

Marking criteria for Part I examination questions, papers POL1, POL2 and SOC1:

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 limited 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.

Marking criteria for Part I examination questions, paper SAN1 and examination element of SAN2:

Markers will award one mark for the *script* overall

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

Long essays (paper SAN2):

Mark	Quality of Answer
80+	An essay 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 essay must display all of these qualities and there should be considerable use of varied types of ethnographic research and writing, and literature on research methods and research ethics.
70-79	An essay 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 ethnographic research and writing, and literature on research methods and research ethics.
60-69	An essay 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 essay 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 ethnographic research and writing, and literature on research methods and research ethics.
50-59	An essay 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 essay. To fall into this range, an essay has to display these positive qualities, and should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 40-49. The essay will show use of ethnographic research and writing, and literature on research methods and research ethics, but not varied or substantial.
40-49	An essay 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, an essay should not show any of the negative qualities listed under the criteria for a 21-39. The essay will show little to no use of ethnographic research and writing, and literature on research methods and research ethics.
21-39	An essay 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 essay will show little to no use of ethnographic research and writing, and literature on research methods and research ethics.
1-20	Essays that are entirely irrelevant to the question posed.
0	No essay submitted, or an essay submitted outside of the appropriate deadline.

FACULTY OF HSPS – HSPS Tripos 2025-26

Part I Classing Criteria (all subjects)

Part I candidates take 4 papers for which there are 4 marks. Paper marks will be rounded to whole numbers. The overall mean mark for each candidate will be rounded to one decimal place for the purposes of classing.

I*	A mean mark of at least 75.0 OR Four marks of 70 and above
I	A mean mark of at least 68.0 AND at least two marks of 70 and above AND no mark lower than 60
2.i	A mean mark of at least 59.0 AND at least two marks of 60 and above AND no more than one mark of 40-49, which must be compensated by a mark of 70 and above AND no mark lower than a 40
2.ii	A mean mark of at least 49.0 AND no mark lower than a 40 AND at least two marks of 50 and above
III	A mean mark of at least 40.0 AND at least three marks of 40 or above
Fail	Two marks of 39 or below OR A mean mark of less than 40.0