

FORM OF REPORT ON EXAMINATIONS 2009/10

[In compiling their reports, examiners are asked to have regard to the Education Committee's Policy and Guidance on Examinations and Assessment (available at: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/epsc/guidance/examsass.pdf>), and any applicable divisional/subject guidance.]

[EXAMINATION TITLE AND DETAILS HERE]

Part I

A. STATISTICS

(1) **Numbers and percentages in each class/category**

- (a) Classified examinations

N/A

- (b) Unclassified Examinations

Category	Number			Percentage		
	2009/10	2008/9	2008/7	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8
Total Admitted	22	17	16			-
MSc						
Distinction	2	3	3	9%	18%	20%
Pass	18	14	12	82%	82%	80%
Fail	2	0	0	9%	0%	0%
Diploma						
Pass	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fail	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a

(2) **If vivas are used:**

Please include numerical detail of any vivas which were held, with an indication of the effect of any vivas on classes or results.

Three viva voce examinations were held over the year: one each at the end of Michaelmas Term 2009 and Hilary Term 2010, with an 'end-of-year' examination on 6th September 2010. These were not formally marked, although the Internal and External Examiners agreed an informal 'score' out of 10 for each performance to provide feedback, for formative purposes, to each student. As last year, the principle adopted by the Examiners was that excellent performance in the vivas could be taken into consideration, but only to

consider passing an otherwise below borderline candidate for any element of summative assessment in the respective term or for consideration of eligibility for distinction to a candidate whose summative assessment results otherwise indicated a pass grade. In such cases, the original mark would nevertheless stand.

(3) Marking of scripts

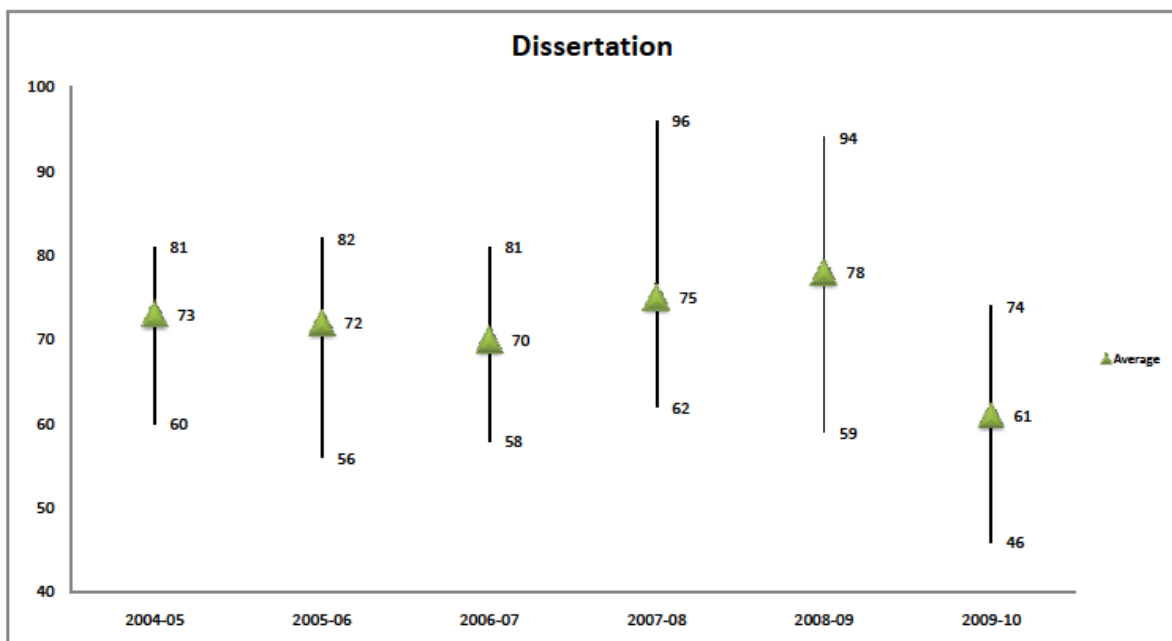
Please give details of scripts which are not double-marked.

All scripts for the Essays and Case Commentaries were double marked. In the event of any significant difference between the two sets of marks after reconciliation, a third marker was asked to adjudicate (the External or Internal Examiner, Assessor or Chair of Examiners). This was not required in this academic year.

The computer based examinations were marked automatically by the computer against a series of answers checked prior to the examination by the examination board.

B. NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

A new marking convention was introduced for the Research Dissertation marking scheme, based on the request from the Audit Sub-Committee to review the way in which marks are calibrated for each course component. This request was made in view of the increasingly high level of marks awarded over the previous 5 years (as in the figure below, showing mean and range of marks for each academic year). The Course Directors discussed with the students the revised conventions and these were also posted on Weblearn for reference.



C. Please list any changes in examining methods, procedures and conventions which the examiners would wish the faculty/department and the divisional board to consider.

See above

D. Please describe how candidates are made aware of the examination conventions to be followed by the examiners (Please attach to the report a copy of the conventions and any other relevant documentation).

Candidates are made aware of the examination conventions via the Course Handbook, through presentations by the two Course Directors and the MSc Administrator in the first week of the course, as well as informal discussions over the year. They are also accessible via Weblearn.

Part II

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

Michaelmas Term 2009

The examiners commented that the work in general showed a much broader range of ability this year than in previous years. For the essays, the Internal Examiner felt that middle ground was solid, and there were fewer outliers.

This term was also the first occasion that the Computer-based examination was used. The examiners agreed that the spread of marks showed the examination was fair and broadly covered the syllabus. The spread of marks was broadly similar to that seen in the EAQ examination that had been used previously.

