FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND MODERN LANGUAGES EXAMINERS' REPORT 2023 FINAL

Part I

   A. Statistics

   All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
I	8	11	10	17	11	11	53.3	57.9	40	77.2	64.7	11
II.1	6	8	14	5	6	12	40	42.1	56	22.8	35.3	12
II.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DDH	1	-	1	-	-	-	6.7	-	4	-	-	-

   All candidates, divided by male and female

Class	Number										Percentage (%) of gender									
	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2023		2022		2021		2020		2019	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I	1	7	5	6	4	6	9	8	9	2	50	53.9	71.4	50	36.4	42.9	100	61.5	66.7	28.6
II.1	1	5	2	6	6	8	0	5	1	5	50	38.5	28.6	50	54.5	57.1	0	38.5	33.3	71.4
II.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DDH	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.7	-	-	9.1	-	-	-	-	-

   B. **NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES**

   This year the pre-pandemic classification rules that applied to the main school and other joint schools in FHS 2022 came back into force for the HML finalists. As in 2021 and 2022, the Oral examination was conducted on a Distinction/Pass/Fail basis and the candidates classified on 9 papers weighted at 1 each (instead of 9.5 as in previous years). Owing to the Marking and Assessment boycott, some modifications had to be made to examining procedures. A number of papers on the modern languages side were single marked. On the History side some boycotting markers were replaced by others with appropriate expertise; a number of papers were single-marked and then moderated by an experienced assessor to achieve a final mark. In one paper, the History Special Subject Revolutions of 1989, both markers were boycotting and no replacement markers could be found; this resulted in the temporary classification of one candidate as Deserving of Honours.

   C. **INFORMING CANDIDATES OF EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS**

   Candidates were informed of the changes to the Examination Conventions through direct email correspondence to individual candidates at various dates in Hilary and Trinity Terms.

Part II

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

Six candidates were affected by the Marking and Assessment boycott by having moderated marks for one or more History papers. These candidates were able to be fully classified at the Exam Board meeting in July. The candidate who was given a temporary classification of Deserving of Honours has since been fully classified as soon as the missing marks were supplied following the end of the boycott.

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

It is almost impossible to comment on results by gender when the cohort consisted of two men and thirteen women. The gender imbalance, though extreme this year, is a common feature of this joint school; however it is noticeable that a higher proportion of the male candidates consistently succeed in attaining first class degrees than the female candidates.

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

D.

It is difficult to make much meaningful analysis of the component parts of the HML examination because of the small cohort and the variety of papers taken. This year's results showed a strong improvement on the previous four years of results, in the proportion of the cohort gaining first class or upper second marks.

HML Bridge Essays	2023	2023%	2022	2022%	2021	2021%	2020	2020%	2019	2019%
70+	6	40%	5	26.3%	8	32%	8	36.4%	4	23.5%
65-69	6	40%	7	36.8%	8	32%	9	40.9%	9	52.9%
60-64	3	20%	6	31.6%	7	28%	4	18.2%	4	23.5%
50-59	0		1	5.3%	1	4%	1	4.5%	0	
less than 50	0		0		1	4%	0		0	
Candidates	15		19		25		22		17	

Few candidates in HML write History theses. This year there were three, two of which secured a First-class mark); there were also three candidates who submitted a Dissertation in Modern Languages, also producing two first class marks; in both cases the average mark was 70. It is striking, however, that Bridge Essay marks overall have tended to be low when compared to the History Main School theses, on which most students score their highest marks. (This year in main school history, 115 candidates out of 262 or 44%, secured marks of 70 or above for their thesis.)

On the whole candidates seem to have performed better this year in their ML papers than their History papers:

15 candidates took a paper in European and World History; the average mark was 67.3 with a range from 58 to 71, and 5 candidates (33%) gaining first class marks.

10 candidates took a Further Subject in History; the average mark was 67.7, with a range from 62 to 71, and 4 candidates (44%) gaining first class marks.

9 candidates took a History Special Subject, of which one received no marks so far due to the marking and assessment boycott; the average marks of the others were 67.6 for the gobbets, and 68.4 for the extended essays; one candidate gained first class marks in both

papers, with a further two gaining a mark of 70 or more in the gobbets paper, and three in the extended essay.

15 candidates took a ML Period paper; the average mark was 68.5, with a range from 62 to 74 and 7 candidates (46%) gaining first class marks.

13 candidates took a ML Modern Prescribed Authors paper; the average mark was 70, with a range from 64 to 77 and 5 candidates (38.5%) gaining marks well into the 70s.

10 candidates chose to take a Paper XII paper; the average mark was 71.5, with a range from 60 to 80, and 8 candidates (80%) gained first class marks.

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

The top performing candidate in the cohort qualified for a Congratulatory First, achieving first class marks in every paper – an extraordinary feat across nine papers. The same candidate also won the Richard Cobb Prize for the best thesis on European History.

E. Members of the Board of Examiners

Prof Ian Forrest (Chair)
Prof Ben Morgan (Modern Languages Coordinator)
Prof Christina de Bellaigue
Prof David Hopkin
Prof Jan Fellerer
Prof Geraldine Hazbun
Prof Georgina Paul
Prof Jennifer Yee
Prof Clare Griffiths (External Examiner for History)
Prof Derek Flitter (External Examiner for Modern Languages)