Final Honour Schools of Computer Science, Computer Science & Philosophy, and Mathematics & Computer Science

Part A Examination 2023

Notice to Candidates from the Examiners in Computer Science

Purpose of this notice

Full particulars of the examinations are given in the Examination Regulations 2022/23, and the Examination Conventions for 2022/23 can be found at

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

You can find the examination regulations here: https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/

Honour School of Computer Science

Honour School of Mathematics and Computer Science

Honour School of Computer Science and Philosophy

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, Computer Science & Philosophy and of Mathematics & Computer Science. If you are a candidate from another school (for example Mathematics) then you should refer for information to notices circulated by the chairmen of examiners in those schools.

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

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY!

Independence of Examiners

Please note that you are not allowed to contact the examiners directly. Any communication must be via the Senior Tutor of your college, who will contact the Proctors if appropriate. The Proctors will in turn communicate with the Chair of Examiners.

Conduct of the examination

You will be required to produce your University card at the start of each examination session.

Calculators: The Regulations state that "The use of calculators is generally not permitted but certain kinds may be allowed for certain papers".

Calculators will be permitted for Maths for Computer Science and Philosophy. For this paper, you may bring into the examination room one calculator from the list of types that follows:
CASIO fx-83 (any model), fx-85 (any model),
SHARP EL-531 (any model)

Candidate Number: You will have been issued with a candidate number and you should make sure that your *candidate number* (but **not** your name or college) is written on every booklet you use. It is available in Student Self Service and is NOT the number on your card. The marking of the examination - including practical work - is conducted anonymously. Neither your name nor your college should appear anywhere on the script.

Writing your exam: For written papers you will write your answers in booklets provided (probably lined ones for Computer Science papers and plain paper ones for Mathematics papers). Start new questions in a new booklet. You may not bring your own paper. All the writing paper you use must be handed in, **including rough work** (which we will not look at or mark). You can cross out a page of rough work, or you can mark a whole booklet as rough work. If the front page of the booklet contains some writing area, it is for examiners' use only. Please do not use it for your answers.

On each Computer Science paper you will see in the bottom right of the page "NEXT PAGE" where there is a following page. The final page of the exam paper has "LAST PAGE" printed on it. Please make sure you have seen all pages of the paper.

Queries during the examination: It will not be possible to query the content of the exam paper during the exam. If you think that there is an error or mistake in your exam paper then you should state what you consider the error or mistake to be at the start of your answer for that question and, if necessary, you should state how you are interpreting the question. You should then try to complete the paper as best you can.

Legibility: Please write legibly, in blue or black pen (not pencil except for diagrams). Illegible scripts, if they are to be considered by the examiners, will be typed at your expense.

Timetable

You will receive your individual timetable in Student Self Service in due course, at the latest two weeks before the first exam is scheduled.

Composition of papers

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

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

Computer Science papers

Paper	Number of questions	Maximum number of questions to be answered	Marks per question	Duration of exam
Algorithms and Data Structures	3	2	25	2 hours
Compilers	3	2	25	2 hours
Concurrent Programming	3	2	25	2 hours
Models of Computation	3	2	25	2 hours
Artificial Intelligence	3	2	25	2 hours
Computational Complexity	3	2	25	2 hours
Computer-Aided Formal Verification	3	2	25	2 hours
Computer Architecture	3	2	25	2 hours
Computer Graphics	3	2	25	2 hours
Computer Security	3	2	25	2 hours
Concurrency	3	2	25	2 hours
Databases	3	2	25	2 hours
Geometric Modelling	3	2	25	2 hours
Knowledge Representation and Reasoning	3	2	25	2 hours
Lambda Calculus & Types	3	2	25	2 hours
Logic and Proof	3	2	25	2 hours
Machine Learning	3	2	25	2 hours
Maths for CS and Phil**	3	2	25	2 hours
Principles of Programming Languages	3	2	25	2 hours
Quantum Information	3	2	25	2 hours

**This paper will contain three questions: one on Linear Algebra, one on Continuous Mathematics, and one that may be on either subject or a combination of the two subjects. Candidates should answer two questions.

Practical work

Submitting your practical work: We will take the marks from our Minerva database. You will be sent a record of your practical marks and will be asked to alert the department if you find any discrepancies.

In addition, you will be asked to upload your practicals in one zip file to Inspera. Please only include what you have used for signing off, and nothing else. Do not include your name either on the practicals themselves, or in the file name. Everything must be labelled with your candidate number.

The deadline for the submission of your practicals is noon on Friday 26th May.

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.

Consideration of Mitigating Circumstances

If you believe your performance in assessment has been seriously affected by circumstances related to acute serious illness, chronic illness (including mental health conditions) bereavement etc. you can submit a mitigating circumstances notice to your examiners (MCE) either directly or via your college.

Further information can be found at https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/problems-completing-your-assessment

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 final examiners meeting is scheduled to be held at the beginning of July and the examiners hope to be able to publish results shortly after.

Difficulties

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

Dr J. M. Spivey
Chairman of Examiners
Final Honour Schools of Computer Science,
Computer Science & Philosophy and
Mathematics & Computer Science
(Trinity Term 2023)