FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Sociology Marking Criteria

The following marking criteria apply to all HSPS papers with the SOC or CRIM preface. All students taking a SOC or CRIM paper will be marked against the same criteria, regardless of the student's "home" track or Tripos.

Examinations:

Markers will award one mark per *question*.

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	An answer showing outstanding understanding that displays a very high degree of accuracy, insight, and style, and originality in responding to the question, and is well-structured. To fall into this range, an answer has to display all of these qualities.
70-79	An answer showing very clear understanding and a high degree of accuracy, which provides a cogent and well-structured argument focused on the question with a significant level of insight and a degree of originality.
60-69	An answer showing clear understanding and a good level of accuracy that provides a coherent, sustained, and well-structured argument focused on the question. To fall into this range, an answer has to display all of these qualities, and should not decisively show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 50-59. Answers where there is some evidence of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 50-59 will receive a mark between 60 and 64.
50-59	An answer that concentrates on the subject matter of the question, that displays relevant knowledge and is generally accurate, but which either shows significant limitations in understanding, or presents a discussion that is not focused on the question, or is partially unstructured, or where the discussion is not sustained through the course of the essay. To fall into this range, an answer has to display these positive qualities, and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 40-49.
40-49	An answer generally relevant to the subject matter of the question, but one that contains a large number of inaccuracies, or shows significantly inadequate knowledge, or presents an unstructured and disjointed discussion. To fall into this range, an answer should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 21-39.
21-39	An answer that either displays a lack of crucial knowledge, or has no structure, or is radically incomplete, or is almost entirely irrelevant to the question, or contains an extremely high number of inaccuracies.
1-20	A single paragraph of conventional paragraph length, or an answer that is entirely irrelevant, should receive a mark not higher than 20.
0	No answer provided for a question.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21

Sociology Marking Criteria

Long essays (papers CRIM3, SOC4, SOC9, SOC12):

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	A wholly clear, powerful, sophisticated and persuasive argument focused on the question, supported throughout by relevant texts and/or evidence, dealing decisively with the most important counter-arguments, containing some original thought or insight, sustained over the length of the essay, displaying a very high degree of accuracy, and faultlessly written and presented. To fall into this range, essays have to display all of these qualities.
70-79	A wholly clear and persuasive argument, supported throughout, as the case may be, by relevant texts and/or evidence, which deals effectively with the more important counterarguments, shows clear independence of mind, is sustained over the length of the essay, displays a high degree of accuracy, and is well written and presented. To fall into this range, an essay has to display all of these qualities.
60-69	A generally clear and persuasive argument focused on the question, generally well supported by relevant texts and/or evidence, that pays due attention to the important counter- arguments, , sustained over the length of the answer/essay, displaying a good level of accuracy, and well written and presented. To fall into this range, an essay has to display all of these qualities, and should not decisively show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for 50-59. Essays where there is some evidence of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for 50-59 will receive a mark between 60 and 64.
50-59	A moderately clear argument, reasonably well supported by relevant texts and/or evidence, but that shows some mistakes or accuracy, or weakness in its reasoning or textual and/or evidential support, or is not focused on the question, or is not well sustained over the length of the answer/essay, or fails to address counter-arguments, or is in whole or in part not well written and presented. To fall into this range, essays have to display both positive qualities and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 40-49. An essay that is in whole or in part not well written or presented will receive a mark in this range regardless of its positive qualities or the absence of other negative features.
40-49	A discernible argument that receives modest support from relevant texts and/or evidence, but which is seriously problematic in its reasoning or textual and/or evidential support, or disregards the question, or makes a significant number mistakes of fact, or is not sustained over anywhere near the length of the essay, or is in significant part poorly written and presented. To fall into this range, essays have to display both positive qualities.
21-39	A barely discernible argument on the subject of the question, that is either thinly supported, ignoring the evidence and/or texts in its argument, or makes a large number of mistakes of fact, or is poorly structured throughout the essay, or is poorly written and presented throughout.
1-20	An essay that is irrelevant to the subject of the question, or shows a complete failure of understanding of the subject, or that is radically incomplete.
0	No essay submitted, or submitted more than a week after the deadline.

