

Examination Procedures for Candidates 2016

The School expects all candidates to read this document in full and to follow the instructions provided. Failing to follow these instructions may, in some instances, result in an allegation of cheating or disciplinary misconduct. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable defence.

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the procedures you will need to follow when you sit your exams in 2016. Please read it carefully – it tells you what to expect and what to do when the unexpected happens.

The School expects all candidates to read this document in full and to follow the instructions provided. Failing to follow these instructions may, in some instances, result in an allegation of cheating or disciplinary misconduct. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable defence.

If have not already done so, please check that you are registered on the right courses. You will be entered for the exams which are currently listed in LSE for You. If you spot an error or find you are not registered for a course you are taking, please contact the Exams Team at exams@lse.ac.uk.

These procedures apply only to exams run by the School. If you are taking a course with another institution, you should receive similar information directly from that institution.

2. Candidate number

Your candidate number is a unique five digit number that we use to ensure your worked is marked anonymously. Please note that it is not the same as your student ID number and, if you have taken exams at the School previously, it will not be the same as your candidate number from earlier years.

You should write your candidate number on your exam answer book(s) and not your name or student ID number.

You can find your candidate number on [LSE for You](#).

3. Exam timetables and locations

3.1. School exam timetable

While we make every effort to avoid altering the timetable after publication, changes are occasionally necessary. Any amendments will be clearly indicated on the online timetable.

3.2. Personal exam timetable

Your personal exam timetable will be available on LSE for You by midnight on 15 April 2016. It gives details of your room and desk number for each of your exams. It also shows your candidate number (see section 2).

You need to bring a print-out of your personal timetable and your student ID card to each exam. You should place it, with your LSE card at the top right of your desk, so that the invigilator can easily check it. Please do not write or print on your personal timetable before or during the exam, any notes on the timetable may be considered to be exam misconduct (see section 8.4).

Once your personal timetable is published, please contact exams@lse.ac.uk immediately if you think any of the information is incorrect.

3.3. Exam locations

Exams take place on campus, but we use a variety of buildings. It is common for candidates taking the same exam to be seated in different rooms or even building, so check your timetable carefully.

3.4. Seating

As well as publishing your personal timetable on [LSE for You](#), we post details of rooms and seat numbers by candidate each morning in the foyer of Clement House and in the Student Services Centre.

There are a number of reasons why you may not be allocated a seat in any of the main rooms:

- You registered for the exam after the timetable was published.
- You have [Individual Examination Adjustments](#) (see section 5)
- You have [Short-Term Examination Arrangements](#) (see section 6)

If any of the above applies to you, your exam room and seat number will be posted online at lse.ac.uk/examsDailyArrangements the evening before your exam and on separate lists in the foyer of Clement House and in Student Services (we use pink paper to make it easy to find).

4. Permitted materials and equipment

Please note that if you do not abide by the instructions and specifications in this section, the School may consider your behaviour as cheating (see section 8.4).

4.1. Personal items, phones and other electronic devices

You may not use mobiles, smart watches, stop watches, e-readers, tablets or other electronic devices during an exam. Mobiles and smart watches must be turned off completely—not set to silent or do not disturb—and placed under your desk. Any other personal items such as religious icons or mementos must be placed under your desk. Other electronic items must be left in your bag. The invigilator will give instructions about where you should leave personal belongings.

You must ensure that any alarms or reminders which may create a disturbance are deactivated. If any of your equipment causes a disturbance, the School may take disciplinary action.

You are strongly advised not to bring any electronic devices or other valuables to the exam room. If you choose to do so, this is at your own risk. The School does not take responsibility for loss or damage.

4.2. Dictionaries

You are not permitted to use a dictionary for the purpose of overcoming any deficiency in your command of the English language.

4.3. Personal items

You are responsible for bringing your own pens, pencils, rulers etc. to the exam. These are not provided for you.

If you use a pencil case or similar, it must be transparent to allow invigilators to see the contents without disturbing you or other candidates. If an invigilator cannot see the contents clearly, they are entitled to check.

You may bring unlabelled, clear drinking bottles into each exam. Food is not allowed in exams unless you have an IEA specifically allowing it (see section 5). Please note that if your IEA permits taking medication into the exam room, the medication must be stored in a clear, label-free bottle.

