

## Preliminary Examination in History and English Examiners' Report 2025

### Part I

#### A. Statistics

##### I. All Candidates

Class	Number						Percentage (%)					
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Dist	3	5	3	5	5		20.0%	33.3%	20.0%	41.7%	38.5%	
Pass	12	10	12	7	8		80.0%	66.7%	80.0%	58.3%	61.5%	

##### II. All candidates divided by male and female

Class	Number											
	2025		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dist	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	1	4		
Pass	3	8	3	7	1	11	1	6	1	7		
Class	Percentage of Gender (%)											
	2025		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dist	25.0%	18.2%	50.0%	22.2%	66.7%	8.3%	66.7%	33.3%	50.0%	36.4%		
Pass	75.0%	82.0%	50.0%	77.8%	33.3%	91.7%	33.3%	66.7%	50.0%	63.6%		

##### III. Gender statistics

Paper	F Avg	M Avg	Diff	F High	M High	F Low	M Low	F 70+	M 70+	F <60	M <60
All	64.3	66.2	1.9					0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (109%)	0 (0%)
BIP	63.5	61.5	2.0	3	0	4	2	3 (27%)	0 (27%)	3 (27%)	1 (27%)
EWP											
OS	65.8	66.0	0.3	3	0	1	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
P4	68.3	66.0	2.3	1	0	0	0	1 (9%)	0 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	64.0	67.4	3.4	6	4	7	5	4 (36%)	6 (36%)	7 (64%)	0 (64%)

## **B. New examining methods and procedures**

All History papers were examined by three-hour timed exams in Examination Schools. All English papers were examined by three-hour computer-based timed exams in Examination Schools.

## **Part II**

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### **A. General comments on the examination**

There were 20% Distinctions this year, a decrease from last year but in line with 20% in 2023.

### **B. Equality and diversity issues and breakdown of results by gender**

25% of men attained a Distinction this year; 18.2% of women attained a Distinction. The number of women sitting the Preliminary Examination was significantly greater than the number of men (4 men; 11 women).

### **C. Detailed numbers on candidates' performance in each part of the examination**

Introduction to English Language and Literature: This paper, taken by all candidates, had an average mark of 63.9 (marks ranged from 73 to 50).

History of the British Isles: This paper, taken by all candidates, had an average mark of 62.9 (marks ranged from 70 to 47).

Optional Subject: 11 candidates took an Optional Subject; the average mark was 65.8 (marks ranged from 67 to 61).

Paper IV: 4 candidates took *Approaches to History*; the average mark was 67.8 (marks ranged from 72 to 66).

### **D. Comments on papers and individual questions**

## **Members of the Board of Examiners**

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Catherine McLoughlin (Chair)

Kantik Ghosh

Avi Lifschitz

Hannah Skoda