



DEPARTMENT OF
STATISTICS

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FHS Mathematics and Statistics Part C 2025

First Notice to Candidates

This circular contains information about:

- the format of papers in Part C;
- classification conventions and marking schemes;
- the use of calculators and statistical tables;
- dissertations.

The full regulations for the Part C examination are contained in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Full particulars about the syllabus and other information can be found in the [Undergraduate Handbook and the synopses of lecture courses for Part C 2024-25](#).

The timetable for the examination will be set by Examination Schools and made available to you here:

www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables

Timetabling is an extremely complicated process and once the timetable is published it cannot be changed. If you are unable to take a paper at the stipulated time for a religious or other compelling reason, you should ask your college to make the appropriate application on your behalf. Please do not ask the Examiners as they are powerless in such matters.

Candidates offering a mini-project have been sent a separate notice relating to arrangements for submission.

A second notice will be sent out later with information about practical arrangements in the Examination Schools, including candidate numbers, handing in of scripts and other such matters.

Professor Geoff Nicholls

Chair of Maths & Stats Part C Examiners

March 2025

FHS 2025 Mathematics and Statistics Part C

The formal procedures determining the conduct of University examinations are established and enforced by the Proctors.

Formally, examiners are independent of the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics and of those who lecture courses. However, for written papers in mathematics and statistics, examiners are expected to consult with course lecturers in the process of setting questions. It must be stressed that to preserve the independence of the examiners, candidates are not allowed to make contact directly about matters relating to the content or marking of papers. Any communication must be via the Senior Tutor of your college, who will, if he or she deems the matter of importance, contact the Proctors. The Proctors in turn communicate with the Chairman of Examiners.

The Part C examination conventions are available on Canvas at:

https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/273961/modules#module_452943

These conventions are a guide to the examiners and candidates but the regulations set out in the Examination Regulations have precedence. The examiners normally adhere to the published examination conventions, subject to the guidance of the appointed external examiners, and other bodies such as the Mathematics and Statistics Teaching Committees, the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the University's Education Committee and the Proctors.

Format of Assessments

Statistics Papers (SC1-SC2, SC4-SC7 and SC9-SC11)

These courses are single units. Each is examined by a one hour and 45 minute paper, with three questions. Candidates may submit answers to as many questions as they wish, but only the best two answers will count for the total mark.

Statistics Paper: SC8 Topics in Computational Biology

This course is a single unit and is assessed by mini-project. USM marks will be assigned to mini-projects with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics and Statistics papers. Candidates offering a mini-project have been sent a separate notice with further information.

Dissertation on a Statistics Subject (double unit)

USM marks will be assigned to dissertations with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics and Statistics papers. In arriving at these marks, the relative weights attached to content, mathematics and presentation will be 25%, 50% and 25%, respectively. Further information on the dissertations is included below.

Mathematics Unit Papers: C1.1–C8.7 (excluding C2.3, C2.6, C3.9, C5.4, C6.5 and C7.1)

Each unit paper in Part C will one hour and 45 minutes in duration and consist of three questions, each marked out of 25. Candidates may submit answers to as many questions as they wish, but only the best two answers will count for the total mark.

Mathematics Mini-Projects: C2.3, C2.6, C3.9, C5.4, C6.5

USM marks will be assigned to mini-projects with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the Mathematics papers. Candidates offering a mini-project have been sent separate notices with further information by the Mathematics examiners.

Physics Paper: C7.1 Theoretical Physics (double unit)

The C7.1 paper is assessed by the Physics department. This paper is known as C6 Theoretical Physics in the Physics department. Candidates are advised to consult the Physics website for a copy of the Physics formula sheet available to candidates in this examination. This course is assessed by an examination of 3 hours duration. There are 8 questions on the examination paper each worth 25 marks, and the rubric states “You should submit answers to four questions”.

Computer Science Papers

Candidates are advised to consult the [Computer Science Course Handbook](#) for further details regarding any Computer Science papers being taken as approved subjects. The USMs for these units are awarded by the Computer Science Examiners. Candidates entering for these options will be sent a copy of the notice from the Computer Science Examiners.