HSPS Faculty Board approved 4 March 2021

Sociology Marking Criteria
Dissertations:

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	Identifies a clear question and states its importance cogently; shows a very clear understanding of a wide range of material relevant to that question; develops an original argument based on research or theoretical innovation or synthesis that is very well supported by evidence and/or texts, displaying a very high degree of insight; impeccable accuracy; faultlessly written and presented, and meticulously referenced. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display all of these qualities.
70-79	Identifies a clear question; shows a very good understanding of a wide range of material relevant to that question; develops an intelligent and persuasive argument based on research or theoretical innovation or synthesis that is well supported by evidence and/or texts, displaying clear indications of insight and/or originality; a high level of accuracy; well written and presented and meticulous referenced. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display all of these qualities.
60-69	Identifies a clear question; shows a good understanding of a wide range of material relevant to that question; develops a clear argument that is generally based on research, or theoretical analysis or synthesis and supported by evidence and/or texts; a good level of accuracy; well written and presented; well referenced. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display all of these qualities and should not show decisively any of the weaknesses listed under the criteria for a lower second. Dissertations where there is some evidence of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for 50-59 will receive a mark between 60 and 64.
50-59	Identifies a question and generally pursues it through the dissertation but is weak in at least one of the following respects: clarity of the question posed; degree of understanding of relevant material; coherence of the overall argument or the absence of one; accuracy; the support of the evidence and/or texts for the conclusions drawn; writing, presentation and bibliographical material. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display both positive qualities. Dissertations that are in whole or in part not well written or presented will receive a mark in this range regardless of their positive qualities.
40-49	A clear subject and some attempt to develop a piece of work over the length of the dissertation but either lacking a question or extremely weak in at least one of the following other respects: degree of understanding of relevant material; coherence of the overall argument or the absence of one; accuracy; the support of the evidence and/or texts for the conclusions drawn; writing, presentation and bibliographical material for a significant part of the essay. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display both positive qualities.
21-39	A stated subject for study and a discernible attempt to offer a discussion of that subject over the length of the dissertation but either a dissertation that is poorly written, or poorly structured for the length of the dissertation, or makes a large number of mistakes of fact, or demonstrates acute failures of understanding.
1-20	A dissertation that either shows a complete failure of understanding of the subject, or that is radically incomplete.
0	No dissertation submitted or a dissertation submitted more than a week after the deadline.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21

Social Anthropology Marking Criteria

The following marking criteria applies to all HSPS papers with the SAN preface. All students taking a SAN paper will be marked against the same criteria, regardless of the student's "home" track or Tripos.

Examinations:

Markers will award one mark per *script* overall.

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	A script showing outstanding understanding that displays a very high degree of accuracy, insight, style, and originality in responding to each of the questions, shows highly impressive use of relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts, and in which all essays are well structured. To fall into this range, a script will typically contain arguments that are unorthodox in the best sense, and there should be highly effective use of varied ethnography.
70-79	A script showing very clear understanding and a high degree of accuracy across all answers, which provides cogent and well-structured arguments focused on the questions with a significant level of insight and a degree of originality. There should be impressive use of relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts, and effective use of varied ethnography.
60-69	A script showing clear understanding and a good level of accuracy that provides coherent, sustained, and well-structured arguments that directly address each question. There should be good use of relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts and good use of ethnography.
50-59	A script that concentrates on the subject matter of each question, that displays relevant knowledge and is generally accurate, but which either shows significant limitations in understanding, or presents discussions not properly addressed to the question, or answers that are partially unstructured, or where the discussion is not sustained through the course of the essays. The script will show understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts, and use of ethnography, but not necessarily varied or substantial.
40-49	A script generally relevant to the subject matter of each question, but one that contains significant inaccuracies, or shows inadequate knowledge, or presents unstructured and disjointed discussions or arguments that are not addressed to the question asked. A script may also fall in this range if it shows little understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives or concepts, or little effective use of ethnography.
21-39	A script that either displays a lack of crucial knowledge, or has poor structure, or is radically incomplete, or contains answers almost entirely irrelevant to the questions asked, or contains an extremely high number of inaccuracies. A script may also fall in this range if it shows little understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives or concepts, or little effective use of ethnography.
1-20	Scripts with unsatisfactorily short answers, or with answers that are almost entirely irrelevant or inaccurate.
0	No answers to the questions.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Social Anthropology Marking Criteria
Dissertations:

