

# FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS EXAMINERS' REPORT 2024

## Part I

### A. STATISTICS

All candidates

Class	No						%					
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
I	13	21	20	23	22	20	29.6	36.2	47.6	53.5	46.9	43.5
II.1	30	37	22	19	24	26	68.2	63.8	52.4	42.2	51.1	56.1
II.2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	-	-
Fail	1	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	-	-	-	-	-
DDH	1	-	-	-	1	-	2.3	-	-	-	2	-

All candidates, divided by male and female

Class	Number										Percentage (%) of gender									
	2024		2023		2022		2021		2020		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I	8	5	14	7	6	14	14	9	13	9	33.3	17.4	45.2	25.9	42.9	50	60.9	45	50	42.9
II.1	12	18	17	14	20	14	8	11	13	11	61.9	82.6	54.8	74.1	57.1	50	34.8	55	50	52.4
II.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	-	-	-
Pass	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DDH	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.7

### B. NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

A. All papers were examined by three-hour timed written in-person exams in Examination Schools. Classification procedures were the same as in 2019, pre-pandemic.

C. Candidates were informed directly by email in April 2024 detailing the examination methods and procedures.

## Part II – CONDUCT AND OUTCOME OF THE EXAMINATION

### A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

The overall number of firsts declined this year, from 36 to 27 percent, falling to below pre-pandemic levels. The Board is not aware of any systemic issue that may explain this. Our marking criteria and examination processes are unchanged, so it must simply be due to a slightly lower range of raw marks.

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

Last year's Chair noted a worrying gender gap in the numbers of male and female students getting firsts. There is also a gender gap this year, though with a smaller n,

it is more difficult to draw conclusions. In 2022, the gender imbalance was the other way around. More statistical work might usefully be done (perhaps it already has been) to understand how persistent and deep this problem is.

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

Thesis: 6 candidates chose to submit a Thesis in Politics, with an average mark of 65.8 (marks ranged from 64 – 68). 38 candidates chose to submit a Thesis in History, with an average mark of 66.5 (marks ranged from 57-81; 10 marks above 70, 4 below 60).

European and World History: 35 candidates took a European and World History paper, with an average mark of 65.9 (marks ranged from 53 – 74; 6 marks above 70, 2 below 60). Of these, 5 took two EWF papers.

Further Subject: 28 candidates took a History Further Subject, with an average mark of 66.1 (marks ranged from 55 to 72; 7 marks above 70, 3 marks below 60).

Special Subject papers: 16 candidates chose to do a History Special Subject, examined both by a timed written paper and an extended essay. 6 candidates achieved marks above 70 in the extended essay, 4 in the exam; only 1 mark below 60.

### **D. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

Prof Adam Smith (Chair)

Prof Marc Mulholland

Dr Grant Tapsell

Dr Nicholas Owen

Prof Ranjit Lall

Professor Clare Griffiths (External Examiner in History)

Professor Andreas Murr (External Examiner in Politics)