

Oxford University Final Honour Schools Trinity Term 2009

Mathematics Part A: First Notice to Candidates

- Full particulars about the syllabus and the examination are contained in the *Examination Decrees and Regulations* together with the *Supplement* (Part A synopses) to the *Handbook for the Undergraduate Mathematics Courses*.
- You will be written to again later with information about the examination timetable and practical arrangements in the Schools, including information about examination numbers, handing in of scripts, and so on. I am expecting the examination to be held in week 9 in Trinity Term, June 22nd to 25th June 2009, with one paper each day. These dates should be regarded as provisional.
- A note about examination conventions relating to marking of papers in Part A is attached. Your marks will be reported to you in the University's standard format which consists of a mark in the range 0-100 for each paper.
- The examiners are planning to hold their final meeting on Friday 10th July 2009, and hope to distribute results to Colleges soon afterwards.

Dr Audrey Curnock
Chair of Part A Examiners
Mathematical Institute
4th December 2008

cc Senior Maths Tutors
Senior Tutors

Part A 2009 Mathematics and related Schools: Marking of papers

Standardised Marks

The University wishes all examiners to adopt a uniform system of reporting marks. This means that each candidate will receive a numerical mark on each paper in the range 0-100, such that

- a First Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 70 to 100;
- an Upper Second Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 60 to 69;
- a Lower Second Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 50 to 59;
- a Third Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 40 to 49;
- a Pass performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 30 to 39;
- a Fail performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 0 to 29.

In order to arrive at such University standardised marks (or USMs) for each paper, the examiners will mark and assess papers in the way described below.

Papers in Part A

There are revised rubrics for Papers AC2, AO1 and AO2 in 2008/09. The limit on the number of questions which can be submitted has been removed. The number of questions which count for total marks remains unchanged.

For papers AC1 and AC2, each paper has three sections: Algebra, Analysis and Differential Equations, with three questions on each section on each paper.

- **Rubric AC1** There will be 9 questions on paper AC1 and candidates should attempt them all.

- **Rubric AC2** The paper AC2 contains 9 questions in total with 3 questions in each section, namely 3 on Algebra, 3 on Analysis and 3 on Differential Equations. The best 4 questions will count for the total mark for this paper, with at least 1 from each section. That is, the best answer from each section together with the next best answer will count for the total mark for this paper.

For papers AO1 and AO2, each paper contains 19 questions one for each 8 hour lecture course and two for each 16 hour lecture course.

The rubrics are as follows:

- **Rubric AO1** The best 9 answers will count for the total mark for this paper.
- **Rubric AO2** The best 4 answers will count for the total mark for this paper.

Marking of Papers

Mark schemes for questions out of 10 will aim to ensure that the following qualitative criteria hold:

9-10 marks: a completely or almost completely correct answer, showing good understanding of the concepts and skill in carrying through arguments and calculations; minor slips or omissions only.

5-8 marks: a good though not complete answer, showing understanding of the concepts and competence in handling the arguments and calculations.

Mark schemes for questions out of 25 will aim to ensure that the following qualitative criteria hold:

20-25 marks: a completely or almost completely correct answer, showing very good understanding of the concepts and skill in carrying through the arguments and/or calculations; minor slips or omissions only.

13-19 marks: a good though not complete answer, showing understanding of the concepts and competence in handling the arguments and/or calculations. In this range, an answer might consist of a very good answer to a substantial part of the question, or a good answer to the whole question which nevertheless shows some flaws in calculation or in understanding or in both.

USMs

At the end of the Part A examination, a candidate will be awarded a University standardised mark (USM) for each of the four papers. The Examiners will recalibrate the raw marks to arrive at the USMs reported to candidates using the standard classes reported above.

The examiners aim to ensure that all papers and all subjects within a paper are fairly and equally rewarded, but if in any case a paper, or a subject within a paper, appears to have been problematical, then the examiners may take account of this in calculating USMs.

The USMs awarded to a candidate for papers in Part A will be carried forward into the final classification.

(Extract from Handbook)