4.4. Academic materials

Details about other permitted materials, such as notes, books, tables, statutes etc. are available from your department. If you are unsure about what you may or may not take into an exam, you should check with your academic department.

If you are permitted to bring texts of any kind, unless otherwise specified, they must not contain annotations and you may not write on them during the exam. High-lighting, bookmarks or unmarked tabs are acceptable. Invigilators will check texts during the course of the exam.

4.5. Calculators

You may only use a calculator in an exam if this is permitted by your academic department.

If you are allowed to use a calculator, it must be compact, hand-held, quiet to operate and have its own power supply. Devices with an internet connection are not permitted.

Unless specified by your academic department, you may not access information stored in the memory of your calculator or use any other software during your exam. You will be responsible for clearing any stored memory from your calculator (or if applicable, setting your calculator to 'Test Mode'). If your calculator is found to have items in memory, this may be considered academic misconduct.

Please note that there is no list of approved calculators. Instead, all calculators adhering to the above criteria are acceptable. If you are unsure whether your calculator is permissible it is your responsibility to check with your Department.

You are responsible for ensuring that your calculator is in working order. We do not provide replacement calculators during the exam.

You will need to write the make and model of your calculator clearly on your answer book.

5. Individual Examination Adjustments (IEAs)

You may be eligible for [Individual Examination Adjustments](#) (IEAs) if you are disabled, have a specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia or dyspraxia) or have an ongoing medical condition. If you have not already done so, you should contact the Disability and Well-being Service (DWS) at disability-dyslexia@lse.ac.uk or on 020 7955 7767 for more advice.

If you have approved IEAs, you will be notified before the start of the exam period. The exams team will send this information to your LSE email account.

If you have IEAs, you will not sit your exam in the main room(s) with the other candidates. Details of your room and desk number will be posted on at lse.ac.uk/examsDailyArrangements the evening before your exam and on separate lists in the foyer of Clement House and in Student Services (we use pink paper to make it easy to find).

If your IEAs are agreed after your personal timetable is published, you may have already been allocated a seat in one of the main rooms, rather than an IEA room. If you take up your seat in the main room, rather than the room indicated online or on the pink list in Clement House, your IEAs will not be applied.

IEAs are intended to remove inequality at the point you take the exam, so Boards of Examiners are not made aware of approved IEAs for any individual candidate. If you feel that your IEAs were insufficient, e.g. as the result of an acute episode of a chronic condition, you should inform the Board by submitting proof of [exceptional circumstances](#) (see Section 8.5).

6. Short-Term Examination Arrangements (ST IEAs)

If you experience an unexpected medical problem which you think may warrant particular exam arrangements, you should contact the Student Services Centre (SSC) as soon as possible on 020 7955 6167.

You should also think carefully about whether you should be attempting the exam(s) or seeking [deferral](#).

Please note that short-term arrangements will not be put in place for any contagious illness (such as chicken pox or mumps). If you contract a contagious condition you should call the SSC and remain in isolation as far as possible. You should not travel to the School, regardless of your exam schedule.

Boards of Examiners are not made aware of approved ST IEAs for any individual candidate. If you feel that the agreed SEAs were insufficient, you should submit proof of Exceptional Circumstances (see Section 8.5).

7. Sitting the exam

By entering the exam room you are declaring yourself fit to sit the exam. If you have experienced disruption to your studies prior to the exam (from personal difficulties, etc.) you must think carefully about whether you should attempt the exam or whether you should discuss [deferring the exam](#) with your academic department. You may request a deferral at any point up to the end of the exam, but we recommend that you contact your academic department at the earliest possible date.

We receive a significant number of appeals after results are released each year. The majority come from candidates who chose to sit an exam (or set of exams) despite knowing they were unwell or had experienced serious problems with studying, did not seek deferral and then failed. These appeals are almost invariably turned down on the grounds that the candidate declared themselves fit to sit by attempting the exam.

7.1. Clothing

There is no dress code for exams but you should not wear any clothing which would prevent an invigilator from being able to identify you from your student ID card or which may conceal headphones. You may be asked to remove any headwear which is not worn for religious purposes.

If you wear a facial covering for religious or cultural reasons, a member of staff (of the same sex as you) may ask you to accompany them to a private room to check your identity after the exam. They may also check that you are not bringing in any equipment or materials, other than those permitted (see Section 4).

