

# CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR THE BA/BSc DEGREES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING IN OR AFTER THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16

(other than three-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 thirteen 'classification marks', comprising:
  - the marks achieved in all twelve second, third and fourth year papers<sup>1</sup>;
  - a thirteenth mark being the average<sup>2</sup> of the best three marks in first year papers<sup>1</sup>.
- The aggregate for each student is the sum of the thirteen '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 marks for LSE100 and the Interdisciplinary Research Seminar are not classification marks.

## Treatment of Half Units

- This Classification Scheme, including its penalty rules, is based on the marks achieved by students in all papers<sup>1</sup> 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 averaged<sup>2</sup> 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 papers<sup>1</sup> in section 8 or the application of paragraphs 9 or 10 below, the classification of an award shall be calculated as follows:
  - For first class honours:** Seven first class marks; or six first class marks and an aggregate of at least 850
  - For upper second class honours:** Seven upper second class marks (or above); or six upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 745

- 7.3 **For lower second class honours:** Seven lower second class marks (or above); or six lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 635
- 7.4 **For third class honours:** Twelve 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 paper<sup>1</sup> taken in fulfilment of the programme regulations shall be calculated as:
  - 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 papers<sup>1</sup>.
  - 8.2 the degree shall be capped at 'pass' where a student has unredeemed fails in three papers<sup>1</sup>.  
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 paper<sup>1</sup> 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 paper<sup>1</sup> (or papers) will be taken into account under paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.
9. A fourth year student who has completed the fourth year of the programme but is not eligible for the award of the degree as set out above may be awarded a degree from the department in which the four year degree is based in accordance with the three year BA/BSc classification scheme. The degree awarded will be subject to a drop by one classification after the application of the three year Classification Scheme. A student will also be subject to the application of the penalty rules for failed papers in section 8 of the three year scheme.
10. A student who has completed the third year of the programme may apply to the School to be classified if they are unable to continue to the fourth year due to non-academic and exceptional circumstances. If accepted, they may be awarded a degree from the department in which the four year degree is based in accordance with the three year BA/BSc classification scheme.
11. Students awarded a degree under paragraphs 9 and 10 above will be classified on the basis of nine classification marks; namely, the average<sup>2</sup> of the best three marks in first year papers plus all eight second and third year papers. Half units will be treated as set out in section 6 above. 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

## General Proviso

12. 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:
  - 12.1 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
  - 12.2 that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and
  - 12.3 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
  - 12.4 that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with his / her performance in other, unaffected assessments.

## Notes

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

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

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See the Calendar for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.