

**FHS COMPUTER SCIENCE/
FHS MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
PART C EXAMINATIONS
TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENTS
MICHAELMAS TERM 2008**

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

Full particulars of the examinations are given in the Examination Regulations 2008, and the Examination Conventions for 2009 can be found at

<http://www.comlab.ox.ac.uk/teaching/examconventions.html>

Each of the courses listed below will be examined by a take-home assignment. The assignment for each course may be collected from Wendy Adams, Julie Sheppard or Leanne Carveth in Room 112 of the Computing Laboratory after 12 noon on the date shown.

Computer Aided Formal Verification	Monday, 1 st December
Computational Linguistics	Friday, 5 th December
Information Retrieval	Friday, 5 th December
Probabilistic Model Checking	Friday, 5 th December
Randomised Algorithms	Monday, 1 st December

The completed assignments are due by noon on Monday, 19th January, 2009. Each assignment should be put in a separate envelope, clearly marked with your candidate number (but not your name) and the name of the course, and addressed to the Chairman of Examiners, FHS Computer Science, Part C. The envelopes must be handed in to the Examination Schools, High St, by noon. Assignments that are late by even a few minutes will not be accepted by the Schools staff. Assignments cannot be handed in at the Computing Laboratory, or anywhere else other than at the Examination Schools.

Each assignment will contain a number of questions on the course, some more difficult than others. Some questions will be similar in style to questions on tutorial sheets, although perhaps a bit longer, and a few will be more challenging. Each assignment is designed to take you about three days' work. You may, however, need an extra day for background reading.

1. Although some assignments may be carried out while you are resident in Oxford, some may be prepared over the Vacation period. Students who wish to complete their assignments away from Oxford should make sure that they have access to adequate computing facilities to do so.

2. Your answer to an assignment should not normally exceed 20 pages, and 10 pages would be more typical. Please write on one side of the paper only, and use standard A4 paper. Write legibly and allow time to polish your answers. Illegible and poorly laid out answers will be penalised more severely than in a standard written exam. Typewritten or word-processed answers are acceptable, provided the mathematical notation is clear, but please do not feel obliged to spend time typing your answers unless you wish to do so.
3. You should aim to do significantly more than half of each assignment. If you complete less than half of an assignment, you should still hand it in. Even if you fail in that subject, the work will earn you credit in the overall assessment.
4. If problems arise, please consult your tutor in the first instance. Tutors will not be able to help you answer the assignments, but they may be able to help you with your reading and planning. They may consult the examiners on your behalf if they feel that clarification is necessary, and may inform the examiners (through your college and the Proctors) of any extraneous factors (e.g. illness) that may affect you. You should not make direct contact with either the lecturer concerned or the examiners.
5. When submitting your assignments you will have to complete a Declaration Form attesting that they are your own work, except where indicated. Failure to correctly acknowledge your sources is plagiarism, i.e. cheating, which is treated as a very serious disciplinary offence. If you fail an assignment, it is possible to remedy the situation later; but the consequences of copying can never be remedied. Please consult (a) the University web site regarding plagiarism, and (b) your tutor, if you are worried about any possible suspicion of any irregularity in examination procedures.

You should not show your assignment to, or discuss it with, any other student. You should not ask or seek to look at anybody else's work.

If you use material from any other source such as textbooks, lecture notes or the web then you should reference it explicitly at the relevant point. Your tutor can give you guidance on proper referencing.

Assessors will not give you much credit if you simply copy information verbatim because that displays very little understanding. They will be more impressed if you synthesise information from a number of sources (properly cited, of course), and combine it with your own ideas.

S. Cameron
Chairman of Examiners
Final Honour Schools of Computer Science, and
Mathematics and Computer Science, Part C

28th October 2008