



THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

External examiner's report form 2012/13

If the space provided in the box is not large enough for your answers please continue on a separate sheet.

Your name, institution and email address:

Dr Matthew S. Seligmann
Brunel University
matthew.seligmann@brunel.ac.uk

Department you are responsible for examining (eg Economics):

International History

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

BA History

BA in International Relations and History

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

HY116, HY206, HY226, HY232, HY238, HY300, HY303, HY304, HY311

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

YES

DATE(S): 4 July 2013

PART C

Comments in this part of the form will be shared with students, usually through departmental Staff:Student Liaison Committees. You are asked to provide a brief summary of your comments from Parts A and B that might be of particular interest to students. We would also ask that you restrict your comments to those that would be of primary interest to students, rather than, for example, technical points on assessment schemes. 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)
- Methods of assessment
- Standard of the student performance

We would particularly appreciate a full statement in this part of the form.

I would struggle to think of any weaknesses, even minor ones, in the programme. There are, however, a very large number of strengths. The various modules on offer all appear to be interesting and intellectually stimulating. The students who take them may well be clever and gifted to begin with, but the modules are nevertheless challenging and clearly provide considerable value to those who take them. The level of attainment across the three years of the programme is extremely impressive, as is the progression from year to year. By the time the students reach their final year many of them are capable of reaching outstanding levels of achievement. The dissertations are particularly impressive. Those at the very top are outstanding. I commend the department for the work they put in and the results they get out of the student body.



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Your name, institution and email address:

Dr Simon Potter
Department of History
University of Bristol

simon.potter@bristol.ac.uk

Department you are responsible for examining (eg Economics):

International History

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

BA/BSc International History / International Relations

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

HY113
HY117
HY203
HY233
HY235
HY239
HY240
HY321
HY300

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

YES

DATE(S): 3-4 July 2013

PART C

Comments in this part of the form will be shared with students, usually through departmental Staff/Student Liaison Committees. You are asked to provide a brief summary of your comments from Parts A and B that might be of particular interest to students. We would also ask that you restrict your comments to those that would be of primary interest to students, rather than, for example, technical points on assessment schemes. 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)
- Methods of assessment
- Standard of the student performance

We would particularly appreciate a full statement in this part of the form.

This is an extremely impressive programme, which covers the history of many different places and issues. The courses that I examined focus on political and economic history, and give students a real opportunity to master their chosen fields of study.

Judging by the standards achieved by students, methods of teaching are exemplary. In particular, students benefit from being able to take courses that span multiple academic terms, and thus to develop a real depth of understanding and breadth of knowledge. The opportunity to submit un-assessed, formative coursework really benefits the students, who are able to take risks and work in a creative fashion, without fear that a wrong step will lower their final marks. This shows in their assessed essays and exams, where they carry their creativity over into their summative work, and display the originality that marks out the really excellent scripts.

The department's rigorous internal marking procedures have ensured that student work is assessed in a fair and consistent manner. There is a great deal of transparency when it comes to presenting work and justification for marking decisions to the external examiners. The assessment process is scrupulous and extremely well-run.

The standard of student performance is extremely impressive. Most students are performing to a consistently high standard, and among the best students the level of attainment is very high indeed. I saw some excellent work, and students are able to assess historiography in a critical fashion and deploy a great deal of detailed evidence in a structured way, in order to support their own arguments. Dissertation work often shows a real ability to deploy the historian's scholarly tools in working with primary sources.

