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14 August 2012

External Examiners Report 2012: Final Honour Schools of Mathematics and Philosophy and Physics and Philosophy

Comments

My comments pertain exclusively to the philosophy part of the programmes and general procedures as other external examiners are responsible for the physics and mathematics parts. The comments are based on attending examiners' meetings, reading some of the scripts ahead of the exam boards, and being party to email discussions.

As external examiner, I was given access to the examination papers early on in the process. I found them to be clearly written and appropriately challenging. I identified a couple of typos; otherwise, the papers were impeccable.

The examiners' meetings were conducted in a clear and orderly fashion, and examiners were carefully reminded of the criteria for the various degree classifications. Borderline cases were given appropriate scrutiny and discussion. Overall, the assessment procedure was rigorous and fair.

I found the academic standards to be appropriate and comparable to ones at my present institution, Birkbeck, University of London, and my previous institution, University of Bristol. The standards required for a first are appropriate and certainly not too lax. The standard of the students' overall performance is high and in keeping with Oxford University's high reputation.

The entire examination process was conducted so professionally and smoothly that I see no need for changes or improvements this year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Øystein Linnebo', written in a cursive style.

Øystein Linnebo
Professor of Philosophy
Birkbeck, University of London