

## FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY EXAMINERS' REPORT 2021

### Part I

#### A. Statistics

All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
I	10	13	11	13	8	5	58.8	59	52.4	68.4	42.1	35.7
II.1	7	9	10	6	10	9	41.2	41	47.6	31.6	52.6	64.3
II.2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	-
III	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

All candidates, divided by male and female

Class	Number										Percentage (%) of gender									
	2021		2020		2019		2018		2017		2021		2020		2019		2018		2017	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I	8	2	9	4	8	3	6	7	7	1	72. 7	33. 3	60	57	61.5	37. 5	66. 7	70	50	20
II.1	3	4	6	3	5	5	3	3	7	3	27. 3	66. 7	40	43	38.5	62. 5	33. 3	30	50	60
II.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
III	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

**B.** Candidates were contacted directly in January and April with the new agreed classification procedures for AMH, which were that all candidates would be classified on their six highest marks and that other papers not already submitted would be examined remotely by the Open Book exam format.

### Part II

#### A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

17 candidates (11 M, 6 F) took the examination. There were ten firsts (8 M, 2 F), for the most part clustered at the lower end of the range, and seven upper seconds (3M, 4F). The high percentage of firsts follows the pattern of recent years for this degree.

The Chair is particularly grateful for support throughout the examination period to Andrea Hopkins and Isabelle Moriceau in the History Office and Andrew Dixon and Erica Clarke in Classics, and the other staff in History and Classics who ensured that the examinations were conducted efficiently and equitably, despite the difficulties of a second year of pandemic conditions.

The Chair is also very grateful to fellow examiners for their help, co-operation and good counsel, in particular to Helen Gittos for advise in reviewing Mitigating Circumstances applications; to Christy Constantakopoulou, in her second year as external examiner, who provided characteristically wise and helpful general advice at the Board meeting; and above all to Ed Bispham as convenor for the Ancient History papers.

Medical Certificates and Factors Affecting Performance. The Board considered five cases affecting performance both in particular papers and throughout the examination period including the preparation and submission of theses. The Board was attentive to the need to ensure equity of treatment for all candidates; performance in both affected and most relevant papers was re-examined, and adjustments were made where appropriate by discounting affected papers. The adjustments made had no consequences for overall classification.

At the Board meeting an irregularity in process (in assigning papers for re-reading to the external examiner before the meeting) was noted.

## **B. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND BREAKDOWN OF THE RESULTS BY GENDER**

A gender disparity in results (ten firsts: 8 M, 2 F; seven upper seconds: 3M, 4F) was more evident than in the previous cohort and matched the profile of results in 2019. Although the number of candidates is too low for statistical confidence, the trend in results is of concern.

## **C. DETAILED NUMBERS ON CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN EACH PART OF THE EXAMINATION**

## **D. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS**

Comments on papers from modern history are to be found in the report for the main school.

The Lit. Hum. report provides detailed comments on individual Ancient History papers; I note below numbers of candidates and results, and add comments specific to AMH papers.

### *Greek History 479–403 BC*

There were two AMH candidates for this paper, with one 2.1 and one 2.2 mark.

### *Greek History 403–336 BC.*

The two AMH candidates for this paper produced the strongest scripts for the cohort, with one first class mark and one upper 2.1.

### *Roman History 146 BC to 46 BC.*

The seven 7 AMH candidates for this paper performed particularly well, delivering impressive work, making use of the right evidence or scholarly approaches in the right places to develop what were often independent answers, with 5 first class and two 2.1 marks.

*Roman History 46 BC to AD 54*

This paper was taken by six AMH candidates, with one first class mark and five 2.1s. Candidates performed less well in this paper than those who took the earlier Roman history period paper.

*Politics, Society, and Culture from Nero to Hadrian*

The paper was taken by four AMH candidates; there were two first class marks and two 2.1s.

*Athenian Democracy in the Classical Age*

There was one AMH candidate for this paper, whose script was marked as a high first.

*Alexander the Great and His Early Successors*

This paper was taken by three AMH candidates this year, with two firsts and one 2.1. The three takers for the gobbets paper in AMH achieved two firsts and one high 2.1. As the marks indicate, the overall standard was very high, with few factual errors and only one misidentified gobbet. We noted two recurring issues which sometimes lost candidates marks. Firstly, there was occasionally a tendency to focus narrowly on particular parts of a passage rather than dealing with the gobbet in a well-rounded way. Secondly, candidates could occasionally have said more about the biases of the original lost sources on which our extant narratives draw and how this affects our interpretation of these passages (this was especially an issue with Diodorus and Plutarch's use of Hieronymus).

*Cicero, Politics and Thought*

Six candidates sat this paper in its AMH form. The range of marks ran from the low first class to middle and upper 2.1s.

*Hellenistic World: Societies and Cultures, c. 300-100 BC*

There was only one AMH candidate for this paper.

*Religions in the Greek and Roman World (c. 31 BC – AD 312)*

There was only one AMH candidate for this paper.

*The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC*

There were two AMH candidates, both both marked towards the lower end of the range for the cohort taking the paper. The assessors noted as a general issue affecting a number of scripts poor time management, with several candidates seeming to spend too long on gobbets/picture questions, and essays suffering, sometimes seriously, in consequence.

**E. COMMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUALS AND OTHER MATERIAL WHICH WOULD USUALLY BE TREATED AS RESERVED BUSINESS**

**F. Members of the Board of Examiners**

Dr Charles Crowther (Chair)

Dr Olivia Elder

Dr Helen Gittos

Dr Philippa Byrne

Dr Simon Skinner

Professor Sarah Hamilton (External Examiner in History)

Professor Christy Constantakopoulou (External Examiner in Ancient History)