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	A dissertation showing outstanding understanding that displays a very high degree of accuracy, insight, style, and originality in responding to the question posed, and is well-structured. To fall into this range, the dissertation must display all of these qualities and there should be considerable use of varied types of ethnography.
70-79	A dissertation showing very clear understanding and a high degree of accuracy, which provides a cogent and well-structured argument focused on the question posed with a significant level of insight and a degree of originality. There should be varied use of different types of ethnography.
60-69	A dissertation showing clear understanding and a good level of accuracy that provides a coherent, sustained, and well-structured argument for the question posed. To fall into this range, the dissertation has to display all of these qualities, and should not decisively show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 50-59. There should be good use of ethnography.
50-59	A dissertation that concentrates on the subject matter of the question posed, that displays relevant knowledge and is generally accurate, but which either shows significant limitations in understanding, or presents discussions not focused on the question, or theories that are partially unstructured, or where the discussion is not sustained through the course of the dissertation. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display these positive qualities, and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 40-49. The dissertation will show use of ethnography, but not varied or substantial.
40-49	A dissertation generally relevant to the subject matter of the question posed, but one that contains a large number of inaccuracies, or shows significantly inadequate knowledge, or presents unstructured and disjointed discussion. To fall into this range, a dissertation should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 21-39. The dissertation will show little to no use of ethnography.
21-39	A dissertation that either displays a lack of crucial knowledge, or has no structure, or is radically incomplete, or contains theories almost entirely irrelevant to the question posed, or contains an extremely high number of inaccuracies. The dissertation will show little to no use of ethnography.
1-20	Dissertations that are entirely irrelevant to the question posed.
0	No dissertation submitted, or submitted outside of the appropriate deadline.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Social Anthropology Marking Criteria

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Politics & International Relations Marking Criteria

The following marking criteria apply to all HSPS papers with the POL preface except POL6. All students taking a POL paper will be marked against the same criteria, regardless of the student's subject track or Tripos.

Examinations:

Markers will award one mark per *question*. The mark for the script is the average of these marks.

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	An answer showing outstanding understanding that displays a very high degree of accuracy, insight, and style, and originality in responding to the question, and is well-structured. To fall into this range, an answer has to display all of these qualities.
70-79	An answer showing very clear understanding and a high degree of accuracy, which provides a cogent and well-structured argument focused on the question with a significant level of insight and a degree of originality.
60-69	An answer showing clear understanding and a good level of accuracy that provides a coherent, sustained, and well-structured argument focused on the question. To fall into this range, an answer has to display all of these qualities, and should not decisively show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 50-59. Answers where there is some evidence of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 50-59 will receive a mark between 60 and 64.
50-59	An answer that concentrates on the subject matter of the question, that displays relevant knowledge and is generally accurate, but which either shows significant limitations in understanding, or presents a discussion that is not focused on the question, or is partially unstructured, or where the discussion is not sustained through the course of the essay. To fall into this range, an answer has to display these positive qualities, and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 40-49.
40-49	An answer generally relevant to the subject matter of the question, but one that contains a large number of inaccuracies, or shows significantly inadequate knowledge, or presents an unstructured and disjointed discussion. To fall into this range, an answer should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 21-39.
21-39	An answer that either displays a lack of crucial knowledge, or has no structure, or is radically incomplete, or is almost entirely irrelevant to the question, or contains an extremely high number of inaccuracies.
1-20	A single paragraph of conventional paragraph length, or an answer that is entirely irrelevant, should receive a mark not higher than 20.
0	No answer provided for a question.

Politics & International Relations Marking Criteria

Examination for POL6

Markers will award one mark for each question. These marks are weighted in accordance with the scope and difficulty of each question. The sum of the weighted marks for the script is scaled in accordance with the marking criteria to produce a mark for the exam.

