

Dear all,

Registration for the optional, full written ('standard') Part III examination is now open and closes at 11.59pm (BST) on Monday, 13 July 2020.

Please find attached further information concerning the registration process. If you are not interested in sitting for this examination, you may ignore this message.

Timing of the Examination Period

The Faculty would like to express its gratitude to all those who responded to the recent survey on the possible timing of the standard examination. We are in ongoing conversations with the University on this matter, but are unable to say with any degree of certainty when a decision is likely to be made. As you will no doubt recognise, there is a delicate trade-off between *providing* certainty by announcing the dates, and *having* the certainty that the external conditions will allow the examination to go ahead on those dates.

As previously stated, the standard examination 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). It must take place subsequent to the second sitting of the online pass/fail assessment, the precise dates of which remain to be confirmed, in order 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.

We hope to be able to offer the standard examination before the start of the Lent term 2021. The Faculty aims to give 8 weeks' notice of the dates of the examination period. Please note that even once the timing has been decided upon, there is likely to be considerable ongoing uncertainty relating to a possible resurgence of COVID-19.

Paper Choices and Examination Timetable

There will be a 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).

For the standard examination, candidates will be expected to offer the normal number of units (17-19 including an essay, if an essay was submitted in May). The choice of examination papers for the classed examination papers is independent of that for the pass/fail examination, with the exception of the essay paper (which will automatically count towards the classed examination if submitted in May).

Examination Outcomes

Students cannot be disadvantaged by sitting the standard exam: candidates will retain their pass in Part III (and their MMath/MASt degree) regardless of the outcome of the standard examination.

Merits and Distinctions will be awarded by comparing individual performances to standard attainment criteria; there will be no quotas for the number of Merits and Distinctions.

Students are advised that the marks obtained on the pass/fail examination are *not* a reliable indicator of future performance on the standard examination, should they choose to sit it.

Logistics

Due to constraints on accommodation and examination space in Cambridge, the standard 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.

The University has confirmed that students who register for the standard examination using the process described below will retain access to their CRSids until such time when the examination process has been completed. In particular, they will continue to be able to access the revision materials on the Part III Academic Support Moodle.

Registration Process

Registration takes place via the 'Registration' tab on the Part III Academic Support Moodle at <https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=144111>. The firm deadline for registering for the standard examination is

11.59pm (BST) on Monday, 13 July 2020.

There is no jeopardy in declaring an intention to sit the standard examination via the Moodle form and subsequently withdrawing. Students who wish to withdraw from the examination at a later date are kindly requested to inform the Faculty at undergrad-office@maths.cam.ac.uk.

Only students who have passed the pass/fail examination will be eligible to sit the standard examination. Students who will be sitting the pass/fail examination in the second assessment period must also register their intention to sit the standard examination by the above deadline.

As with all examination choices in Part III, students should notify their Director of Studies of their intention to sit this examination in advance of completing the registration form. The Faculty will reconfirm the registration with the student's College once it has been processed.

With best wishes,
Julia

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