

Final Honour School of MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY PART C 2009

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

This notice summarizes information about the examination.

Timetable

Each candidate will have received a copy of their examination timetable from the Examination Schools. The timetable for the examination is also posted on the Examination Schools website at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/schools/oxonly/timetables/Trinity09/DMPC0809T.pdf> (This part of the website is accessible only from within the University network or from outside using VPN.)

Regulations

The Regulations for this Examination are published in *Examination Regulations 2008* (The Grey Book), pp. 329-333 and pp. 402-409, available online at http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/11-30ad_S_R_H_S_OF_MATHEMATICS_AND_PHILOSOPHY.shtml and http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/11-30ap_SPECIAL_REGULATIONS_FOR_PHILOSOPHY_IN_ALL_H_S_INCLUDING.shtml and in the *Mathematics Handbook* Supplement for Part C in 2008-9 available online at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses>.

Format of Examination Papers

Mathematics papers

Mathematics Part C papers are either whole unit papers that last for 3 hours or half-unit papers that last for 1 ½ hours. Whole-unit papers examine two courses, one from Michaelmas Term, one from Hilary Term. The corresponding half-unit papers examine one of the two courses, with added designation a if it's the Michaelmas Term course and b if it's the Hilary Term course. Three questions are set on each course. For whole-unit papers the rubric states "You may submit answers to as many questions as you wish. The best two answers in each section will be counted." For half-unit papers the rubric states "You may submit answers to as many questions as you wish. The best two answers will be counted".

Calculators are only permitted the Part C examinations in 2009 for Mathematics papers C7.4, C8.1, and C9.1 (none of which are being taken by Mathematics and Philosophy Part C candidates).

Philosophy papers

Each Philosophy subject is examined in a three hour examination and, in all but two papers in this exam, candidates are required to answer three questions. The exceptions are papers 115 Plato's *Republic*, and 116 Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, for which candidates are required to

answer three essay questions plus a ‘passages for comment’ question. If fewer than the required number of questions are answered (‘shortweight’), the maximum achievable mark is lowered by the proportion of the paper missing. For example, in a paper requiring three answers but a candidate has answered only two, the maximum achievable mark, i.e. if both answers were marked 100, is 67, and if both answers were 70 the mark for the paper would be 47. So if you run out of time having taken more time than you should on your first two answers, even a very short third answer that can at least receive a mark is much better than no answer. If a candidate fails to obey a rubric expressing a condition stipulated in the syllabuses of the following papers in this examination, the mark the paper would otherwise receive will be lowered by at least 5 points.

101 History of Philosophy from Descartes to Kant: The paper will consist of three sections; Section A will include questions about Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz; Section B will include questions about Locke, Berkeley and Hume; Section C will include questions about Kant. Candidates will be required to answer three questions, with at least one question from Section A and at least one question from Section B.

105 Philosophy of Science and Philosophy of Psychology and Neuroscience: Candidates will be required to answer at least one question from each part of the paper.

112 The Philosophy of Kant: Candidates may answer no more than one question on Kant’s moral philosophy.

113 Post-Kantian Philosophy: Candidates will be required to show adequate first-hand knowledge of works of at least two authors.

117 Frege, Russell, and Wittgenstein: Candidates will be required to show adequate knowledge of at least two authors.

Conduct of examination sessions

All papers will be sat in the Examination Schools. You should arrive at the Schools at least 10 minutes before the start of each of your papers. Examination candidates will enter through a marquee in the courtyard on the east side of the Schools (opposite the Eastgate Hotel). You should be dressed in ‘subfusc’ (for men, a dark suit, dark socks and dark boots or shoes, a white shirt, white collar and white bow-tie; for women a white blouse, black tie, dark skirt or trousers, dark stockings, dark boots or shoes, and, if desired, a dark coat) with academic gown and cap. You must take your University card with you to each examination, and you are allowed to take your individual timetable and a slip with your candidate number (so long as you have written nothing on them) into the room. Unless individual permission has been granted by the Proctors nothing else apart from writing equipment can be taken into the exam room (except in the case of those few Mathematics papers--none taken by MP Part C candidates--for which a non-programmable calculator is permitted). Your writing implements should be carried in a clear case so the contents are visible. Mobile phones are *not* permitted in the exam room.

In the examination room there will be a label with your name on your desk. The desks of the candidates from a given honour school taking a given paper are grouped together in the exam room, and within that group the desks are in alphabetical order of candidates’ names. On reaching your assigned desk you should check that the correct question paper has been provided but should not open the paper until the invigilator declares the start of the

examination. You may not leave the examination room except with the permission of the invigilator. Candidates are not permitted to leave during the first 30 minutes nor the last 30 minutes of an examination. You may take your question paper with you at the end of the examination but no other paper may be removed from the examination room.

