

Assessment Criteria in Examinations for the Engineering Tripos and the Manufacturing Engineering Tripos

The Faculty Board of Engineering recommend to the Examiners for the 2012 Tripos examinations the following assessment criteria:

1. Marking criteria for questions

Marks of 70% to 100% to be given for an answer which is substantially complete and correct, and which displays an excellent understanding and analytical ability.

Marks of 60% to 69% to be given for an answer which, although moderately incomplete or incorrect, displays a good understanding and analytical ability.

Marks of 50% to 59% to be given for an answer which, although significantly incomplete or incorrect, displays a sound understanding and analytical ability.

Marks of 40% to 49% to be given for an answer which, although seriously incomplete or incorrect, displays a basic understanding and analytical ability.

2. Marking criteria for essay-based questions

Answers to essay questions should be clear, accurate, relevant to the question set and supported by appropriate use of evidence and examples. Additional credit is given where the following qualities are displayed:

- effective organisation and prioritisation of material, usually on the basis of a theme or argument. A collage of information with no coherent argument should be avoided;
- clear and logical analysis with theory used to advance the analysis;
- knowledge of relevant lecture material and related literature;
- effective and appropriate use of personal experience;
- originality in discussion and analysis.

Marks of 70% to 100% to be given for an essay which demonstrates excellent knowledge and understanding of the material and displays most of the requirements referred to above.

Marks of 60% to 69% to be given for an essay which shows a good grasp of the material, and an ability to detect underlying assumptions, adopt a critical stance and see interconnections between different ideas.

Marks of 50% to 59% to be given for an essay which is for the most part an accurate but descriptive account. Rehearsed material may be reproduced that is only partly relevant or poorly organised or unclear. If there is originality or insight it is not sufficient to compensate for incomplete, superficial or erroneous features of the answer.

Marks of 40% to 49% to be given for an essay which displays a basic familiarity with the material, but is seriously incomplete and shows errors of understanding.

3. Classing criteria for the whole examination

In classed Tripos Examinations (Engineering Part IA, Engineering Part IB, Engineering Part IIA and Manufacturing Engineering Part IIA), candidates are placed in order of merit according to the aggregate mark for written papers, coursework and project work.

Part IIB Engineering and Part IIB Manufacturing Engineering are not classed but candidates are awarded Honours, Honours with Merit, or Honours with Distinction depending on their performance. In Engineering Part IIB, the total mark for the eight modules and the mark for the major project are considered separately and appropriate performance is required in both for an Honours Pass, Merit or Distinction. In Manufacturing Engineering Part IIB, the examination credit and the coursework credit are considered separately and appropriate performance is required in both for an Honours Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Marks may be scaled by the Examiners or Assessors in all examinations as approved by the Chairman of Examiners for the Tripos examination in question. Further details of the way that classes, or the grade of Honours Pass, are determined are given in the Faculty Board Guidelines to the relevant Examiners.