

Part III Examination Allowances 2025/26

Faculty Guidance Notes for Students, Directors of Studies, and College Tutors

Examination allowances may be granted by the EAMC (Examination Access and Mitigation Committee) when a student is prevented from fully completing their assessment due to *illness or other grave cause*, and when the difficulties are *unanticipated* and arise *close in time to the examination*.

The University has issued guidance on exam allowances which is available here:

[When illness or grave cause has impacted an examination | Cambridge students](#)

There are guidance notes which provide detailed explanations of the system in general:

[2025-26 Exam Allowances: Guidance notes for Students and Colleges](#)

and there is a form which must be submitted by students to initiate an application:

[Student Initiation Form](#)

In addition to this general guidance, however, there are important special arrangements and exemptions that have been agreed for Part III Mathematics. These are set out in detail in the sections below and students and Tutors should consult the following notes carefully, in conjunction with the University guidance above, when submitting an application for an exam allowance.

Throughout this document, *Part III* will refer to *Part III of the Mathematical Tripos* leading to the *MMath* qualification, together with the postgraduate course *MASt in Mathematics* (candidates for both qualifications are taught and examined as a single cohort). A summary of assessment procedures for Part III is given in an appendix below and full details, including the Faculty Board's Advice to Examiners, can be found in the [Part III Handbook](#)

There are three kinds of examination allowance available in Part III, depending on the number of papers affected and the implications for the result obtained.

- (1)** Disregarding up to and including 25% of the assessment
- (2)** Pass/Fail reassessment – if more than 25% has been affected and the student has failed.
- (3)** Reassessment with classed result the following year – if more than 25% of the assessment has been affected and the student seeks to improve their result.

Students and Tutors may need to consult with Directors of Studies on certain points, as indicated below. Further advice can also be obtained by contacting the Director of Taught Postgraduate Education: director-tpe@maths.cam.ac.uk

Advice *should not* be sought directly from anyone in their roles as an Examiner or Lecturer/Assessor in Part III (although a number of such individuals will be able to give advice in their other roles, such as Directors of Studies).

Final decisions on which papers have been affected and whether an allowance will be granted rest solely with the EAMC. The outcome will depend critically on whether there is sufficiently strong supporting evidence (see the University guidance notes).

Summary for students of key steps in applying for an allowance

The Part III examinations will take place from Thursday 4 June to Tuesday 16 June 2026:

[Part III exam timetable](#)

Results are expected to be released on CamSIS by Wednesday 24 June 2026.

What to do first. If you are prevented from taking an examination paper (in whole or in part) by illness or other grave cause, you should contact your Tutor, and ideally your DoS, as soon as you can; you should also contact a medical professional, if appropriate. You should then continue to take subsequent examination papers if you are able to, since any exam allowance will apply only to those paper(s) directly affected by the illness or grave cause.

Applying for an allowance. You must complete the [Student Initiation Form](#) and send this to your College Tutor **within 7 days** (following either the affected exam(s) or the end of the exam period). Note: results for Part III will not be available within 7 days of the end of the exam period, so you cannot wait for your results before submitting the initiation form.

Seeking help and advice. Your Tutor will be able to offer advice on how to complete the Student Initiation Form, as well as on important related matters such as the **need to obtain contemporaneous evidence** to support your application. Your DoS will also be able to advise you on strictly academic matters.

Types of allowance. As stated above, there are three kinds of examination allowance available for Part III, each of which is explained in much greater detail in the sections that follow.

(1) If 25% or less of assessed components are affected, then the examiners can disregard them.

The threshold of 25% is determined relative to the total number of units that you chose to offer for the examination, including the essay.

If more than 25% of assessed components have been affected, then you can apply for either:

(2) A pass/fail reassessment that will take place before the middle of Michaelmas Term 2026 (this cannot result in the award of a merit or distinction); or

(3) A reassessment with classed result taken during the standard exam period next year, 2027.

Choice of allowance - section 4 of the Student Initiation Form. In this section of the form (with the heading "4. Allowances") you are asked to indicate the kind of allowance you are applying for.

If you are applying for allowance **(1)** above, then you can leave section 4 of the form blank; however, if you are uncertain whether the conditions for allowance **(1)** are met, then you should complete this section and choose between allowances **(2)** and **(3)**, as follows.

