FACULTY OF HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Preliminary Examination in History and Politics Examiners' Report 2025

Part I

A. Statistics

I. All Candidates

	Number						Percentage (%)					
Class	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Dist	12	18	11	12	17		27.9%	36.7%	28.2%	27.3%	31.5%	
Pass	29	31	27	32	35		67.4%	63.3%	69.2%	72.7%	64.8%	

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	6	6	11	7	7	4	8	4	12	5		
Pass	12	17	17	14	9	18	12	20	16	19		
Class	Percentage of Gender (%)											
	2025		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020	
	M	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**
Dist	31.6%	25.0%	39.3%	33.3%	43.8%	17.4%	40.0%	16.7%	41.4%	20.0%		
Pass	63.2%	70.8%	60.7%	66.7%	56.3%	78.3%	60.0%	83.3%	55.2%	76.0%		

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	65.9	66.5	0.6								
BIP	66.9	67.7	0.8	74	71	55	65	7 (29%)	3 (29%)	1 (4%)	0 (4%)
EWP	65.5	66.8	1.3	69	73	61	52	0 (0%)	3 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)
OS	66.2	64.9	1.3	75	72	57	50	4 (17%)	3 (17%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)
P4	66.5	66.4	0.2	74	76	56	59	8 (33%)	4 (33%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)
Other	64.9	66.4	1.5	73	75	57	52	4 (17%)	11 (17%)	3 (13%)	3 (13%)

B. New examining methods and procedures

All papers were examined by three-hour timed exams in Examination schools. The EWP paper and Politics papers were typed, computer-based exams.

Part II

A. General comments on the examination

There were 27.9% Distinctions this year, a decrease from last year but in line with 28.2% in 2023.

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

31.6% of men attained a Distinction this year, compared with 25.0% of women. Women performed slightly better than men in the Optional Subject, with an average mark of 66.2 for women and 64.9 for men.

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

Introduction to the Practice of Politics: This paper, taken by all candidates, had an average mark of 64.8 (marks ranged from 75 to 52).

Introduction to the Theory of Politics: This paper, taken by 22 candidates, had an average mark of 66.5 (marks ranged from 73 to 58).

Optional Subject: 20 candidates took *Theories of the State*; the average mark was 65.8 (marks ranged from 75 to 50). 4 candidates took an Optional Subject that was not *Theories of the State*; the average mark was 66.8 (marks ranged from 72 to 63).

European and World History: 9 candidates took *European and World History*; the average mark was 66.2 (marks ranged from 73 to 52).

History of the British Isles: 33 candidates took *History of the British Isles*; the average mark was 67.2 (marks ranged from 74 to 55).

Paper IV: 23 candidates took *Approaches to History*; the average mark was 68.5 (marks ranged from 76 to 62). 11 candidates took *Historiography: Tacitus to Weber*; the average mark was 62.9 (marks ranged from 70 to 56). 3 candidates took *Foreign Texts* papers; the average mark was 64.5 (marks ranged from 71 to 58); 2 candidates took *Quantification in History*; the average mark was 64.5 (marks ranged from 66 to 63).

D. Comments on papers and individual questions

Members of the Board of Examiners

Avi Lifschitz (Chair)

Odile Panetta

Radoslaw Zubek

Aylon Cohen