

FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS EXAMINERS' REPORT 2021

Part I

A. STATISTICS

All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
I	23	22	20	14	13	14	53.5	46.9	43.5	38.9	34.2	30.4
II.1	19	24	26	22	22	32	44.2	51.1	56.5	61.1	57.9	69.6
II.2	1	-	-	-	3	-	2.3	-	-	-	7.9	-
DDH	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2.1	-	-	-	-

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	14	9	13	9	15	5	9	5	8	5	60.9	45	50	42.9	45.5	38.5	45	31.5	29.6	45.5
II.1	8	11	13	11	18	8	11	11	17	5	34.8	55	50	52.4	54.5	61.5	55	61.5	62.9	45.5
II.2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.4	9.1
DDH	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.7	-	-	-	-	-	-

B. NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

A new method of examining the History of the British Isles paper was introduced as a measure necessitated by the COVID 19 pandemic. The paper is normally examined by submitted essays in year 2, but was cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic. To make up for this, finalists who had been in their second year in 2019-20 were permitted to submit a portfolio of three tutorial essays. This was optional – they could choose not to submit the portfolio. The measure did not apply to returning candidates who had already submitted their British History essays and had them marked before the pandemic.

C. CHANGES TO EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS

This year, because of the COVID 19 pandemic, new (temporary) classification rules were agreed. In order to ensure parity with the History main school, finalists were assessed on seven papers, with one change. FHS 2021 Finalists who studied a British History paper but were unable to submit their British History essays in year 2 had the option to submit a portfolio of three tutorial essays. If they chose not to submit this element they were classified on the remaining six papers; if they did choose to submit it the mark substituted the lowest mark for a History paper, provided that it was not below 50. Finalists who did not study a British History paper could have the lowest mark for a History paper disregarded, provided that it was not below 50 and did not disadvantage the candidate.

D. COMMUNICATION OF EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Candidates were informed of the new classification conventions through direct email correspondence to individual candidates at various dates throughout Hilary Term; the Examining Conventions document was circulated on 13 January, 9 April and an updated version (attached) on 7 May 2021.

Part II – CONDUCT AND OUTCOME OF THE EXAMINATION

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

The examiners noted the generally high standard of performance in the examination. The percentage of Firsts awarded was exceptionally high, in part a consequence of the disregarding of lowest marks applied as a result of the change in classification rules discussed in Part I.C above. The examiners wish to draw this finding to the particular attention of the responsible body.

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

The percentage of women getting Firsts was lower than the percentage of men getting Firsts. However, the difference was not statistically significant at $p < .05$ (chi-square test). Since the numbers in this FHS are small, it will be worth examining the same calculations with respect to the larger numbers of candidates in the Main Schools and other Joint Schools too.

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

Reports on candidates' performance in each part of the examination are supplied in the reports of the History Main School FHS and the report for the Philosophy, Politics and Economics FHS.

D. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

Reports on papers and individual questions are supplied in the reports of the History Main School FHS and the report for the Philosophy, Politics and Economics FHS.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Dr Nicholas Owen (Chair)

Dr Elizabeth Frazer

Dr Jon Parkin

Dr Simon Skinner

Dr Stephen Tuffnell

Professor Jo Fox (External Examiner in History)

Professor Jude Brown (External Examiner in Politics)