



DEPARTMENT OF  
**STATISTICS**

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## **FHS Mathematics and Statistics Part B 2026**

### **First Notice to Candidates**

This notice contains information about:

1. The format of papers in Part B
2. Classification conventions and marking schemes
3. The use of calculators and statistical tables.

Please read in particular the Class Descriptors, and note that each class requires specific skills in each of three forms: **reasoning, deductive logic, and problem-solving**.

The full regulations for the Part B examination are contained in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Full particulars about the syllabus and other information can be found in the Mathematics and Statistics Undergraduate Handbook and Supplements, available at [https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module\\_496593](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module_496593)

The timetable for the examination will be set by the Examination Schools and will be made available to you through Student Self Service. 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; they do not have authority to act on such matter.

A Second Notice will be sent out later with information about practical arrangements in the Examination Schools, including use of candidate numbers, handing in of scripts and so on.

**Dr Neil Laws**

Chair of Maths & Stats Part B Examiners  
March 2026

## FHS 2026 Mathematics and Statistics Part B

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

Formally, the examiners are independent of the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics and of those who lecture courses. However, for written papers in mathematics and statistics, the 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 they deem the matter of importance, contact the Proctors. The Proctors in turn communicate with the Chair of Examiners.

The Mathematics and Statistics examination conventions are available online at: [https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module\\_496593](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module_496593)

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.

The paragraphs below contain information given in the examination conventions on the format of papers and classification conventions.

### Format of examination papers

#### Statistics papers

##### **SB1 Applied and Computational Statistics** (double unit)

This is a 2 ½ hour paper consisting of 2 questions on SB1.1 Applied Statistics and 2 questions on SB1.2 Computational Statistics. Candidates may attempt as many answers as they wish but only the best 3 answers will count for a candidate's total mark. Each question is marked out of 22 and the separate compulsory assessed practical component is marked out of 34.

##### **Statistics papers SB2.1, SB2.2, SB3.1** (units)

These are unit papers containing 3 questions. Each question is marked out of 25. A unit paper lasts for 1 and 45 minutes. Candidates may hand in as many answers as they wish: the best 2 answers will count for a candidate's total mark.

#### Mathematics Options

For mathematics courses where coursework is a part of the assessment, candidates are asked to refer to the separate Mathematics Notices to candidates regarding the submission deadlines and penalties for late submission. These Notices are available at:

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/undergraduate-courses/ba-master-mathematics/examinations-assessments/examination-19>

### **Mathematics papers B1.1-B8.6**

These are unit papers, containing 3 questions. Each question is marked out of 25. Each paper lasts for 1 hours and 45 minutes. Candidates may hand in as many answers as they wish: the best 2 answers will count for a candidate's total mark.

### **BSP Structured Projects (double unit)**

Candidates will be assessed on their written project, oral presentation and peer review. The weightings for these three components are 75%, 15% and 10% respectively. For the written projects the weighting will be further divided between general explanation and discussion of the problem (50% of available marks) and mathematical calculations and commentary (50% of available marks).

### **Computational Complexity (unit) and Combinatorial Optimisation (unit)**

Candidates are advised to consult the Computer Science Course Handbook for further details regarding these courses. The USMs for this units are awarded by 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/295122/modules#module\\_496593](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module_496593)

## **Calculators and Statistical tables**

Calculators will not be permitted on the Mathematics papers, nor on most Statistics papers. Calculators will be permitted for SB1 only, and will not be permitted for other Statistics papers.

For paper **SB1 only**, 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.**

New Cambridge Elementary Statistical Tables will be provided for use with papers SB1, SB3.2. These tables will be available for inspection from reception at the Department of Statistics between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any weekday in Week 4 of Trinity Term or can be accessed online following the instructions given on the Canvas site:

[https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module\\_496593](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295122/modules#module_496593)