Examiners' Report: Final Honour School of Mathematics & Philosophy Part B Trinity Term 2013

10th September 2013

Part I

A. STATISTICS

- **Numbers and percentages in each class.**
  See Table 1, page 1.

- **Numbers of vivas and effects of vivas on classes of result.**

  Not applicable.

- **Marking of scripts.**

  All Philosophy scripts, essays and theses were double-marked, after which the two markers consult in order to agree a mark between them. If the two markers are unable after discussion to agree a mark, the mark is decided by a third examiner, within the range of the two initial marks. All Mathematics scripts were, as is the normal practice, single-marked according to carefully checked model solutions and a pre-defined marking scheme closely adhered to. A comprehensive independent checking

Table 1: Numbers in each class

	Number					Percentages %				
	2013	(2012)	(2011)	(2010)	(2009)	2013	(2012)	(2011)	(2010)	(2009)
I	7	(9)	(8)	(6)	(7)	43.75	(39.13)	(33.33)	(31.6)	(35)
II.1	8	(13)	(15)	(10)	(12)	50	(56.52)	(62.50)	(52.6)	(60)
II.2	1	(0)	(1)	(3)	(0)	6.25	(0)	(4.17)	(15.8)	(0)
III	0	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)	0	(4.35)	(0)	(0)	(5)
P	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
F	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Total	16	(23)	(24)	(19)	(20)	100	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

procedure is also followed. (See the Mathematics Part B report for details). BE extended essays and coursework for O1 History of Mathematics were blind double marked

B. New examining methods and procedures

The examination conventions supplied to the examiners and candidates did not state how average marks were to be rounded. The examiners were aware that the Joint Committee for Mathematics & Philosophy had previously decided that symmetric rounding should be used, but it was not clear at what stages rounding was to be applied. We drew this to the attention of the Chairman of the committee and we were then instructed to round each of the averages M, P and A, but only at the end of the process. We acted accordingly.

We have been told that the rounding conventions will be included in the examination conventions in future.

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

None

D. Notice of examination conventions for candidates

The candidates were given details of the examining conventions in the notices that were sent out by the examiners.

These are available on-line at
https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/notices/undergrad/part-b

Part II

Section A. General Comments on the Examination

The examiners are very grateful to James Knight in the Philosophy Faculty and Vicky Archibald, Helen Lowe, Waldemar Schlackow and Charlotte Turner-Smith in the Mathematical Institute for their enormous help at all stages in the conduct of this examination. We are grateful also to examiners and assessors in Philosophy and in Mathematics who set papers and marked scripts and theses of candidates in this examination.

The internal examiners are grateful to the external examiners Prof. Richard Thomas (Mathematics) and Prof. Øystein Linnebo (Philosophy) for generously performing their special roles in this process.

Three candidates were awarded Firsts, and one was awarded an Upper Second, on the basis of performance at that level on one side of the FHS with adequate strength overall (rule 2).

Prizes

The following prizes were awarded:

Gibbs Prize (performance in Mathematics papers):	Jinquan Chen, Magdalen College
Gibbs Prize (performance in Philosophy papers):	none awarded.

B. Equal opportunities issues and breakdown of the results by gender

Table 2, page 3 shows percentages of male and female candidates for each class of the degree.

Table 2: Breakdown of results by gender

Class	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
I	7	43.75	6	54.55	1	20
II.1	8	50	4	36.36	4	80
II.2	1	6.25	1	9.09	0	0
III	0	0	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	100	11	100	5	100

C. Detailed numbers on candidates' performance in each part of the exam

See Table 3, page 4 for the number of candidates taking each Mathematics paper, together with statistics for the Raw marks (average and standard deviation), and USMs (average and standard deviation) attained on each paper by this cohort. It should be noted that the total raw marks for a half unit are 50 whilst the USMs are scaled to a maximum of 100.

See Table 4, page 4 for the number of candidates taking each Philosophy paper, together with statistics for the USMs (average and standard deviation) attained on each paper by this cohort.

Section D: Comments on sections and on individual questions

See reports from Mathematics Examiners and from Philosophy Examiners.

E. Comments on performance of identifiable individuals

Removed from public version.

E. Names of members of the Board of Examiners

Prof. Charles Batty (Chair), Prof. Harvey Brown, Dr Dan Isaacson, Prof. Øystein Linnebo, Prof. Gregory Seregin, Prof. Richard Thomas

Table 3: Statistics by paper (Mathematics papers)

Paper	Number of Candidates	AvgRaw	StdevRaw	Avg USM	StdevUSM
B1a	16	38.69	4.57	68.06	8.82
B1b	16	32	8.36	70.44	12.56
B2a	1				
B2b	3				
B3a	1				
B3.1a	4				
B4a	2				
B7.1a	1				
B9a	8	33.12	7.08	66.5	11.6
B9b	7	28.29	8.81	61.14	16.8
B10a	1				
B11a	4				
B11b	11	30.18	5.47	64.27	6.48
C7.1b	1				
N1a	3				
N1b	2				
OCS3a	1				
OCS4b	1				

Table 4: Statistics by paper (Philosophy papers)

Paper	Number of Candidates	Avg USM	StDev USM
101 History of Philosophy	6	66	4.60
102 Knowledge and Reality	10	67.2	3.29
104 Philosophy of Mind	1		
106 Philosophy of Science and Social Science	2		
107 Philosophy of Religion	6	66.67	3.72
108 The Philosophy of Logic and Language Exam	3		
109 Aesthetics and Philosophy of Criticism Exam	3		
110 Medieval Philosophy: Aquinas	1		
115 Plato: Republic	2		
117 Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein	3		
122 Philosophy of Mathematics	16	65.56	3.67
124 Philosophy of Science	1		

Statistics for papers taken by fewer than 6 candidates are not included.