

Dear Part III student,

The Faculty recognises that students will be keen to plan their summer now that the Easter-term pass/fail assessment has finished. It therefore seems an appropriate time to provide a few further details concerning the optional, full written ('standard') Part III examination, and request your input concerning the timing of that examination.

The standard Part III exam can only take place once the University is fully operational again and travel restrictions have been eased sufficiently to allow students to travel to Cambridge (or possibly another examination venue, should it be possible for us to offer the exam elsewhere). Moreover, the standard examination will have to be preceded by a second sitting of the pass/fail assessment to allow those students who were not able to participate in the Easter term sitting to take the pass/fail exam prior to sitting the standard examination. The timing of the second sitting will be determined by the University and is not yet known.

For all these reasons the Faculty is unable to indicate with any degree of certainty when the standard examination might take place. Even once the timing has been decided upon, there is likely to be considerable ongoing uncertainty relating to a possible resurgence of COVID-19. However, we are able to categorically state at this point that the standard examination will not take place before September. We hope to be able to offer it before the start of the Lent term 2021. The Faculty aims to give 8 weeks' notice of the dates of the examination period.

The Faculty would be grateful if you would **complete the informal survey** at <https://forms.gle/6yhf8JhxbzvzUsMq8> **by midnight (BST) on Monday, 15 June 2020**. The survey is aimed at those students who harbour an interest in sitting the standard exam; if you have no intention of doing so you do not need to fill it in. Your responses will help us optimise the timing of the standard examination contingent on external factors affecting feasibility.

The reason for the tight deadline is that the University has asked the Faculty for input on this matter by next Wednesday. It is not clear at this point when a definitive decision concerning the timing of the examination will or can be made.

When determining the timing of the examination period the Faculty will make its best effort to satisfy the essential requirements of the greatest number of students (within the constraints imposed by external factors), but for obvious reasons cannot guarantee that it will be able to satisfy them all.

The sole purpose of this survey is to better understand students' constraints and preferences; in particular, your participation does **not** constitute formal registration for the standard examination. You are in no way bound by any preferences you express on this form.

There will be a formal registration process for the standard examination later this month which will close in mid-July (precise dates to be confirmed). As previously stated, there will be no jeopardy in formally declaring an intention to sit the classed exam at that point and subsequently withdrawing. There will be another, firm deadline for paper choices approximately 4-5 weeks before the start of the examination period. The University will subsequently endeavour to construct as compact a timetable as possible for individual students, but cannot guarantee that the period of presence required in Cambridge will be any shorter than it would be for a Part III examination in a normal year (that is, nine consecutive working days).

Please note that due to constraints on accommodation and examination space in Cambridge, the examination will most likely take place outside Cambridge term time. You will be responsible for covering the cost of your travel to Cambridge, and for making arrangements for accommodation with your College.

For frequently asked questions concerning this assessment, please see our COVID-19 page at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/postgrad/part-iii/part-iii-mmathmast-covid-19-announcements>. We regret that we are not able to provide any further information at this time.

Best wishes,
Julia

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