

Final Honour Schools of Computer Science and Mathematics and Computer Science

Part A Examination 2008

Notice to Candidates from the Examiners in Computer Science

Purpose of this notice

Full particulars of the examinations are given in the *Examination Regulations 2007*, and Examination Conventions for 2008 can be found at

<http://web.comlab.ox.ac.uk/internal/courses/conventions/>.

This notice is confined to matters that may need emphasis or amplification. It is addressed only to candidates in the Honour Schools of Computer Science and of Mathematics & Computer Science. If you are a candidate from another school (for example Mathematics or ECS) then you should refer for information to notices circulated by the chairmen of examiners in those schools.

Candidates' attention is specifically drawn to the material in this notice concerning the handing in of Practical Work, to the Examiners' evaluation criteria, and to University Standardised Marks.

The marking and classification scheme for finals is described in the Examination Conventions.

Independence of Examiners

It must be stressed that to preserve the independence of examiners, candidates are not allowed to contact them directly about matters relating to the content or marking of papers. Any communication must be via the Senior Tutor of the candidate's college, who will contact the Proctors if appropriate. The Proctors will in turn communicate with the Chairman of Examiners.

Conduct of the examination

Candidates will be required to produce their University cards at the start of each examination session.

The marking of the examination - including practical work - is conducted as far as possible in ignorance of the candidates' names and colleges. To this end the following points are to be observed:

Scripts: Every candidate will be provided with an examination number, and all work handed in must be attached to a cover sheet marked with that number. Even if the candidate submits no written work for an examination which he or she attends, a cover sheet should be submitted. Neither the name nor the college of the candidate should appear anywhere on the script.

Practicals: Each separate report of practical work should be conspicuously labelled with the candidate's examination number only, and not with the candidate's name or college.¹ Please also ensure that each report clearly indicates the subject and number of the exercise, e.g. Compilers, practical exercise 2. See also the section on "Practical work".

Calculators: The Regulations (pp. 211, 347) state that "The use of calculators is generally not permitted but certain kinds may be allowed for certain papers. Specifications of which papers and

¹ This regulation is designed for your own protection. However, it is not the policy of the examiners to penalise candidates who inadvertently break this rule when handing in practical work.

which types of calculators are permitted for those exceptional papers will be announced by the examiners in the Hilary Term preceding the examination." None of the computer science papers will require calculators.

Rough work: Special paper will be provided. Candidates should not bring their own paper.

Legibility: Illegible scripts, if they are to be considered by the examiners, will be typed at the candidate's expense.

Handing in: Each candidate is responsible for handing in his or her scripts, appropriately bundled according to the instructions (if any) on the examination paper. Each bundle must have a completed cover sheet, and candidates should hand in an empty cover sheet for those sections of a paper from which they attempt no questions.

Timetable

The detailed timetable for the Examination has yet to be finalised by the Clerk of Schools. Candidates will receive a copy of this from the Clerk of Schools in due course. The Examiners will also make the timetable available via the Computing Laboratory website.

Composition of papers

The details below are confined to Part A Computer Science papers; similar details for papers under the control of other schools should be sought from those schools.

Paper	Number of questions	Maximum number of questions to be answered	Marks per question	Duration of exam
CS4 Object Oriented Programming	6	4	25	3 hours
CS5 Concurrency, Networks & Operating Systems	6	4	25	3 hours
Formal Program Design I	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Formal Program Design II	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Compilers	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Programming Languages	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Computer Architecture	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Computer Graphics	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Numerical Analysis	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Advanced Data Structures & Algorithms	3	2	25	1.5 hours
Object Oriented Design	3	2	25	1.5 hours

On all Computer Science papers there will be an indication of how many marks out of the total of 25 are allocated to each part of each question. This is intended as a guide to candidates in allotting time and effort.

On 1.5 hour option papers candidates may answer up to 2 questions. Where a candidate offers two option papers that are timetabled in a single three-hour session, he or she may work on both papers for the full three hours, but may answer at most 2 questions from each paper.

The Examiners advise candidates that it is best to answer complete questions whenever possible, and this will be reflected in the mark scheme for each question.

Practical work

Handing in Practical Reports: Candidates must hand these reports in to the Chair of Examiners **at the Computing Laboratory** by noon on Monday of week 5 of Trinity Term. Details of the hand-in procedure will be sent to you in due course.

Presentation of Practical Work: The practical work must be bound together in a single file (or packed in a single envelope) addressed to the Chairman of Examiners in Computer Science (or Mathematics and Computer Science as the case may be) and must be marked clearly on the outside with the candidate's name, examination number, and the Honour School in which the candidate is being examined (either Computer Science, or Mathematics and Computer Science). The bundle must include the declaration form included with this notice: on it the candidate declares the work to be his or her own.

Assessment of Practical Work: The examiners will determine a mark for the practical work associated with each computer science paper, taking into account the provisional mark assigned by the demonstrator and their own assessment of the work submitted.

Practicals do not contribute to the classification of candidates but each candidate must pass the practical course in order to pass the examination.

The detailed procedure for assessing practical work is set out in the Examination Conventions but, broadly speaking, a candidate will pass the practical course if they have completed adequately (at Grade S) slightly more than half the practical work for the papers they have chosen.

Late submission or failure to submit coursework

Under the provisions permitted by the 2007 Regulation, late submission of coursework (i.e. practical and project reports) will normally result in the following penalties:

Where permission for late submission has been granted by the Proctors (under clause (1) of para. 16.8, page 45), no penalty will be imposed.

Where permission for late submission has not been granted by the Proctors, but the Proctors have given leave for the candidate to remain in the exam (under clauses (3) and (4) of para 16.8), the Examiners may impose a penalty not exceeding the credit available for that piece of work. The Examiners should take into account such factors as:

1. the evidence forwarded to them by the Proctors and (insofar as the following matters are not dealt with by such evidence)
2. a judgement concerning the degree of advantage gained by the extra time made available to the candidate relative to the time that was available to complete coursework by the original deadline and
3. the weight to be attached to the reason given, if any, for late submission.

Where the candidate is not permitted by the Proctors to remain in the examination he or she will be deemed to have failed the examination as a whole.

Medical certificates

If evidence of recent medical problems is presented to the examiners via the Proctors, they will take this into account in the classification process. The examiners in Part A may adjust the marks of a candidate in some papers in the light of this evidence, but will in any case pass on the evidence to the Part B examiners in the following year. The examiners in Part B will consider evidence relating to a candidate's performance both in Part A and in Part B. They also may adjust the marks for certain papers, and may in addition deviate in a candidate's favour from the usual relationship between average marks and degree classes, particularly when there is medical evidence relating to Part A, and the candidate's performance in Part B is markedly improved.

Results

The examiners hope to send details of individual marks to tutors on about 8th July 2008.

Difficulties

Any candidate who encounters difficulties with any of the above should discuss the matter with his or her tutor without delay.

Dr David Walker
Chairman of Examiners
Final Honour Schools of Computer Science
and Mathematics & Computer Science
(Hilary Term 2008)

**Final Honour Schools of Computer Science
and Mathematics & Computer Science**

Part A Examination 2008

Declaration Form for Practical Work

This form is to be handed in with practicals. The form must be signed.

I declare that the reports on practicals which I have handed in are all my own work except for marks and comments by demonstrators, and other material clearly indicated.

Name

College

Candidate no.

Honour school

Signature:

Date: