

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Part III

SENIOR EXAMINERS' REPORT 2009-10

The Part III course, offered for the first time by the HPS Department, was taken by 8 students, of whom 3 achieved First Class (mark 70 and above) and 5 achieved 2i (marks between 60 – 69).

Prizes

The *Lipton Prize* was awarded to Dmitriy Myelnikov, for best overall performance in the course.

Unfinished work or work with typographical errors

A reoccurring theme discussed in the Examiners' Meetings was the issue of how to handle unfinished work. This includes essays and dissertations containing significantly many typographical errors. The Examiners agreed that at the present time the marking scheme should not be changed to expressly include criteria for dealing with this kind of shortcoming.

External examiner

Dr Greg Radick (Leeds HPS), the External Examiner, saw a total of 11 pieces of work out of 40 (26%). (This includes 2 dissertations). This work was referred to him for various reasons. The following were sent to Dr Radick: the best and worst essays, borderline marks, those essays or dissertations for which there was a wide variation between the examiners' marks and those for which the internal examiners failed to reach an agreement. In his reports Dr Radick appreciated that the new Part III course had worked well this year. The Examiners wish to thank Dr Radick for his work, as well as for his well argued decisions of marks.

Recommendations

The External Examiner suggested a workshop where examples of excellent work, either essays or dissertations, be made available to and discussed with prospective applicants and current students.

Part III HPS Examiners

Dr Sorin Bangu

Dr Nicky Reeves

5 October 2010