FHS Mathematics and Statistics
Examination Conventions 2007/2008 – Part B

Standardised Marks
The University wishes all examiners to adopt a uniform system of reporting marks. This means that each candidate will receive numerical marks in the range 1-100, such that

- a First Class performance is indicated by a mark of 70 to 100;
- an Upper Second Class performance is indicated by a mark of 60 to 69;
- a Lower Second Class performance is indicated by a mark of 50 to 59;
- a Third Class performance is indicated by a mark of 40 to 49;
- a Pass performance is indicated by a mark of 30 to 39;
- a performance at the level of a Fail is indicated by mark of 0 to 29.

In order to arrive at such University Standardised Marks (USMs), the examiners will mark and assess papers in the way described below.

Marking of papers
The Board of Examiners in Part B will assign USMs for full unit and half unit papers taken in Part B and they may recalibrate the raw marks to arrive at USMs reported to candidates. The papers are designed so that the raw marks on a full unit sum to 100 and the raw marks on a half unit sum to 50. The USMs on both full units and half units will be out of 100. However, Examiners will take into account the relative difficulty of papers when assigning USMs. In order to achieve this, Examiners may use information on candidates' performances in the Part A examination when recalibrating the raw marks. They may also use other statistics to check that the USMs assigned fairly reflect the students' performances on a paper.

In order to ensure fair treatment, Examiners may exercise individual consideration in assigning USMs for candidates whose marks lie outside the standard pattern, or when assigning USMs to papers where the number of candidates involves is small or untypical.

Classification
All successful candidates will be awarded a classification at the end of three years after the Part B examination. Candidates leaving at this stage who satisfy the Examiners will be awarded a classified BA in Mathematics and Statistics. The USMs awarded to a candidate for papers in Part B will be aggregated with the USMs from Part A to arrive at the classification.

The Part A University Standardised Marks are given a weighting of 2, and the Part B USMs are given a weighting of 3 for a full unit and 1.5 for a half unit. The classification will flow from an average of these weighted USMs. Borderlines are determined by the University standardised scale. The formulae for classification are as follows:

First Class		*Av USM* ≥ 70 with not more than 2 weak papers (USM<50)
Upper Second Class		Av USM ≥ 70 with more than 2 weak papers (USM<50)
	or	70 > *Av USM* ≥ 60 with not more than 2 very weak papers (USM<40)
Lower Second Class		70 > *Av USM* ≥ 60 with more than 2 very weak papers (USM<40)
	or	60 > *Av USM* ≥ 50
Third Class		50 > *Av USM* ≥ 40
Pass		40 > *Av USM* ≥ 30
Fail		*Av USM* < 30.

Note half unit papers count as a half paper when determining the average USM or determining the number of weak or very weak papers.

The examiners aim to ensure that all papers are fairly and equally rewarded, but if in any case a paper appears to have been problematical, then the examiners, in their classification, will give special consideration to candidates taking that paper. The examiners will take particular care in assigning classes to those candidates whose marks fall near each class boundary.

Qualitative Descriptors of Classes: BA in Mathematics and Statistics

Class I	The candidate shows excellent problem-solving skills and excellent knowledge of the material, and is able to use that knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.
Class IIi	The candidate shows good problem-solving skills and good knowledge of much of the material.
Class IIii	The candidate shows adequate basic problem-solving skills and knowledge of much of the material.
Class III	The candidate shows reasonable understanding of at least part of the basic material and some problem-solving skills. Threshold level.
Pass	The candidate shows some limited grasp of the basic material demonstrated by the equivalent of an average of one meaningful attempt at a question on each unit of study. A stronger performance on some papers may compensate for a weaker performance on others.
Fail	Little evidence of competence in the topics examined; the work is likely to show major misunderstanding and confusion, coupled with inaccurate calculations; the answers to the questions attempted are likely to be fragmentary only.

MMath in Mathematics and Statistics – 2008 only
In order to proceed to Part C, a candidate must achieve Honours standard (First class, Upper Second class, Lower Second class or Third class) in Part A and Part B together.

Candidates successfully studying for a fourth year will receive a separate classification based on their University standardised marks in Part C papers according to the following rules:

The classification conventions for part C are:

- First class $70 \leq Av\ USM\ \ Part\ C$
- Upper Second Class $60 \leq Av\ USM\ \ Part\ C < 70$
- Lower Second Class $50 \leq Av\ USM\ \ Part\ C < 60$
- Third class $40 \leq Av\ USM\ \ Part\ C < 50$

A pass degree will not be awarded for Year 4. Candidates achieving

AvUSM Part C< 40 may supplicate for a BA.

Half unit papers count as a half a paper when determining the average USM.

Candidates leaving after four years who satisfy the Examiners will be awarded an MMaths in Mathematics and Statistics with two associated classifications.