

CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR THE BA/BSC DEGREES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING IN OR AFTER THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/08

(other than four-year BA/BSc degrees)

This Classification Scheme is approved by the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees. Last updated: June 2015

This classification scheme should be read in conjunction with the General Academic Regulations, Regulations for First Degrees, the relevant BA/ BSc programme regulations, the relevant online undergraduate course guides and the Code of Good Practice for Undergraduate Programmes: Teaching, Learning and Assessment.

Award of Marks

- The examiners for each course will decide a numerical mark for each student using the following scale:

First Class Honours	70 - 100
Upper Second Class Honours	60 - 69
Lower Second Class Honours	50 - 59
Third Class Honours	40 - 49
Fail	0 - 39

Eligibility for Award

- A student will only be eligible for the award of a degree if s/he meets the criteria set out in the General Academic Regulations, the Regulations for First Degrees and the relevant Programme Regulations.

Classification Marks and the Aggregate

- The classification of each student shall be based on nine 'classification marks', comprising:
 - the marks achieved in all eight second and third year papers¹;
 - a ninth mark being the average² of the best three marks in first year papers¹. For second-year direct entry students, the ninth mark will be the average of all eight second and third year papers¹.
- The aggregate for each student is the sum of the nine 'classification marks'. In all cases, the 'classification marks' shall be based on the marks obtained by the student in her/his latest attempt at each element of assessment for each course.
- The mark for LSE100 is not a classification mark.

Treatment of Half Units

- This Classification Scheme, including its penalty rules, is based on the marks achieved by students in all papers¹ taken in fulfilment of the programme regulations. For the purposes of determining 'classification marks' and, if necessary, applying the penalty rules, the marks obtained for half-unit courses shall be paired and averaged² using the following criteria in the order set out below:
 - according to the appropriate degree regulations;
 - according to the stage of the degree: half-units taken in the same year of study as set out in the programme regulations shall be paired;
 - according to the department in which the half-units are taken:
 - half-units with the same departmental prefix (e.g. MA) shall be paired according to paragraph 6.4;
 - all remaining single half-units from different departments shall be paired according to paragraph 6.4;
 - according to the marks awarded for each half-unit:
 - the two half-units with the highest marks, then those with the next highest marks, and so on, shall be paired.

Degree Classification, Including Penalty Rules

- Subject to the application of the penalty rules for failed papers¹ in section 8 below, the classification of an award shall be calculated as follows:
 - For first class honours:** Five first class marks; or four first class marks and an aggregate of at least 590
 - For upper second class honours:** Five upper second class marks (or above); or four upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 515

- 7.3 **For lower second class honours:** Five lower second class marks (or above); or four lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 440
- 7.4 **For third class honours:** Eight third class marks (or above)
- 7.5 **For a pass degree:** A pass degree will only be awarded as a result of the application of the penalty rules set out in section 8 below or, despite being eligible for an award, failing to meet the criteria for a third class honours degree as set out in paragraph 7.4 above.
- 8. The classification of an award for a student with an unredeemed fail in any paper¹ taken in fulfilment of the programme regulations shall be calculated as follows (n.b. paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 do not apply for a second-year direct entry student):
 - 8.1 a drop of one class in the award classification shall result where a student has: (a) made no serious attempt at an element of the assessment for a course, as set out in paragraph 33 of the General Academic Regulations, and / or (b) unredeemed fails in two papers¹.
 - 8.2 the degree shall be capped at 'pass' where a student has unredeemed fails in three papers¹.
For the avoidance of doubt, an unredeemed fail in a half unit which is paired will not be taken into account under paragraphs 8.1 or 8.2 if the paper¹ to which it contributes receives a pass mark after the paired mark is calculated according to section 6. Any unredeemed fail(s) in a first year paper¹ (or papers) will be taken into account under paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.

General Proviso

- 9. It is also open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees any departure from this Scheme if, in their judgement, this would be equitable for any individual student as a direct result of exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances would need to be extraneous to the normal assessment process and would apply to that student only. The following conditions also apply:
 - 9.1 that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary (within 3 marks in a single paper or 5 marks on aggregate); and
 - 9.2 that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and
 - 9.3 that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and
 - 9.4 that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with his / her performance in other, unaffected assessments.

Notes

¹Under the programme regulations for all of the School's three year BA/BSc degrees, students have to complete four 'papers' in each of their three years of study. Second year direct entry students have to complete four 'papers' in each of their second and third years of study. Each 'paper' represents a full-unit course or two half-unit courses.

²Where marks are averaged, the resulting average will be rounded to the nearest whole mark.

See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.