

**FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND ECONOMICS
EXAMINERS' REPORT 2021**

Part I

A. Statistics

All candidates

Class	No					%				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
I	6	11	2	4	5	42.9	64.7	16.7	28.6	33.3
II.1	7	6	10	10	10	50	35.3	83.3	71.4	66.7
II.2	1	-	-	-	-	7.1	-	-	-	-
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	4	2	10	1	2	0	2	2	5	0	57.1	28.6	66.7	50	28.6	0	28.6	28.6	41.7	0
II.1	2	5	5	1	5	5	5	5	7	3	28.6	71.4	33.3	50	71.4	100	71.4	71.4	58.3	100
II.2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
III	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Because of the pandemic, new classification rules were agreed. HECO finalists were assessed on all eight papers but could have their lowest History mark disregarded, provided that it was not below 50, and provided that it did not disadvantage the candidate. In all ECONOMICS papers, there was a word limit for essays of **1600** words, with technical material (sensibly-sized diagrams &/or equations, etc.) contributing to the total at the rate of 400 words per A4 page. The finalists were informed of these new rules and other matters directly by email on in April and May 2021.

Part II

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

There were 43% Firsts, which is lower than last year's proportion (65%) and is in line with the long-run average (39% over the last five years). Fluctuation in the proportion of Firsts is not unexpected due to the low number of candidates, but last year's outcome was likely affected by the safety net implemented back then. In 2021 the board reverted to using pre-covid classification conventions (except for the treatment of the lowest History mark explained above). Examiners were generally satisfied with the standard exhibited by candidates including the proportion of Firsts.

Exams were online and open-book, using the Inspira system. This had been anticipated by candidates. Many assessors find it easier to read typed answers. Scripts submitted in mixed mode and using both typed and uploaded answers were more difficult to mark due to the technical shortcomings of the Inspira system.

Examiners encountered a large number of MC notices. Some pertained to technical issues. It is hoped that such problems will be less prevalent in future. The Chair and other examiners considered MC notices very carefully. The Chair felt that examiners would have benefited from more specific central guidance concerning the handling of mitigating circumstances.

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

The proportion of Firsts among males far exceeded that among female candidates (57.1% against 28.6%), but the sample was small (7 candidates in each group), just like in previous years. This is not very different from the five-year average (48% Firsts among males versus 21% among females).

C. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

Comments on papers in Economics can be found in the Economics Subject Board report. No specific comments on History papers have been recorded.

D. FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Candidates, assessors and examiners were much better prepared for online examinations than the year before. As a result of effort and experience the examination process was reasonably smooth.

Special thanks are due to Andrea Hopkins (History) who facilitated the meetings and the Board's work with extensive preparation, as well as to Katherine Cummings (Economics) who provided support on the Economics side.

Specific improvements to Inspira as well as suggestions for the conduct of future open-book, online examinations are included in separate reports (e.g., that of the Economics Subject Board).

Dr Peter Eso (Chair)
Prof Johannes Abeler
Dr Philippa Byrne
Prof Patricia Clavin
Dr Stephen Tuffnell
Prof Trevor Burnard (External Examiner for History)
Professor Edmund Cannon (External Examiner for Economics)