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	Demonstrates an outstanding understanding of the statistical concepts and models covered in the paper and how they can be applied to issues in politics and international relations. Answers to questions on statistical issues and statistical interpretations are all correct; statistical concepts are applied correctly; and the discussions of the substantial interpretations of results and suggestions for improvement of the analysis are very plausible and insightful.
70-79	Demonstrates a very good understanding of the statistical concepts and models covered in the paper and how they can be applied to issues in politics and international relations. Answers to questions on statistical issues and statistical interpretations are almost all correct; statistical concepts are applied correctly; and the discussions of the substantial interpretations of results and suggestions for improvement of the analysis are mostly plausible and insigtful.
60-69	Demonstrates a good understanding of the statistical concepts and models covered in the paper and how they can be applied to issues in politics and international relations. Answers to questions on statistical issues and statistical interpretations are mostly correct; statistical concepts are applied with only some errors; and the discussions of the substantial interpretations of results and suggestions for improvement of the analysis are largely plausible and show signs of insight.
50-59	Demonstrates a somewhat limited understanding of the statistical concepts and models covered in the paper and how they can be applied to issues in politics and international relations. Answers to questions on statistical issues and statistical interpretations contain a significant amount of errors; statistical concepts are sometimes applied incorrectly; and the discussions of the substantial interpretations of results and suggestions for improvement of the analysis are limited, or not very plausible or insightful.
40-49	Demonstrates a very limited understanding of the statistical concepts and models covered in the paper and how they can be applied to issues in politics and international relations. Answers to questions on statistical issues and statistical interpretations contain a relatively large amount of errors; statistical concepts are frequently applied incorrectly; and the discussions of the substantial interpretations of results and suggestions for improvement of the analysis are very limited.
0-39	Demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding of the statistical concepts and models covered in the paper and how they can be applied to issues in politics and international relations. Answers to questions on statistical issues and statistical interpretations are largely incorrect; statistical concepts are applied mostly incorrectly; and the discussions of the substantial interpretations of results and suggestions for improvement of the analysis are implausible or entirely absent.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Politics & International Relations Marking Criteria

Long essays (papers POL5, POL19 and POL20) and project reports (paper POL6):

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	A wholly clear, powerful, sophisticated and persuasive argument focused on the question, supported throughout by relevant texts and/or evidence, dealing decisively with the most important counter-arguments, containing some original thought or insight, sustained over the length of the essay, displaying a very high degree of accuracy, and faultlessly written and presented. To fall into this range, essays have to display all of these qualities.
70-79	A wholly clear and persuasive argument, supported throughout, as the case may be, by relevant texts and/or evidence, which deals effectively with the more important counterarguments, shows clear independence of mind, is sustained over the length of the essay, displays a high degree of accuracy, and is well written and presented. To fall into this range, an essay has to display all of these qualities.
60-69	A generally clear and persuasive argument focused on the question, generally well supported by relevant texts and/or evidence, that pays due attention to the important counter- arguments, , sustained over the length of the answer/essay, displaying a good level of accuracy, and well written and presented. To fall into this range, an essay has to display all of these qualities, and should not decisively show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for 50-59. Essays where there is some evidence of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for 50-59 will receive a mark between 60 and 64.
50-59	A moderately clear argument, reasonably well supported by relevant texts and/or evidence, but that shows some mistakes or accuracy, or weakness in its reasoning or textual and/or evidential support, or is not focused on the question, or is not well sustained over the length of the answer/essay, or fails to address counter-arguments, or is in whole or in part not well written and presented. To fall into this range, essays have to display both positive qualities and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 40-49. An essay that is in whole or in part not well written or presented will receive a mark in this range regardless of its positive qualities or the absence of other negative features.
40-49	A discernible argument that receives modest support from relevant texts and/or evidence, but which is seriously problematic in its reasoning or textual and/or evidential support, or disregards the question, or makes a significant number mistakes of fact, or is not sustained over anywhere near the length of the essay, or is in significant part poorly written and presented. To fall into this range, essays have to display both positive qualities and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 21-39.
21-39	A barely discernible argument on the subject of the question, that is either thinly supported, ignoring the evidence and/or texts in its argument, or makes a large number of mistakes of fact, or is poorly structured throughout the essay, or is poorly written and presented throughout.
1-20	An essay that is irrelevant to the subject of the question, or shows a complete failure of understanding of the subject, or that is radically incomplete.
0	No essay submitted, or submitted more than a week after the deadline.