7.2. Entering the exam room

You should arrive at the School in good time for each exam and be at the room at least 20 minutes before the scheduled start. The invigilator will tell you when you may enter the room and where to leave any bags, coats or other personal belongings (see Section 4). You may only enter Clement House 30 minutes before exams begin.

7.3. Question papers

Before the exam starts, you should check that the question paper on your desk is for the correct course. You should also check that you have an answer booklet and that you have been given any/all permitted materials which the School provides.

If there are different papers for different years of study, you will sit the paper that corresponds to the last year in which you received teaching for that course. This year will be shown on your personal timetable. If the year shown on your timetable is incorrect please contact the exams team as soon as possible at exams@lse.ac.uk. We print papers specifically for resit / deferred candidates on coloured paper to make them easy to identify.

Read the instructions on the front of the paper carefully. Make sure you take time to read through the whole paper at least once before you start writing. Check that you know how many questions there are and how many you need to answer.

Reading time may be permitted if indicated on your exam paper. This is additional time to the duration of the exam. This time can only be used for reading the exam paper—unless otherwise stated. You may not take notes or write in your answer booklet, unless the exam paper explicitly states you may write during Reading Time. Invigilators will inform you of the start and finish of reading time and when you may begin writing. If you begin writing before permitted, you will be given a clean answer booklet and question paper—and your written on booklet/exam paper removed from your desk.

7.4. Answer booklets

You will be provided with one answer booklet per exam. If you need additional answer booklets, you should raise your hand and an invigilator will bring you a supplementary booklet. At the end of the exam, please tie together securely with provided string all booklets you have been given, including any rough work. It is your responsibility to ensure all answer booklets used are securely tied together.

Your answers must be written in English unless the paper specifies otherwise.

You should write legibly, preferably in blue or black ink. You may use pencil if you prefer but please bear in mind that pencil can be faint to read and can smudge. Be careful not to lose marks because your answers are difficult to read.

You will be asked to enter your candidate number and details of the exam on the front of your answer booklet. You should also write your candidate number clearly on any supplementary booklets. Please do not write your name or your student ID number on your booklet(s).

You should do any rough work or make preparatory notes in your answer booklet(s). All work needs to be submitted. If you do not want a marker to mark something you have written, whether that is part of an answer or rough work, clearly cross it out in your booklet.

You must stop writing as soon as the invigilator announces the end of the exam. This applies even if you have not finished an answer, sentence or word – you must stop writing immediately. This also applies if you just need to complete the details on the front of your answer booklets. If you do still need to put your details on the front of the answer booklet(s), you should raise your hand and wait for an invigilator. Please note that if you do not abide by this instruction, the School may consider your behaviour as cheating (see section 8.4).

You are not allowed to remove any answer booklets (even if blank) or other materials supplied by the School from the exam room. You may take the question paper unless told otherwise by the invigilator.

7.5. Exam question queries

Please note that exams are intentionally difficult. The cachet of LSE degrees, in the eyes of other universities and employers, is at least in part based on the School's rigorous academic standards. You should not, therefore, be surprised if your exams feel more difficult than the previous years' papers or practice questions you may have attempted.

Examinations may contain questions that surprise you and that are unlike past questions. This is intentional: the examiners want to test that you have understood the material well enough to cope with new types of problems. Though challenging and difficult, the examination will also be fair.

During the exam, if you have a concern about the content of the question paper, you should alert the invigilator. They will contact the Exams Office who will then check your query with the examiner. We are not able to help with interpreting questions or assisting with your understanding of a particular word or phrase.

If you still have concerns after the exam, you should raise the matter in writing with the SSC (ssc.appeals@lse.ac.uk) within seven days of the exam in question.

In the very rare event that an exam paper contains a substantive error which may have affected all candidates, a member of staff from the SSC will liaise with the Chair of the Sub-Board of Examiners and all candidates will be informed of any action taken. You will not need to submit an [Exceptional Circumstances Form](#) (see Section 8.5).

7.6. Leaving the exam room

You are not allowed to leave the room during the first 30 minutes or last 30 minutes of the exam.

Outside these times, if you wish to leave the room you should raise your hand to attract the attention of the invigilator.

You will be escorted by an invigilator on any toilet breaks and will be asked to empty your pockets prior to entering the toilet.

Please ensure that you take all your personal belongings with you when you leave at the end of the exam. You might be surprised how many candidates leave their phones under the desk or forget their bag!

