

EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT FORM FOR TAUGHT COURSES

Name	Sabina Leonelli		
Home Institution	University of Exeter		
Email Address			
Name(s) of course(s) examined <i>e.g. Tripos Part/ MPhil/ MRes</i>	NST Part II History and Philosophy of Science		
Academic year of examination	2023-2024		
Level (<i>Delete as appropriate</i>)	Undergraduate		
Year of Appointment			<u>3rd</u>

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are the academic standards set for the award appropriate for the qualification, and comparable with similar programmes in other UK institutions?	X		
2. Are you satisfied that you received sufficient programme materials (handbooks, regulations, marking and classing criteria) in a timely manner?	X		
3. Are you satisfied that you were consulted adequately on draft examination papers, and that your comments and suggestions were taken into consideration?	X		
4. Are you satisfied that the assessment was pitched at the appropriate level?	X		
5. Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	X		
6. Do the assessment processes measure student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme?	X		
7. Are you satisfied that issues raised on your previous report form have been properly considered and, where applicable, acted upon?	X		
8. Did you receive a written response from the Department to your previous report form?	X		

Do you have any concerns about the course, including standards and quality?

No
<p>Are you satisfied that the procedures associated with the assessment are efficient (e.g. timeframes, draft papers, questions, design and conduct of exam, meetings, vivas)?</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Do you have any comments on marking and classing (e.g. range of marks, action around borderline marks, penalties, moderation, double marking, reconciliation of marks)?</p> <p>The distribution of marks in coursework and exams looks appropriate, with some crowding happening in the higher 2:1 space which is to be expected given the high quality of teaching and of student work. I did not detect any irregularities in the marking practices and outcomes, and as in previous years, the exams are particularly useful markers of the breadth and depth of the teaching curriculum.</p> <p>BBS exam work looks good: excellent exam questions/topics, which students could clearly tackle; a good spread of marks, and fair evaluation throughout. I have reviewed the problem cases flagged by markers, and agree with the resolutions taken by the department – all seems fine and the process for adjudicating marks is working well from my perspective.</p> <p>On the dissertation marking: all done to a high standard, with the usual amount of constructive dialogue and sometimes disagreement among markers which I have come to regard as a sign of sustained scholarly engagement with the students' work. I agree on the decisions made about the final marks, and commend markers (and supervisors) on a job well-done. The lower-range marks were definitely deserved. In some cases I would have accepted higher marks.</p>
<p>Do you have any comments on the student experience of the course and/or their experience of the assessment process?</p> <p>I am happy to see updates and continuous innovation in the topics covered within the modules, which continue to be cutting-edge with respect to current research in HPS as well as topical to the challenges of our time.</p> <p>My favourite assignment among the written coursework continues to be the primary source essay. It is a difficult task for students, but the excellent results and the obvious learning associated to this challenge is worth the gamble – and clearly students are well-supported in producing these reflections. I always learn from these essays and look forward to reading them as a marker of the high level of teaching and scholarship, and the strong encouragement of independent thinking, offered by the department.</p>
<p>Do you have any comments on University policies (e.g. the role of the external examiner, policies around plagiarism, script annotation)?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Please describe here any recommendations for improvement.</p>

<p>Please highlight any good practice you encountered.</p> <p>See above.</p>
<p>Have you seen any evidence of grade inflation?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>If this is your final year as external examiner? If so, have you seen improvements over your tenure? Has the Department acted on your advice?</p> <p>Yes. I wish to compliment the HPS department for yet another excellent set of materials, evidence of a well-functioning teaching programme rightly known around the world as the top of our domain. It has been a pleasure to act as examiner for such outstanding work. One of the comments I have been making in the past concerns the range of marks, which I think could be wider and encompass higher marks than currently, and I think the department is still considering this.</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments?</p>