

FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS EXAMINERS' REPORT 2022

Part I

A. STATISTICS

All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
I	20	23	22	20	14	13	47.6	53.5	46.9	43.5	38.9	34.2
II.1	22	19	24	26	22	22	52.4	42.2	51.1	56.5	61.1	57.9
II.2	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	2.3	-	-	7.9	7.9
DDH	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2.1	-	-	-

All candidates, divided by male and female

Class	Number										Percentage (%) of gender									
	2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I	6	14	14	9	13	9	15	5	9	5	42.9	50	60.9	45	50	42.9	45.5	38.5	45	31.5
II.1	8	14	8	11	13	11	18	8	11	11	57.1	50	34.8	55	50	52.4	54.5	61.5	55	61.5
II.2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DDH	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.7	-	-	-	-

B. NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

This year the classification rules returned to the pre-pandemic norms. For returning candidates who had withdrawn from FHS 2021, the FHS 2021 classification rules applied, and they could have their lowest mark in a History paper disregarded, provided it was not below 50 and did not disadvantage the candidate.

C. CHANGES TO EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS

As indicated above, there was a return to pre-pandemic norms, except for returning candidates (who remained subject to the norms of the year in which they would have sat FHS if they had not withdrawn).

D. COMMUNICATION OF EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Candidates were informed of the classification conventions through direct email correspondence to individual candidates at various dates from October to March; the final Examining Conventions document was circulated on 11 May 2022.

Part II – CONDUCT AND OUTCOME OF THE EXAMINATION

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

The examiners once again noted the generally high standard of performance in the examination. The return to pre-pandemic norms, removing some of the 'safety net'

procedures of recent years, resulted in a decline in the percentage of Firsts of almost 6%. Seen in year-on-year terms, that looks significant, but it still results in a higher percentage than in 2019, the last pre-pandemic 'normal' year. ES-C might note the percentage increases in Firsts: 2017-18 +4.7%; 2018-19 +4.6%; 2019-22 [i.e. stripping out the worst pandemic affected years of 2020 and 2021] +4.1%. The percentage of Firsts awarded in 2022 was thus 13.4% higher than the figure for 2017.

The examiners - including the externals - were thankful for all the hard work of administrative staff, especially Dr Andrea Hopkins, in circumstances that were less than ideal. An external examiner also praised the 'extraordinary' care taken to protect candidates' interests within the Oxford system, including the oversight of mitigating circumstances claims. Alongside this went the hope that in future years there could be greater and earlier efforts to clarify procedures for re-reading scripts and to clarify the meeting schedule for the benefit of external examiners. This may involve more frequent and detailed communications between History and Politics.

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

This year 50% of female candidates gained a First, compared to 42.9% of men. As the statistical tables in Part 1.A above show, this is the first time that women have outperformed men in HPOL during the 5 year span of time covered. It is striking that this set of exam outcomes occurs at the same time that the cohort features a higher proportion of women than ever before, and by a very large margin: 2022 66.7% F; 2021 46.5% F; 2020 44.7% F; 2019 28.3% F; 2018 44.4% F. All usual caveats about the relatively small size of the HPOL cohort apply.

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 Grant Tapsell (Chair)
Dr Michael Hart
Prof Desmond King
Prof Marc Mulholland
Mr Stephen Tuffnell
Professor Jo Fox (External Examiner in History)
Professor Jude Browne (External Examiner in Politics)