Classification Conventions and Marking Schemes

Please see sections 7–9 of the examination conventions, which are available at: https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/273961/modules#module_452943

Calculators

The use of calculators is generally not permitted for written papers in this examination, although it may be permitted for certain exceptional papers.

Calculators will not be permitted on the Mathematics papers, except for C5.12, C7.5 and C7.6. Nor are they permitted for any Statistics papers.

Candidates’ attention is drawn to the type of calculator which is now permitted. Only calculators on the list below may be taken into the examination hall.

For the paper C5.12, C7.5 and C7.6 basic scientific calculators which have features such as exp and log, but which are non-programmable, will be allowed. For these papers **any** of the following will be permitted:

Casio fx-83 series,
Casio fx-85 series,
Sharp EL-531 series.

Candidates should note that no calculators will be made available in the examination room.

Statistical Tables will not be required this year for any of the Statistics papers in Part C.

Dissertations

In Part C each candidate shall offer a dissertation on a statistics project. This project counts for two eighths of your assessment in Part C. Where projects contain a substantial amount of programming, candidates are encouraged to include key elements of their commented code in an appendix to the dissertation. This appendix will not contribute towards the word-count.

The dissertation should not exceed the equivalent of **7,500 words** (excluding diagrams, tables, references and texts of computer programs). Unnecessarily lengthy projects may be penalised.

Candidates must submit an electronic version of their dissertation via [Inspera](#) by **12 noon Monday 28th April 2025**. We will not require a hard-copy of your dissertation. The dissertation should be submitted as a .zip file, including the .pdf and .tex versions of the work. Any submissions missing a tex version will not be accepted for marking.

Please give the file you are submitting your candidate number as its name and **make sure that you do not write your name or college on any part of your work**, but you should put your **candidate number** on every page. You can locate your candidate number on the Examination and Assessment Information page in Student Self Service.

You will be asked to complete the declaration of authorship as part of the electronic submission process. You do not need to upload a separate form. This declaration will be removed by the Chairman of Examiners prior to marking. The electronic copy of your dissertation will be screened by Turnitin for plagiarism; further information about this may be found below. You will be asked to confirm that you have read the notice and that you agree to your work being screened and used as described in the notice.

Each dissertation will be marked independently by two examiners or assessors, one of whom will normally be your project supervisor. A USM mark in the range 0–100 will be awarded. As detailed more fully in the '[Guidance Notes](#)', marks will be awarded in the following proportions: 25% of the marks will be attributed to content, 50% to the mathematics/statistics or data analysis/simulation, and the remaining 25% to presentation (including reference to source material).

Plagiarism

Candidates are reminded of the importance of avoiding any suspicion of plagiarism, as explained in the "Guidance Notes on Projects". For further guidance, please see: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>.

Penalties for Late or Non-Submission of Coursework

The Examination Regulations stipulate specific dates for submission of coursework to the examiners, this includes the Part C dissertations, mini-projects and any coursework you need to complete if you take a course taught by another department. Rules governing late submission and any consequent penalties are set out in full in the Examination Regulations (Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations, Part 14).

If you will be prevented by illness or other urgent cause from submitting your coursework on time you should contact your college office or college tutor as soon as possible. Your college is able to submit an application for an extension of time to the Proctors on your behalf. The scale of penalties agreed by the board of examiners in relation to late submissions of assessed items, without an accepted reason, is set out below.

Table 1. Late Submission Tariff

Lateness	Penalty
Up to 4 hours	1%
4–24 hours	10%
24–48 hours	20%
48–72 hours	30%

72 hours– 14 days	35%
More than 14 days late	Fail

Note: The penalty will be a percentage reduction of the maximum total mark available for the work. For example, if a 10% penalty is applied to an assessment given a USM out of 100 then 10 marks would be deducted. The final mark awarded after application of the penalty cannot be below 0.

Failure to submit a required element of assessment, without an accepted reason, will result in the failure of the whole of Part C. In such a case, the examiners will award a fail for each of the Part C assessments.