Presence of Examiners in the Examination Hall

An Examiner will be present for the first 30 minutes of each paper and the invigilators will be able to contact the Examiners throughout the paper. If you believe that a question is incorrect or ambiguous, you may ask the invigilator to communicate with the Examiners. However, the Examiners cannot give you any other advice about the examination and any correction or clarification given to you will be announced to all candidates. After the first 45 minutes of each paper, no further corrections or clarifications will be announced. If after 45 minutes you believe a question is wrong, you should note this in your script, and answer the question as set.

Candidate identification

Your University card should be placed on a corner of your desk with the photograph side upwards to assist Invigilators in checking for the identity of candidates. It is essential that your candidate number (which has been sent to you) be entered *correctly and legibly* on the front sheet of each bundle of answers. You must not enter your name or college anywhere on your examination scripts. Your candidate number is not printed on your desk label, and if you don't remember it or have it with you, ask an Invigilator to look it up for you when you arrive in the exam room. *Candidates are anonymously identified by their candidate number throughout the marking and classification process.*

Writing and handing in of scripts [please read these instructions carefully]

Mathematics

Booklets of unlined paper are provided for Mathematics scripts. You may write on both sides of the paper. Graph paper will be available. You should take careful note of the rubric for each paper. Your candidate number must be written on the front page of each answer booklet and be clearly legible. *You must start each question in a new booklet.*

Half unit papers: you must order your booklets by question number and secure them with the 'treasury tag' provided. Then, on the front page of the top booklet, list the question numbers of the questions attempted.

Whole unit papers: these have two sections. You should first group the answer booklets for each section together, and arrange them within each section in numerical order. On the front page of each group of booklets, list the question numbers of the questions attempted in that section. If you have not attempted any questions in a particular section, you must hand in an empty booklet, with the front page completed, stating that no questions were attempted in that section. Finally, order the groups of booklets alphabetically by section, i.e. the booklets for the Michalemas Term course on top of the booklets for the Hilary Term course, and secure them all together with the 'treasury tag' provided.

Philosophy

Booklets of lined paper are provided for Philosophy scripts. You should write on both sides of the paper. Begin each answer on a new page, but you may begin your next answer in the booklet in which you wrote the answer you have just finished if there are blank pages

remaining. Be sure to indicate clearly at the top of each answer the number of the question you are answering and if it's an Either/Or question which of those two questions you are answering. It's a good idea to copy out the question when you begin your answer in addition to writing the question number. At the end of the examination put your booklets together in the order in which you wrote them and secure them by a 'treasury tag' provided at each desk.

Rough work

No special paper is provided for rough work. A separate answer booklet may be used for rough working/essay planning, and should be labeled as such. It must be secured with your answer booklets using the treasury tag holding your answer booklets together and in this way handed in at the end of the examination. Alternatively, you may do rough working/essay planning in the same booklets as your fair copy, in which case you should cross through all rough working to indicate very clearly to the Examiners what is to be marked and what is not.

Illegible scripts

Please write legibly. Examiners are authorized to require illegible scripts to be typed, a time-consuming process inconvenient both for candidates and examiners, the costs of which for typing and invigilation are charged to the candidate.

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. In the case of illness which affects your performance on a particular exam a medical certificate should be obtained from your doctor and submitted by your college to the Proctors, who will forward it to the chair of examiners. When the marking and classification process has been completed but before the examination results are submitted to the Examination Schools data base, the Examiners will consider any medical certificates and determine if on the basis of that information there should be any adjustment to marks or classifications.

Marks

All scripts are assessed on the basis of University Standardised Marks (USMs) consisting of a number from 0 to 100. The ranges of marks signify the following attainment.

- 70-100: First (I)
- 60-69: Upper Second (II.i)
- 50-59: Lower Second (II.ii)
- 40-49: Third (III)
- 30-39: Pass
- 0-29: Fail

Descriptors for allocating marks (as in *Handbook for Mathematics and Philosophy 2008-2009*, pp. 31-32, online at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses/mathphil>)

Mathematics

First Class: the candidate shows excellent skills in reasoning, deductive logic and problem-solving. He/she demonstrates an excellent knowledge of the material, and is

able to use that innovatively in unfamiliar contexts.

Upper Second Class: the candidate shows good or very good skills in reasoning, deductive logic and problem-solving. He/she demonstrates a good or very good knowledge of much of the material.

Lower Second Class: the candidate shows adequate basic skills in reasoning, deductive logic and problem-solving. He/she demonstrates a sound knowledge of much of the material.

Third Class: the candidate shows reasonable understanding of at least part of the basic material and some skills in reasoning, deductive logic and problem-solving.

Pass: the candidate shows some limited grasp of basic material demonstrated by the equivalent of an average of one meaningful attempt at a question on each unit of study. A stronger performance on some papers may compensate for a weaker performance on others.

Fail: little evidence of competence in the topics examined; the work is likely to show major misunderstanding and confusion, coupled with inaccurate calculations; the answers to questions attempted are likely to be fragmentary only.

Philosophy

First Class: Work displaying analytical and argumentational power, with good command of the facts and/or arguments relevant to the questions and evidence of ability to organise them with clarity, insight and efficiency. When these qualities are evident throughout, the mark should be 74 or above. A script marked in the range 86 and above will be truly outstanding, showing remarkable originality of mind and depth of understanding.