Note: For the purpose of POL6 project reports, the quality of the argument is to be understood in terms of: the clarity of the presented research question and the hypotheses; the extent to which the quantitative analysis addresses the research question; the quality of the presentation of the main features of the data and variables; the appropriateness and accuracy of the chosen statistical methods to address the research question; and the quality of the presentation and discussion of the results of the quantitative analysis and their implications for the chosen topic.

HSPS Faculty Board approved 4 March 2021

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Politics & International Relations Marking Criteria
Dissertations:

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	Identifies a clear question and states its importance cogently; shows a very clear understanding of a wide range of material relevant to that question; develops an original argument based on research or theoretical innovation or synthesis that is very well supported by evidence and/or texts, displaying a very high degree of insight; impeccable accuracy; faultlessly written and presented, and meticulously referenced. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display all of these qualities.
70-79	Identifies a clear question; shows a very good understanding of a wide range of material relevant to that question; develops an intelligent and persuasive argument based on research or theoretical innovation or synthesis that is well supported by evidence and/or texts, displaying clear indications of insight and/or originality; a high level of accuracy; well written and presented and meticulous referenced. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display all of these qualities.
60-69	Identifies a clear question; shows a good understanding of a wide range of material relevant to that question; develops a clear argument that is generally based on research, or theoretical analysis or synthesis and supported by evidence and/or texts; a good level of accuracy; well written and presented; well referenced. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display all of these qualities and should not show decisively any of the weaknesses listed under the criteria for a lower second. Dissertations where there is some evidence of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for 50-59 will receive a mark between 60 and 64.
50-59	Identifies a question and generally pursues it through the dissertation but is weak in at least one of the following respects: clarity of the question posed; degree of understanding of relevant material; coherence of the overall argument or the absence of one; accuracy; the support of the evidence and/or texts for the conclusions drawn; writing, presentation and bibliographical material. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display both positive qualities. Dissertations that are in whole or in part not well written or presented will receive a mark in this range regardless of their positive qualities.
40-49	A clear subject and some attempt to develop a piece of work over the length of the dissertation but either lacking a question or extremely weak in at least one of the following other respects: degree of understanding of relevant material; coherence of the overall argument or the absence of one; accuracy; the support of the evidence and/or texts for the conclusions drawn; writing, presentation and bibliographical material for a significant part of the essay. To fall into this range, a dissertation has to display both positive qualities.
21-39	A stated subject for study and a discernible attempt to offer a discussion of that subject over the length of the dissertation but either a dissertation that is poorly written, or poorly structured for the length of the dissertation, or makes a large number of mistakes of fact, or demonstrates acute failures of understanding.
1-20	A dissertation that either shows a complete failure of understanding of the subject, or that is radically incomplete.
0	No dissertation submitted or a dissertation submitted more than a week after the deadline.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
Politics & International Relations Marking Criteria

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2020-21
HSPS Part II Classing Criteria

Applicable only for the 2020-21 academic year.

In Part II in 2021, all HSPS students must take all four papers and will receive four marks. For each candidate, their lowest mark will be disregarded for classing purposes, so that they will be classed on their best THREE marks only.

The mark for each paper will be rounded to a whole number and combined to achieve the overall mean mark; the mean mark will be rounded to one decimal place for the purposes of classing.

I*	A mean mark of at least 75.0 **AND** no mark lower than a 60 **AND** no more than one mark of 60-69 **OR** All papers of 70 or above and at least two papers of 75 or above.
I	A mean mark of at least 69.0 **AND** at least one mark of 70 and above **AND** no mark lower than a 60 unless it is compensated by a mark of 75 or above.
II.i	A mean mark of at least 60.0 **AND** no mark lower than a 40.
II.ii	A mean mark of at least 50.0 **AND** no mark lower than a 40.
III	A mean mark of at least 40.0 **AND** at least two marks of 40 or above.
Fail	A mean mark of less than 40.0 **OR** two marks of 39 or below.

HSPS Faculty Board approved 4 March 2021