If you are applying for allowances **(2)** or **(3)** then you must indicate your choice by ticking a box. For purely administrative reasons, however, you are asked to tick boxes in subsections A or B on the form, depending on whether you are a candidate for the MMath (fourth year Tripos student) or for the MAST (taught postgraduate student), respectively; the allowances themselves are identical.

Hence, to select allowances **(2)** or **(3)**, you should tick the boxes labelled "1." or "2.", respectively, in subsections A or B of section 4 of the form, as appropriate.

Choice of re-sit papers for pass/fail reassessment. To complete the application for an allowance of type **(2)**, a pass/fail reassessment, you will need to **specify a subset of affected papers to re-sit**, according to the scheme set out in detail below, in section 2 points (iv) and (v). You should make this

choice **after** you have submitted your Student Initiation Form, once your full set of marks are available, and after seeking advice from your Director of Studies if necessary (this is an academic matter and need not involve discussing details of the events which caused you to apply for an allowance). You should then communicate your choice to your Tutor **before** the College submits the application to the EAMC and ask for these details to be included.

Submission to the EAMC. Your college will gather whatever supporting evidence is required and must then submit the entire application to the EAMC within 6 weeks of receiving the Student Initiation Form.

Note to Tutors:

Please note, in particular, the additional step required for an allowance of type **(2)**, in which the candidate's choice of re-sit papers must be confirmed in the College letter to the EAMC. See also section 2 points (iv), (v) and (vi) below. For further guidance, please email the Director of Taught Postgraduate Education: director-tpe@maths.cam.ac.uk

Full Details of Examination Allowances for Part III

Exceptions and exemptions for Part III Mathematics. As mentioned above, the descriptions of allowances given in the general University guidance, and on the Student Initiation Form, are subject to certain exceptions for Part III Mathematics, as agreed by the Faculty Board in consultation with the EAMC and the central University. The precise forms of the allowances available for Part III are given in the sections that follow (labelled 1, 2, 3 corresponding to the numbering of allowances used above). These are broadly similar to the descriptions in the general University guidance but may differ in some important details.

1. Disregarding up to and including 25% of the assessment

Applies when a relatively small part of the examination is affected; no re-sit required; classed result. Conforms to the general framework summarised in sections 2.1 and 2.6 of the University Guidance notes.

(i) For Part III, up to and including 25% of the assessment means up to and including 25% of the *units* a candidate has chosen to submit for assessment, including the essay. For a candidate offering the normal range of 17-19 units, this implies that one 3-unit or two 2-unit papers could be disregarded. For a candidate offering 12 units (the minimum recommended by the Faculty for those candidates aiming for a pass), one paper, either 3-unit or 2-unit, could be disregarded.

(ii) Following award of the allowance and confirmation from the EAMC of which papers have been affected, examiners determine a substitute mark for each affected paper given by the weighted average mark obtained on all unaffected papers (not including the essay).

(iii) Examiners then class candidates in the normal way, using the *optimum mark* and *adjusted optimum mark* and considering the full set of marks, including those produced in (ii). The final result is a distinction, merit, pass or fail.

2. Pass/Fail reassessment

Applies when more than 25% of examination components have been affected and the candidate has failed or has not been classed; limited reassessment with pass/fail result (no merit or distinction).

This option is listed as an exception in sections 2.2, 2.7 and 2.8 of the University Guidance notes.

(i) Candidates will normally be expected to have submitted an essay and to have obtained a passing mark on it (quality grade β - or higher) in order to qualify for this allowance.

(ii) Re-sit papers must be taken in person, in Cambridge, and will be offered at a time specified by the Faculty, no later than the division of the Michaelmas Term following the examination. It is currently expected that re-sit papers will be timetabled from 26 October to 6 November 2026.

(iii) Re-sit papers will be 2 hours long for each 24-lecture course and 1 hour 20 minutes long for each 16-lecture course. These papers will be of reduced scope, designed to test a basic level of attainment, with a raw mark of 50% corresponding to pass standard.

(iv) Students will be required to specify a subset of the affected papers that they wish to re-sit. This subset must consist of R exam units in total with $U + R \geq 12$ and $R \leq 11$, where U is the number of unaffected exam units (including the essay, so $U \geq 3$). This is consistent with advice from the Faculty Board that offering a minimum of 12 exam units, including an essay, is expected for a pass.

Example: if a candidate offers an essay and 5 written papers of 3-units each, all of which are affected and are included in the allowance, then $U = 3$ and $9 \leq R \leq 11$, so the candidate must choose 3 out of the 5 written papers to re-sit.