Upper Second Class: Work displaying analytical power and argumentation of the quality associated with a First, but with less comprehensive and thorough command of evidence. Or work showing considerable thoroughness but less analytical skill or less clarity in organisation. Class II.2 Competent work with no major defects, but giving an incomplete account of the question, or marred by inaccuracies. Or work which demonstrates lapses in (but does not lack) analytical and argumentational skills.

Third Class: Work that is generally weak with muddled argumentation, but containing some evidence of knowledge of facts and analytical skill. Marks in this range may also be used for work that, while competent and knowledgeable in itself, does not address the question asked by the Examiners.

Pass: Very poor quality work, showing only slight evidence of having studied.

Fail: Work of such a low standard that it cannot be given a Pass mark.

Relevance: In assessing answers markers are reminded of the high value to be placed on relevance. Work that entirely fails to address the question asked by the examiners, *however competent and knowledgeable in itself*, can gain no marks.

How examiners arrive at marks

Mathematics

The Mathematics Examiners and Assessors in Part C will assign USMs for full unit and half unit papers taken in Part C and they may recalibrate the raw marks to arrive at university standardized marks reported to candidates. The papers are designed so that the raw marks on a full unit sum to 100 and the raw marks on a half unit sum to 50. The USMs on both full units and half unit will be out of 100. However, Examiners will take into account the relative difficulty of papers when assigning USMs; in order to achieve this, Examiners may use

information on candidates' performances on the Part A and Part B examinations when recalibrating the raw marks. They may also use other statistics to check that the USMs assigned fairly reflect the students' performances on a paper. In order to ensure fair treatment, Examiners may exercise individual consideration in assigning USMs for candidates whose marks lie outside the standard pattern, or when assigning USMs to papers where the number of candidates involved is small or untypical. The Examiners may also adjust USMs to take account of any special circumstances affecting individual candidates. Exam scripts are marked by one Examiner or Assessor, standardly the lecturer who gave that course. Dissertations are marked independently by two Examiners or Assessors. If their marks are discrepant an agreed mark is arrived at by discussion between the two markers and the Examiner in charge of Dissertations.

Philosophy

Every Philosophy script, essay, and thesis is marked by two Examiners or Assessors independently of each other. The two markers then compare their marks and if discrepant attempt through discussion and possibly rereading to reach an agreed mark. If the two markers are unable to agree a mark (which is rare but does sometimes happen), the script, essay, or thesis is then sent to be third-marked by an Examiner or Assessor who is told the first two marks and determines the mark within the range of the two initial marks.

Classification rules for Honour School of Mathematics and Philosophy Part C

[These rules are as in the *Handbook for Mathematics and Philosophy 2008-2009*, pp. 36-37. Students will have received a printed copy of the current edition of the *Handbook* during this academic year, and it is online at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses/mathphil> .]

Each candidate offers 3 units for the Part C examination. A unit is as defined in the *Examination Regulations 2008*, p.331, lines 11-19. The *Examination Regulations* stipulate that, “for the award of the highest honours it is not necessary to perform with excellence in each of Mathematics and Philosophy separately” (p. 333, lines 7-8 of the 2008 edition). In keeping with this stipulation the conventions for classification in Part C are the following:

- (i) No candidate will be given a classification lower than the average of their marks for their three units.
- (ii) A candidate who offers two units in Mathematics and one in Philosophy or one unit in Mathematics and two units in Philosophy and who receives
 - marks of 70 or above in both units in the majority subject and
 - 64 or above for the unit in the minority subjectwill receive a First Class classification.
- (iii) The same considerations as in (ii) apply at the Upper Second/Lower Second borderline. A candidate who offers two units in one of Mathematics and Philosophy and one unit in the other and who receives
 - marks of 60 or above in both units in the majority subject and
 - 54 or above for the unit in the minority subjectwill receive an Upper Second Class classification.

Prizes

Gibbs Prizes of £100 each may be awarded for the best results in Mathematics and in Philosophy in the Honour School of Mathematics and Philosophy Part C. The best Philosophy Thesis from Mathematics and Philosophy Part C may be nominated for the Elizabeth Anscombe Prize, value £100, which is awarded to the best Philosophy Thesis across all Honour Schools involving Philosophy.

Notification of results

The examiners hope to finalize the classification of candidates by Monday, 29 June. You may obtain your examination results after this date by logging on to the Student Self Service at www.ox.ac.uk/current_students, for which you should have registered and obtained a password. The Senior Tutor of your college is also able to access the database, and to print off transcripts of your marks for the college records. This online system replaces the system of notification by class lists posted at the Examination Schools and individual notification of classifications by post to candidates. As under the old system, Examination School staff are not allowed to give results over the telephone.

The examiners wish every candidate the best of luck in their exams!

Daniel Isaacson
Chairman of Examiners
Honour School of Mathematics and Philosophy Part C 2009
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