Taking photographs in exam rooms or buildings is prohibited before, during or after all exams.

7.7. Emergency evacuation

In the event of an emergency evacuation, you must follow the invigilator's instructions at all times. You remain under exam conditions unless notified otherwise.

Whenever possible, exams will restart following an emergency evacuation. Before the exam restarts, the invigilator will instruct you to draw a line under your work. This ensures that the examiners are aware of the point at which the exam was interrupted. If the exam is re-started you must not start writing until you are told you can do so.

If it is not possible to restart the exam, it may be necessary to reschedule an alternative sitting but the School will do what it can to avoid this where it is academically appropriate.

All answer books will be marked in accordance with usual School procedures. However, examiners will be notified of the disruption.

The SSC will ensure that Boards of Examiners are notified of the circumstances so that they can be taken into account when ratifying marks, progression and classification. You do not need to take any further action.

8. When things go wrong

8.1. Late arrival

If you arrive at your exam room within 30 minutes of the scheduled start of the exam, you will be permitted to sit the exam. You will not be given extra time at the end.

If you arrive more than 30 minutes late, you will not be allowed to enter the exam room. You should go to the Student Services Centre in the Old Building immediately. Please go to the front of the queue if there is one. If the Exams Office can confirm that no student has left the exam, you will be permitted to sit the exam if you choose to do so. You will not be given extra time at the end. If you choose not to do so, you will be marked as absent from the exam. If any candidate has already left the exam, you will not be permitted to sit. If you choose not to sit or are not permitted to sit and you have a good reason for being late, you should submit an [Exceptional Circumstances Form](#) (see Section 8.5).

8.2. Illness / unexpected events on the day

If you are likely to miss an exam, you should contact the SSC as soon as possible on 020 7955 6167. An answer-phone is available outside normal School hours and all messages are logged by 09:30 each morning.

If you are absent from an exam because of illness/injury, or other serious, unforeseen circumstances, you are advised to submit an [Exceptional Circumstances Form](#) with supporting documents that verify your circumstances (see Section 8.5).

If you are ill on the day of an exam, you are strongly advised to contact your own doctor. You may also wish to contact the SSC for advice.

If you are taken ill during an exam, you must inform the invigilator immediately so that the necessary action can be taken to help you and to ensure that the details are recorded. Please be aware, however, that additional examination time will not be granted. If you are able/choose to continue with the exam, you will be required to finish the examination at the original scheduled time.

Exams for resits or deferrals will take place in Summer 2017. There is no autumn resit period, except for first or second year LLB students, where these are necessary to comply with Law Society requirements.

8.3. Illegible answers

You should make every effort to ensure you write clearly so that the markers can concentrate on your answers, rather than the quality of your handwriting. This includes smudged pencil or ink which is too similar in colour to the answer booklet. You may lose marks if parts of your answer book are indecipherable.

If a marker deems your entire answer book to be illegible, you will be asked to attend the SSC in person in order to transcribe your answer books. You will be responsible for bearing any associated costs. If you are not available in good time to assist with transcription, your result may be delayed. This could have implications for your progression or award of your degree.

8.4. Cheating

The School takes exam offences extremely seriously and will investigate all allegations. If an allegation against you is substantiated, it may lead to your expulsion. This document draws your attention to some of the ways in which you could potentially be thought to be cheating. However, this is by no means comprehensive. You should read the [Regulations on Assessment Offences](#) to ensure you avoid behaviour which could lead to an allegation of cheating.

8.5. Exceptional circumstances

If you are absent from an exam or feel that your performance in an exam has been significantly and negatively affected as a result of significant circumstances, you may submit proof of [exceptional circumstances](#) to the SSC within 7 days of the date of your last exam or other summative assessment such as a dissertation etc.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered carefully by the Sub-Board of Examiners. A Sub-Board may recommend a suspension of regulations (such as discounting a failed attempt, permitting an additional attempt or raising an award classification) but only where the exceptional circumstances are unforeseen, out of your control, proximate to the exam(s) in question and if corroborated by official evidence.

The School does not consider disruption to your study prior to taking your exams. A Sub-Board is not able to estimate how you may have performed in an assessment had you been better able to study, learn or revise. The Sub-Board can only consider the circumstances in which you took your assessment(s).

All evidence must be in English.