

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of 23 January 2025, Computer Science Undergraduate Supervisory Committee; approved by MPLS Division 3rd June 2025.

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Preliminary Examination in Computer Science and Philosophy

Brief note about nature of change: Minor amendment to assessment and correction of typographical errors.

Location of change

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=peicscieandphil>

Effective date

For students starting from academic year 2025-26.

For first examination from academic year 2025-26.

Detail of change

^{1.4}1. The Preliminary Examination in Computer Science and Philosophy shall comprise five compulsory written papers plus compulsory Computer Science practicals ~~equivalent to one written paper~~:

- ^{1.5}CS1 Functional Programming and Design and Analysis of Algorithms
- ^{1.6}CS2 Imperative Programming and Introduction to Proof Systems
- ^{1.7}CSP3 Discrete Mathematics and Probability
- ^{1.8}P1 Introduction to Philosophy
- ^{1.9}P2 Philosophical Topics in Logic and Probability
- ^{1.10}Computer Science Practicals

^{1.11}2. The syllabus for papers CS1, CS2, and CSP3 will be published by the Joint Supervisory Committee in a handbook for candidates by the beginning of the Michaelmas Full Term in the academic year of the examination, after consultation with the Faculty of Mathematics (for paper CSP3). The syllabus for paper P1 will be as stated below. The syllabus for paper P2 will be as stated for

the Philosophical Topics in Logic and Probability paper in the regulations for the Preliminary Examination in Mathematics and Philosophy.

1.123. Papers CS1, CS2, and CSP3 will contain questions of a straightforward character.

1.134. All candidates will be assessed as to their practical ability in Computer Science under the following provisions:

1.14(a) The Head of the Department of Computer Science, or a deputy, shall make available to the examiners evidence showing the extent to which each candidate has pursued an adequate course of practical work. Only that work completed and marked by the submission date given in the Course Handbook shall be included in these records.

1.15(b) Candidates shall submit their reports of practical exercises completed during their course of study, as described by their Course Handbook, by the date given in the Course Handbook.

1.16(c) The examiners shall take the evidence (a) and the reports (b) into account in assessing a candidate's performance.

1.17(d) Candidates whose overall performance on practical work is not satisfactory may be deemed to have failed the examination.

1.185. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the examination if they have satisfied the examiners in all six papers in clause 1 either at a single examination or at two examinations in accordance with clause 7 or clause 8.

1.196. The examiners may award a distinction to candidates of special merit who have satisfied them in all six papers in clause 1 in one examination.

1.207. A candidate who fails to satisfy the Moderators in one or two written papers may offer the papers failed on one subsequent occasion. A candidate who fails to satisfy the Moderators in three or more written papers may offer all five papers on one subsequent occasion, except that a candidate who fails to satisfy the Moderators in all of papers CS1, CS2 and CSP3, but who has satisfied the Moderators in papers P1 and P2, may offer papers CS1, CS2 and CSP3 only on one subsequent occasion.

Example 1: Amend citation reference 1.4 as follows:

1.41. The Preliminary Examination in Computer Science and Philosophy shall comprise five compulsory written papers plus compulsory Computer Science practicals ~~equivalent to one written paper~~:

Example 2: Amend citation reference 1.20 as follows:

1.207. A candidate who fails to satisfy the Moderators in one or two written papers may offer the papers failed on one subsequent occasion. A candidate who fails to satisfy the Moderators in three or more written papers may offer all five papers on one subsequent occasion, except that a candidate who fails to satisfy the Moderators in all of papers CS1, CS2 and CSP3, but who has satisfied the Moderators in papers P1 and P2, may offer papers CS1, CS2 and CSP3 only on one subsequent occasion.

Explanatory Notes

This has been amended as Practicals does not have the same weight as a written paper. This change reflects actual practice, as outlined in the Examination Conventions. Practicals do not contribute to the candidate's classification.

Correction of CSP3 to CS3 - correcting an error in the previous regulations.

Confirming that the resit requirements refer to written papers.