(v) Students should discuss their choice of re-sit papers, as in point (iv) above, with their Director of Studies (this is a purely academic consideration) *before the College form is submitted to the EAMC*. The College Tutor should then confirm the student's choice of re-sit papers as part of their letter to the EAMC detailing the circumstances of the application.

(vi) Classing procedures in Part III mean that there may be particular circumstances in which a candidate may be reassessed and awarded a pass by the examiners *without* the need to take re-sit papers, once it has been confirmed by the EAMC that certain papers were indeed affected due to circumstances beyond the candidate's control. Nevertheless, *all* candidates should specify a choice of re-sit papers, following the steps in the previous points (iv) and (v), when making an application for an allowance of this type.

(vii) Once re-sit papers have been marked, examiners will follow procedures for classing that are as comparable as possible to those normally used at the pass/fail borderline, including consideration of the *adjusted optimum mark*. Marks from all unaffected papers and the essay, together with marks from all re-sit papers (rescaled so that the pass mark corresponds to the usual β/γ threshold), will be taken into account.

(viii) The Faculty will not provide additional teaching in preparation for re-sit paper exams, though standard online resources such as course Moodles will remain available. There will be no sample re-sit papers and candidates will be expected to prepare using the large number of standard past papers available online.

3. Reassessment at the next planned opportunity

Applies when more than 25% of examination components have been affected and the candidate seeks to improve the class obtained; reassessment the following year with classed result.

This option is listed as an exception in section 2.2 of the University Guidance notes.

- (i) The *next planned opportunity* for Part III is the standard exam period at the end of the next academic year (June 2027). Exams must be taken in person in Cambridge.
- (ii) Candidates granted this allowance must select papers from those that will be on offer in 2026/27: there will be no bespoke papers or modifications, with the exception of (vi) below.
- (iii) Candidates must carry forward their essay mark but cannot carry forward marks on papers taken previously (even if those papers were unaffected by the circumstances pertaining to the allowance).
- (iv) To allow students to prepare adequately, they will be permitted to return from the start of the Easter Term 2027 and to participate in revision classes. The Fee Remissions Panel have confirmed that students will be exempt from (University) tuition fees for this additional Term, provided their college makes an application on their behalf.
- (v) Students are free to return immediately before the exams, rather than from the start of the Easter Term, but this would normally be strongly discouraged by the Faculty, as not being in the student's best interests.
- (vi) Given the variations in course offerings that can arise from year to year, it has been agreed that students should be allowed to make an application to the Faculty to be assessed on fewer units, up to 25% less, either because a course is no longer running, or because the content has changed significantly.

Jonathan Evans
Director of Taught Postgraduate Education
Faculty of Mathematics
E-mail: director-tpe@maths.cam.ac.uk

Easter Term 2026

Appendix: summary of assessment in Part III

Part III refers to *Part III of the Mathematical Tripos*, leading to the *MMath* qualification, together with the postgraduate course *MASt in Mathematics*. Candidates for both qualifications are taught and examined as a single cohort. Full details can be found in the [Part III Handbook](#)

Candidates are assessed by means of an essay, submitted by a deadline near the start of the Easter Term, and by written examination papers on lectures courses, taken towards the end of the Easter Term. The essay corresponds to 3 units of examination credit and written papers correspond to either 3 or 2 units of examination credit, for courses of 24 or 16 lectures, respectively.

Candidates select courses for the examination subject to an upper limit of 16 units for all written papers; they are advised that they should normally offer 14-16 units, giving a total of 17-19 units of credit in total from both written papers and the essay. Candidates who are aiming for a pass, rather than a merit or distinction, are advised that they should offer at least 12 units for assessment, including an essay.

On each paper or essay a candidate receives a percentage mark and a quality grade, α (distinction standard), β (pass standard), or γ ; the quality grades are further refined by \pm and are normally in strict correspondence with the percentage mark. The Examiners consider the complete set of marks and place each candidate in one of the following categories: *Distinction*, *Merit*, *Pass*, *Fail or Not Classed/Other* (Not Classed may include, for example, candidates for whom marks are missing because they were ill for part of the examination).

Examiners use an *optimum mark*, involving weighted averages, to ensure that candidates who offer a total number of units in the range 17-19 are treated in a fair and comparable way. The optimum mark enables examiners to consider candidates based on their best marks subject to a threshold of 17 units. Near the pass/fail borderline examiners also consider an *adjusted optimum mark*, defined in an analogous way but with a threshold of 12 units.