

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN HISTORY AND POLITICS EXAMINERS' REPORT 2021

Part I

A. Statistics

All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Dist.	17	18	9	18	14	12	31.5	39.1	18.4	37.5	35	34.3
Pass	36	27	40	28	26	23	66.7	58.7	81.6	58.3	65	65.7
LV Resit	1	1	1	2	0	0	1.9	2.2	2	4.2	0	0

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	M	F
Dist.	12	5	8	10	4	5	14	4	9	5	41.4	20	40	38.5	14.8	22.7	40	37.5	37.5	31.3		
Pass	16	20	12	15	23	17	19	9	15	11	55.2	80	60	57.7	85.2	77.3	54.3	62.5	62.5	68.7		
LV R	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	3.5	0	0	3.9	0	4.4	5.7	0	0	0		

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. The classification rules returned to those used in Prelims 2019 and before.
- C. 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

54 students sat the examination. 17 received Firsts (five women and twelve men).

MCE Applications – 15 MCE notices were received. No adjustment to marks was made in 9 of these cases; in four cases the penalty for late submission was waived, and in two cases adjustments were made.

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

This year saw a very disappointing return to the gender gap in performance after the near parity of 2019 and 2018. The number of female candidates sitting the exam in 2021 was comparable to figures for 2019 and 2018, yet the percentage of female candidates achieving a Distinction dropped considerably. This outcome will be discussed in relevant committees.

Results by school type: 5 of the 17 Distinctions were from Independent schools; 4 from Overseas schools; 8 from State schools. Two candidates who achieved a Distinction were admitted under the Opportunity Oxford/Access/Widening Participation initiatives.

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

History of the British Isles: taken by 30 candidates: 70 or more x 10; 66-69 x 10; 60-65 x 5; 50-59 x 4; below 50 x 1; average mark 65.7

European and World History: taken by 24 candidates: 70 or more x 7; 66-69 x 8; 60-65 x 7; 50-59 x 2; average mark 66.4

Optional Subjects (not including OS1): taken by 18 candidates: 70 or more x 4; 66-69 x 4; 60-65 x 10 no marks under 60; average mark 65.5

OS 1 Theories of the State: taken by 18 candidates: 70 or more x 5; 66-69 x 6; 60-65 x 5; 50-59 x 2; average mark 66.33

Introduction Theories of Politics: taken by 36 candidates: 70 or more x 12; 66-69 x 11; 60-65 x 13; no marks under 60; average mark 67.3

Introduction to Practice of Politics: taken by 54 candidates: 70 or more x 17; 66-69 x 16; 60-65 x 17; 50-59 x 2; below 50 x 1; average mark 66.4

History Paper IV: taken by 36 candidates: 70 or more x 9; 66-69 x 9; 60-65 x 12; 50-59 x 5; below 50 x 1; average mark 65.5

E. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

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

(Redacted)

G. Members of the Board of Examiners

Dr Peter Thompson (Chair)
Professor John-Paul Ghobrial
Dr Zofia Stemplowska
Dr Miles Tendi

