

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

External examiner's report form 2007/08

Dear Colleague

Attached is the proforma for our annual external examiner's report form. The form has been re-designed again. It now comes in three parts: part A asks some basic quality assurance questions; part B is for use by academic departments and/or Boards of Examiners; part C is to be made available to the student body, for example through departmental Staff:Student Liaison Committees.

It would be a great help to us if you were able to complete the form in an electronic version. If are willing to do so, please email the completed form to May Elphinstone at examinations@lse.ac.uk

We do however recognise that for some examiners the paper version is easier to use, in which case please complete the attached form and return it to May Elphinstone, Student Services Centre, LSE, Houghton St, London WC2A 2AE.

If at all possible we would like to receive your form within two weeks of the final examiners' meeting.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Simeon Underwood, Academic Registrar (s.underwood@lse.ac.uk).

In conclusion we would like to thank you for the time and trouble you take over these reports.

Janet Hartley
Pro Director (Teaching and Learning)
July 2008



THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

External examiner's report form 2007/08

The School sees it as important that there should be a three-way dialogue on standards and assessment between you as the external examiner, the Department concerned and the central School bodies. If the space provided in the box is not large enough for your answers please continue on a separate sheet.

Your name and institution:

Professor Matthew Jones, School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham

Department responsible for examining:

International History

Degree(s) being examined (e.g. MSc/BSc in Economics):

MA History of International Relations

MSc History of International Relations

MSc History and Theory of International Relations

MSc in International Affairs (LSE and Peking)

Course(s) being examined (e.g. EC484, Econometric Analysis):

HY 429; HY400; HY461; HY422; HY432; HY434; HY 431; HY 463; HY 499

(Dissertations)

Were you able to attend the final examiners' meeting(s)?

YES

DATE(S): 30 October 2008

PART C

This part of the report form will be shared with students, usually through departmental Staff:Student Liaison Committees. Please provide a summary for publication to students. What you have written will not be changed, though it may be accompanied by a statement of the actions the Department or School has taken in response to your comments.

Please use the space below to provide commentary on any or all of the following topics:

- Strengths/weaknesses of the programme/course
- Methods of teaching (judging by standards achieved by students)
- Method of assessment
- Standard of the student performance

The Master's programmes in the Department are notable for their high levels of student achievement and the overall quality of the work. Students have obviously benefitted from deep immersion in some of the latest secondary work in their various fields of study, and I was struck, in the exam scripts that I read, by the sheer volume of fact and interpretation that managed to be conveyed in many responses to questions. A large number of dissertations were exceptional in the quality and originality of argument displayed and the impressive range of primary sources used, often derived from industrious visits to far-flung archives. I thought there was good mix of methods of assessment in the modules I examined. As the numbers of students enrolled on the Master's programmes increases, I hope that the same rigorous standards of internal marking that I saw will be maintained across all the courses.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE IN COMPLETING THIS FORM.



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The School sees it as important that there should be a three-way dialogue on standards and assessment between you as the external examiner, the Department concerned and the central School bodies. If the space provided in the box is not large enough for your answers please continue on a separate sheet.

Your name and institution:

Professor Glyn Stone
University of the West of England, Bristol

Department responsible for examining:

International History

Degree(s) being examined (e.g. MSc/BSc in Economics):

MA in History of International Relations
MSc in History of International Relations
MSc in Theory and History of International Relations
MSc in International Affairs (LSE and Beijing)

Courses being examined (e.g. EC484, Econometric Analysis)

HY 409: Origins and Conduct of the Second World War, 1935-1945
HY411: European Integration in the Twentieth Century
HY412: Spain and the Great Powers, 1936-1953: Civil War. World War, Cold War
HY423: Empire, Colonialism and Globalisation
HY424: The Napoleonic Empire: the Making of Modern Europe
HY433: Cultural Encounters from the Renaissance to the Modern World
HY435: Political Islam from Mohammed Abduh to Osama Bin Laden

HY436: Race, Violence and Colonial Rule in Africa

HY456: Sex, Race and Slavery: The Western Experience

HY462: From Nationalism to Fascism: Europe, 1890-1939

HY475: International History since 1900

Were you able to attend the final examiners' meeting(s)?

YES

DATE(S): Thursday, 30 October 2008

PART C

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- Methods of teaching (judging by standards achieved by students)
- Method of assessment
- Standard of the student performance

Judging by the quality of the work produced by the candidates there are very few if any discernible weaknesses in the International History programme/courses. I have noticed that the numbers of students taking International History awards has increased considerably with the inevitable result that the tail has grown with a number of failures. But the International Historians seem to have coped admirably with this increase in student numbers and the tail remains a very short one relative to the numbers taking the programme. The individual International History courses and the dissertation continue to be challenging and very suitable for Masters level work. The very wide range of courses on offer is attractive and enables students to have an admirable degree of choice. The quality of the students' work – in essays, examinations and the dissertation – attest to the very capable teaching and supervision that they receive from their tutors. With varying degrees of success they are able to focus on relevant issues, to analyse and construct coherent and cogent historical argument from a wide range of sources and provide appropriate reference to them. At the top end there were some truly impressive essays, examination scripts and dissertations. The methods of assessment, some coursework but mainly unseen examinations, are conventional but no less appropriate for that. The students are challenged by these methods of assessment and appear to have responded admirably judging by the range and quality of work I have examined. Clearly, LSE students taking International History Masters award are receiving a high quality education.