2023.

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

1 Part II

A. General Comments on the Examination

Acknowledgements

- Haleigh Bellamy for her work in supporting the Part A examinations throughout the year, and for her help with various enquiries throughout the year.
- Waldemar Schlackow for running the database and the algorithms that generate the final marks, without which the process could not operate.
- Clare Sheppard and Charlotte Turner-Smith for their help and support, together with the Academic Administration Team, with marks entry, script checking, and much vital behind-the-scenes work.
- The assessors who set their questions promptly, provided clear model solutions, took care with checking and marking them, and met their deadlines, thus making the examiners' jobs that much easier.
- Several members of the Faculty who agreed to help the committee in the work of checking the papers set by the assessors.
- The internal examiners and assessors would like to thank the external examiners, Prof Neil Strickland and Prof John Billingham, for helpful feedback and much hard work throughout the year, and for the important work they did in Oxford in examining scripts and contributing to the decisions of the committee.

Timetable

The examinations began on Monday 12th June and ended on Friday 23rd 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

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								
	2023			2022			2021		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
70–100	3	3	6	1	5	6	0	4	4
60–69	3	5	8	0	7	7	2	7	9
50–59	2	2	4	0	2	2	2	0	2
40–49	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	10	19	2	14	16	5	11	16

Class	Percentage								
	2023			2022			2021		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
70–100	33.3	30	31.58	50	35.71	37.5	0	36.36	25
60–69	33.33	50	42.11	0	50	43.75	40	63.64	56.25
50–59	22.22	20	21.05	0	14.29	12.5	40	0	12.5
40–49	0	0	0	50	0	6.25	20	0	6.25
30–39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0–29	11.11	0	5.26	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 5 gives the statistics for each paper of the examination. Details on papers with 5 candidates or less are not given.

Table 3: Overall statistics for each paper

Paper	Candidates	average Raw	sdRaw	average USM	sdUSM
A0	18	34	11.79	65.17	19.07
A2	19	59.68	19.79	64.05	14.25
A3	7	25.14	2.79	61.71	2.36
A4	8	33.12	10.6	72.25	12.88
A5	9	31.11	10.68	64.78	18.38
A8	8	26.5	6.07	63.75	6.58

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. Names of members of the Board of Examiners

- **Examiners:**

- Prof. Konstantin Ardakov (Chair)
- Prof. Alan Lauder
- Prof. Gregory Seregin
- Dr. Neil Laws
- Prof. Stuart White
- Prof Neil Strickland (External Examiner)
- Prof John Billingham (External Examiner)

- **Assessors:**

- Prof. Konstantin Ardakov
- Dr Rafael Bailo
- Dr Immanuel Ben Porat
- Dr Joshua Bull
- Prof. Andrew Dancer
- Dr Antonio Esposito
- Prof. Alan Lauder
- Prof. Ian Hewitt
- Prof. Marc Lackenby
- Dr Darrick Lee
- Prof. Philip Maini
- Prof. James Maynard

Prof. Kevin McGerty
Prof. Mark Mezei
Prof. Kobi Kremnitzer
Prof. Panos Papazoglou
Prof. Tom Sanders
Dr Clemens Saemann
Prof. Gregory Seregin
Prof. Dominic Vella
Prof. Qian Wang
Prof. Andrew Wathen
Prof. Stuart White
Dr Difan Yuan