

MSc in Advanced Computer Science

Trinity Term Examination 2023

Notice to Candidates

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

<https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/examconventions/MSCinCS.html>

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

[MSc Advanced Computer Science](#)

This notice is confined to matters that may need emphasis or amplification. It is addressed only to candidates in the MSc in Advanced Computer Science.

The marking and classification scheme for the MSc 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: There are no papers this year for which a calculator is allowed.

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. You will find your personal examination timetables under the link 'Examination Timetable', in the 'My Exams' section of Student Self Service. Until your timetable is available, the screen will display no examinations information.

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.

Paper	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Available marks in total	Duration of exam
Combinatorial Optimisation	3	3	100	3 hours
Computational Game Theory	4	4	100	3 hours
Computer Security	3	3	75	3 hours
Knowledge Representation and Reasoning	3	3	100	3 hours
Machine Learning	3			3 hours

Principles of Programming Languages	3	3	100	3 hours
Probabilistic Model Checking	3	3	100	3 hours
Probability and Computing	3	3	100	3 hours
Quantum Information	3	3	75	3 hours

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 of any discrepancies.

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

Late submission or failure to submit coursework

Under the provisions permitted by the regulations, late submission of coursework (i.e. project reports) where there are no extenuating circumstances may result in the following penalties:

Lateness	Cumulative penalty
Up to 12 hours	10 marks
12 – 48 hours	20 marks
48 – 72 hours	30 marks
72 – 96 hours	40 marks
96 hours – 14 days	50 marks
More than 14 calendar days after the notice of non-submission	Fail

The Proctors may also impose a late presentation fee on candidates for late submission of coursework. Failure to submit a required element of assessment will result in the failure of the whole of Part C.

Where permission for late submission has been granted by the Proctors, no penalty will be imposed.

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>

Difficulties

If other problems arise (e.g. personal issues, illness, bereavement) please consult your supervisor (or the Director of the MSc course) in the first instance.

Prof. P. Goldberg
Chair of Examiners
MSc Advanced Computer Science
(Trinity Term 2023)