

**Preliminary Examinations in Computer Science  
Computer Science and Philosophy  
and Mathematics and Computer Science**

**First Public Examination 2013**

## **Notice to Candidates**

### **Purpose of this notice**

Full particulars of the examinations are given in the *Examination Regulations* 2012, and Examination Conventions for 2013 can be found at

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

This notice is confined to matters which may need emphasis or amplification.

### **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.<sup>1</sup>

The following points should also be noted:

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

**Legibility:** Illegible scripts, if they are to be considered by the moderators, 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**

Candidates will receive a copy of the detailed timetable from the Clerk of Schools.

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<sup>1</sup> This regulation is designed to protect the anonymity of candidates in the interests of fairness, but the moderators do not intend to seek to penalize candidates who inadvertently break this rule when handing in practicals.

## **Composition of Papers**

The examination will consist of five papers. Candidates taking Preliminary Examinations in Computer Science will take the papers

- CS1 Functional Programming and Design & Analysis of Algorithms
- CS2 Imperative Programming
- CS3 Discrete Mathematics, Continuous Mathematics and Probability
- CS4 Digital Systems, Linear Algebra and Introduction to Formal Proof

Papers CS1 and CS2 will each be of 3 hours' duration and will contain eight questions (four on each constituent course); candidates should answer up to five questions, with no more than three questions from either half of the paper.

Paper CS3 will be of 3 hours' duration and contain nine questions (three on each constituent course); candidates should answer up to five questions with at most two from each subject.

Paper CS4 will be of 3 hours' duration and contain eight questions (three on Digital Systems, three on Linear Algebra and two on Introduction to Formal Proof); candidates should answer up to five questions with at most two from each subject.

## **Computer Science and Philosophy**

Computer Science and Philosophy candidates will take five papers; CS1 and CS2 as described above, and also:

- CSP3 Discrete Mathematics and Probability
- P1 Introduction to Philosophy
- P2 Elements of Deductive Logic

Paper CSP3 will be of 2.5 hours' duration and contain six questions (3 on each constituent course); candidates should answer up to four questions.

Paper P1 will be of 3 hours' duration and contain twelve questions (six on Part A and six on Part B); candidates should answer up to four questions (at least one from part A and at least one from Part B).

Paper P2 will be of 3 hours' duration and contain typically seven or eight questions; candidates should answer up to four questions.

## **Mathematics and Computer Science**

Candidates taking Preliminary Examinations in Mathematics and Computer Science candidates will take five papers; CS1 and CS2 as described above, and also:

- M1 Algebra
- M2 Analysis
- MCS3 Continuous Mathematics and Probability

Paper M1 will be of 2.5 hours' duration and will contain seven questions (four on Part A and three on Part B); candidates should answer up to five questions (three from Part A and two from Part B).

Paper M2 will be of 2.5 hours' duration and will contain seven questions (three on Part A, three on Part B and one on Part C); candidates should answer up to five questions (two from Part A, two from Part B and one from Part C).

Paper MCS3 will be of 2.5 hours' duration and contain six questions (3 on each constituent course); candidates should answer up to four questions.

## **Practical work**

**Handing in Practical Reports:** Candidates must hand these reports in to the Department of Computer Science by **noon on Monday of week 5 of Trinity Term.**

**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 Moderators in Computer Science (or Computer Science and Philosophy 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 Preliminary Examinations in which the candidate is being examined (either Computer Science, or Computer Science and Philosophy, or Mathematics and Computer Science). This work must be accompanied by the Declaration Form provided.

**Assessment of Practical Work:** The practicals for all the courses will be assessed as a nominal sixth paper, which will be marked on a fail/pass/distinction scale. Practical do not contribute to the classification of candidates but each candidate must pass the practical course in order to pass the examination. A candidate who fails the practical paper will fail Preliminary Examinations as a whole and will receive a marks penalty in Prelims; see Examination Conventions for details.

The moderators 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.

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 are taking.

In order to achieve a distinction, students will have to have completed most of the more challenging parts of each practical and submitted a clear and well-argued report.

## **Medical certificates**

If evidence of recent medical problems is presented to the moderators via the Proctors, they will take this into account in the classification process.

## **Results**

The moderators hope to be able to post the pass list by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Details of individual marks will be communicated to tutors.

## **Resits (Preliminary Examinations)**

A resit paper is set for candidates who fail Preliminary Examinations or are unable to sit Preliminary Examinations; candidates enter for Resits through their colleges and with the permission of their college.

Candidates who fail 1 or 2 written papers may retake those papers. Candidates who fail 3 or more written papers will be required to retake all written papers. The Preliminary Examination may be retaken on, at most, one occasion; this examination will be held in the long vacation.

To pass the examination, a student must achieve a USM of at least 40 on each of the retaken papers and demonstrate understanding of sufficient breadth to satisfy the Examiners.

## **Difficulties**

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

P. Blunsom

Chairman of Moderators

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and Mathematics and Computer Science**

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**Declaration form for Practical Work**

This form is to be handed in with your practical work. The form must be signed.

I confirm that:

- I am aware of the University's disciplinary regulations concerning conduct in examinations and, in particular, of the regulations on plagiarism;
- the practical reports that I am submitting are entirely my own work except where otherwise indicated;
- I have not sought assistance from any professional agency.

Signature:

Date:

Name .....

College .....

Candidate no. ....

Honour school .....