

Oxford University Final Honour Schools
Trinity Term 2007

Mathematics and Computer Science Part A:
First Notice to Candidates

- Full particulars of the syllabus and the examination are contained in the *Examination Regulations* together with the *Supplement* (Part A synopses) to the *Handbook for the Undergraduate Mathematics Courses*.
- You will receive a second notice later with information about the examination timetable and practical arrangements in the Schools, including information about examination numbers, handing in of scripts, and so on. We are expecting the Mathematics papers in the examination to be held on Thursday and Friday of week 9 in Trinity Term, June 21st and 22nd 2007.
- A note about examination conventions relating to marking of Mathematics papers in Part A is attached. Your marks will be reported to you in the University's standard format which consists of a mark in the range 0-100 for each paper.
- The examiners are planning to hold their final meeting on Friday 6th July 2007, and hope to distribute results to Colleges soon afterwards.

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Chairman of Part A Examiners
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Final Honour Schools of Computer Science
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Trinity Term 2007

Copy: Senior Computation Tutors
Senior Mathematics Tutors

Part A 2007 Mathematics and Computer Science: Marking of papers

Standardized Marks

The University wishes all examiners to adopt a uniform system of reporting marks. This means - that each candidate will receive a numerical mark on each paper in the range 0-100, such that

- a First Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 70 to 100;
- an Upper Second Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 60 to 69;
- a Lower Second Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 50 to 59;
- a Third Class performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 40 to 49;
- a Pass performance (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 30 to 39;
- a performance at the level of a Fail (on that paper) is indicated by a mark of 0 to 29.

In order to arrive at such University standardized marks (or USMs) for each paper, the examiners will mark and assess papers in the way described below.

Mathematics Papers in Part A

There are three Maths papers in Part A:

AC1(MC), AC2(MC) and AO(MC) – each of 2 hours and 15 minutes duration.

There will be two papers on the first day in the order AC1(MC), AC2(MC), and AO(MC) will be taken on the second day.

Questions on AC1(MC) are shorter and will be marked out of 10, while questions on AC2(MC) and AO(MC) are longer and will be marked out of 25.

There will be nine questions on paper AC1(MC) and candidates should attempt six from two sections only. There will be nine questions on paper AC2(MC) and candidates may hand in answers to at most four from at most two sections; the best three answers will be counted towards the mark for this paper.

There will be 17 questions on paper AO(MC); this will include questions on all Maths options courses (one for each 8 lecture course and two for each 16 lecture course), except Numerical Analysis which can only be taken as a Computer Science option. Candidates may hand in answers to at most four questions, from which the best three answers will be counted towards the mark for this paper.

You do not need to memorise these details. They will be repeated on the individual examination papers.

Marking of Papers

Mark schemes for questions out of 10 will aim to ensure that the following qualitative criteria hold:

9-10 marks: a completely or almost completely correct answer, showing good understanding of the concepts and skill in carrying through arguments and calculations; minor slips or omissions only.

5-8 marks: a good though not complete answer, showing understanding of the concepts and competence in handling the arguments and calculations.

Mark schemes for questions out of 25 will aim to ensure that the following qualitative criteria hold:

20-25 marks: a completely or almost completely correct answer, showing good understanding of the concepts and skill in carrying through the arguments and/or calculations; minor slips or omissions only.

13-19 marks: a good though not complete answer, showing understanding of the concepts and competence in handling the arguments and/or calculations. In this range, an answer might consist of a very good answer to a substantial part of the question, or a good answer to the whole question which nevertheless shows some flaws in calculation or in understanding or in both.

USMs

At the end of the Part A examination, a candidate will be awarded a University standardised mark (USM) for each of the three Mathematics papers. The Examiners will recalibrate the raw marks to arrive at the USMs reported to candidates. In arriving at this recalibration, the examiners will principally take into account the total sum over all three papers of the marks for each question, subject to the rules above on numbers of questions answered, and the performance of the candidates in Part A Mathematics on the corresponding papers.

The examiners aim to ensure that all papers and all subjects within a paper are fairly and equally rewarded, but if in any case a paper, or a subject within a paper, appears to have been problematical, then the examiners may take account of this in calculating USMs.

The USMs awarded to a candidate for papers in Part A will be carried forward into the final classification.