

Preliminary Examination in History and Economics 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	4	6	3	7	7		23.5%	33%	23%	39%	50%	
Pass	13	12	10	11	7		76.5%	67%	77%	61%	50%	

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	4	-	5	1	3	-	3	4	4	3		
Pass	8	5	7	5	5	5	4	7	2	5		
Class	Percentage of Gender (%)											
	2025		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dist	33.3%	-	41.7%	16.7%	37.5%	-	42.9%	36.4%	66.7%	37.5%		
Pass	66.7%	100.0%	58.3%	83.3%	62.5%	100.0%	57.1%	63.6%	33.3%	62.5%		

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	64.7	66.1	1.4								
BIP											
EWP	68.0	67.4	0.6	72	75	64	63	2 (40%)	5 (40%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
OS	67.8	67.3	0.5	73	71	61	65	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
P4	65.6	68.8	3.2	68	75	62	63	0 (0%)	6 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	57.4	63.2	5.8	63	72	49	50	0 (0%)	4 (0%)	3 (60%)	5 (60%)

B. New examining methods and procedures

All papers were examined by three-hour timed exams in Examination schools.

Part II

A. General comments on the examination

There were 23.5% Distinctions this year, a decrease from last year but in line with 23% in 2023.

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

33.3% of men attained a Distinction this year; no women attained a Distinction. The number of men sitting the Preliminary Examination was significantly greater than the number of women (17 men; 5 women).

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

Introductory Economics: This paper, taken by all candidates, had an average mark of 59.5 (marks ranged from 72 to 49).

Optional Subject: 11 candidates took an Optional Subject; the average mark was 67.5 (marks ranged from 73 to 61). *Industrialisation in Britain and France* was taken by 6 candidates; the average mark was 68.8 (marks ranged from 71 to 65).

European and World History: The average mark in the EWP paper was 67.6 (marks ranged from 75 to 63).

Paper IV: 12 candidates took *Approaches to History*; the average mark was 67.0 (marks ranged from 73 to 62). 4 candidates took *Historiography: Tacitus to Weber*; the average mark was 71.3 (marks ranged from 75 to 68). One candidate took *Foreign Texts: Tocqueville*, and attained a mark of 64.

D. Comments on papers and individual questions

Members of the Board of Examiners

Ian Crawford (Chair)

Alison Andrew

Avi Lifschitz

Faridah Zaman