

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN HISTORY AND ENGLISH EXAMINERS' REPORT 2021

Part I

A. Statistics

All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
D	5	4	2	4	3	5	38.5	26.7	14.3	40	37.5	62.5
P	8	11	12	6	5	3	61.5	73.3	85.7	60	62.5	37.5
PP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fail		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

All candidates, divided by male and female

Class	Number										Percentage (%) of gender									
	2021		2019		2018		2017		2016		2021		2019		2018		2017		2016	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
D	1	4	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	50	36.4	75	9.1	33.3	9.1	100	33.3	33.3	40
P	1	7	1	10	2	10	0	6	2	3	50	63.6	25	90.9	66.7	90.9	0	66.7	66.7	60
PP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

B. NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

- A. This year for the first time as a result of the pandemic all candidates took their three-hour timed exams via the examining platform Inspira. Candidates' scripts were uploaded to Inspira then downloaded and shared via WebLearn. All scripts were put through Turnitin, and the similarity reports scrutinized by the Chair. Candidates with anomalously high similarity reports were then studied in detail to check for poor academic practice. One penalty was applied. This made no difference to the candidate's classification.
- B.
- C. The classification rules returned to those used in Prelims 2019 and before.
- D. Candidates were informed directly by email in April and May 2021 detailing the new examination procedures and assessment support package.

Part II

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

There were 13 candidates in the cohort (2M 11F), five of whom achieved a Distinction (1M, 4F).

Mitigating Circumstances applications were received from two candidates. No adjustments were made in either case as both had very good Firsts.

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

50% of male candidates and 36.4% of female candidates were awarded Distinctions. This was a considerable improvement on previous years; however, such figures in a tiny cohort of 13 candidates (2M, 11F) are subject to extreme variation year on year and are not statistically significant.

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

All candidates took a History of the British Isles paper; the average mark was 68.8.
All candidates submitted the Introduction to English Literature portfolio of essays; the average mark was 66.4.

9 candidates took a History Optional Subject: average mark 70.8

4 candidates took a History Paper IV paper: average mark 66.75

All candidates took a Literature in English period paper: average mark 65.5

D. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

Candidates answered on a wide range of questions from each paper. There was a good deal of excellent, nuanced and incisive work for the language section of Paper 1, demonstrating that students are learning foundational skills that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their degree. The literature section of Paper 1 also produced some excellent work, with the strongest candidates balancing their work in English and History to produce sophisticated and imaginative work.

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

One candidate was penalized for poor academic practice and ten marks were deducted. The candidate's classification was not affected.

Members of the Board of Examiners

Dr Francis Leneghan (Chair)
Professor Robert Douglas-Fairhurst
Dr Alexandra Gajda
Dr Peter Thompson