Hilary Term 2010

The examiners commented once again that some work was of a high standard, though the range of the work was wider than previously with a clear spread of marks.

It was noted by the Internal Examiner that some students did chose similar cases from the different sections, such as cases on HIV as well as Kaposi's sarcoma, or HIV as well as HPV; this resulted in overlap between the cases. It was agreed to ensure that there is less overlap in a student's cases in future, by moving such cases to the same section.

The Computer-based examination once again showed a clear spread of marks with the range similar to that of the previous few years.

Trinity Term 2010

The External Examiner found that the overall standard of the dissertations was good and showed a reasonable calibre overall. She noted that the range of marks was quite small, with only a few outstanding dissertations.

The Internal Examiner felt that the dissertations were generally well written and technically proficient, though he was unsure whether the quality of projects was reflected in all the dissertations.

The Chairman of Examiners confirmed that there were a few instances where supervisors or students needed extra guidance, help or encouragement. Regular meetings with the students had uncovered some tensions during the 14-week project and supervisors had reported concerns in two instances. These were quickly investigated by the Directors and resolved in all cases by ensuring better communications between supervisor and student. The supervisors' reports were helpful and had been duly submitted and were available to the examiners.

Summary

Overall the spread of marks for this year was much greater with outliers at either end of the marking scale.

The new Computer-based examination yielded similar results to the previous format of Extended Answer Questions.

Final Decisions of Examination Board

- MSc Integrated Immunology: 2 candidates failed, 20 candidates passed with 2 distinctions awarded.

B. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ISSUES AND BREAKDOWN OF THE RESULTS BY GENDER

	2009-10		2008-9		2007-8		2006-7	
	Male	Female	Female	Male	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total admitted	7	15	7	8	10	7*	8	7
Distinction	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	3
Pass	6	12	6	7	8	6	7	4
Fail	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

C. DETAILED NUMBERS ON CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN EACH PART OF THE EXAMINATION

There were 22 candidates entered for the overall MSc Examination. Two candidates were awarded a Pass with Distinction, 18 were awarded a Pass and two were Fails. These two candidates will return to resubmit the research dissertation only for assessment in Michaelmas Term 2010. The overall standard of the candidates was good and their performance over the year was of a solid standard, however there were several students who required more than one attempt to pass at least one component of the course.

Fundamental aspects of Immunology, Critical Essay:

- Each candidate chose one title from 51 options; care was taken to ensure that each candidate chose a different title. All essays were double-marked and the grades reconciled. 21 candidates passed the examination at the first attempt, 1 student passed at the second attempt. 1 student was referred to the Proctors for Plagiarism – see section E.
- Previous marks:

Essay	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2004/5	73	42	91
2005/6	76	50	96
2006/7	77	66	94
2007/8	80	66	98
2008/9	79	64	94

This year's marks:

2009/10	70	40	88
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- Average marks per marking criteria (Out of 5)
 Accessing the Literature – 3.42
 Appraising the literature – 3.58

Integrating the literature – 3.44
 Critiquing the literature – 3.40
 Presentation of the literature – 3.49

Fundamental aspects of Immunology, Computer-based Examination:

- Computerised examination. 20 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt, 2 candidates passed the examination on the second attempt.
- Marks: Averages and Ranges

MT EAQ	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2004/5	71	53	82
2005/6	71	52	88
2006/7	69	53	90
2007/8	72	51	88
2008/9	75	66	89

- This year's marks:

2009/10	76	48	91
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Applied aspects of Immunology, Clinical Case Commentaries:

- Each candidate chose one case from each of the four sections, a total of 45 cases. All commentaries were double-marked and the grades reconciled without the need for a third assessor. 20 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt, 2 candidates passed the examination on the second attempt.
- Previous marks:

CC	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2004/5	69	58	79
2005/6	68	53	80
2006/7	63	43	81
2007/8	67	44	81
2008/9	69	55	83

- This year's marks:

2009/10	68	38	86
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Average mark per Commentary by section (Out of 10)
 Section 1 (Infectious diseases) – 6.69
 Section 2 (Immune Deficiencies) – 6.56

Section 3 (Autoimmunity & Allergy) – 6.75
Section 4 (Cancer and Transplantation) – 6.80

Applied aspects of Immunology, Computer-based Examination:

- Computerised examination. All 22 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt.
- Previous marks:

HT EAQ	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2004/5	74	58	87
2005/6	68	55	83
2006/7	68	50	80
2007/8	78	64	88
2008/9	77	63	90

- This year's marks:

2009/10	78	58	90
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Research Project Dissertation:

- All scripts were double-marked and the grades reconciled. 20 candidates passed the examination, 2 candidates must resubmit in 2010/11 academic year.
- Previous marks:

Dissertation	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2004/5	80	62	92
2005/6	77	58	94
2006/7	73	51	94
2007/8	76	52	96
2008/9	78	59	94

- This year's marks:

2009/0	61	46	74
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Average marks by marking criteria (Out of 100)

Intro – 64.68

M&M – 63.14

Results – 59.89

Interpretation – 58.48

Discussion – 59.93

D. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

[This part (which is likely to be the longest part of the report) should be physically separate. Together with the preceding sections, it will be scrutinised by teaching committees and examination committees, and made available to Joint Consultative Committees with Undergraduates and to college and departmental libraries. It must not therefore contain any material which would usually be treated as reserved business.]

E. NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Professor C Kinnon Dr S Keshav Professor JM Austyn Professor Helen Chapel