

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



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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: **Peter Jackson, Aberystwyth University**

Department responsible for examining: **International History**

Degree(s) being examined (e.g. MSc/BSc in Economics): **Various combinations with International History including International Relations and Government.**

Course(s) being examined (e.g. EC484, Econometric Analysis): **HY101, HY116 , HY206, HY208, HY209, HY226, HY232, HY238, HY300, HY303, HY311, HY318, HY320.**

Were you able to attend the final examiners' meeting(s)? **YES**
DATE(S): Wednesday 2 July 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 strengths of undergraduate studies at the Department of International History are manifold. Students have a wide range of choice in courses that cover a variety of geographical regions, time periods and themes. The commitment of members of staff to achieving the highest standards of teaching and assessment is evident in what must be described as exceptional overall student performance. The vast majority of students have developed all of the key historical skills: the ability to understand and engage with historical debates as well; the ability to assess the relative persuasiveness of historical arguments based on evidence and, particularly in the second and third year, the ability to assume clear positions within these debates and in some cases to develop original interpretations. I saw no significant weaknesses in the department's teaching and assessment procedures. The standards of teaching and assessment are of the very highest calibre and this is reflected in exceedingly strong overall student performance.

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