I. MARKING STANDARDS

Except for half-papers in Part II and Paper 14 in Part IA and Part IB of the Law Tripos, marks on individual papers in the Law Tripos and the LLM Examination are awarded on a scale of 0-200 with class boundaries as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160-200</td>
<td>First Class with Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140-159</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-139</td>
<td>Class II(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-119</td>
<td>Class II (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-99</td>
<td>Class III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-79</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

160, 140, 120, 100 and 80 are minimum marks for their respective classes and the full range of marks should be used in the assessment of scripts. Marks of 159, 139, 119, 99 and 79 should be regarded as ‘neutral’ rather than as an indication that the candidate is definitely not worthy of inclusion in the higher class.

A mark of 160+ signifies the Examiner’s view that the candidate has acquitted himself or herself with distinction in that paper, and constitutes a separate class for the purposes of the Classing Conventions.

Paper 14 in Part IA and Part IB of the Law Tripos is assessed solely on a Pass/Fail basis with a notional threshold of the equivalent of 110 marks being required for a Pass.

Half-papers in Part II of the Law Tripos are marked out of 100 and the marking standards above apply with the class boundary halved, so, for example, a mark of 70 constitutes a first class mark.

II. CLASSING CONVENTIONS

The Examiners will normally class candidates in Law Tripos Part II and LLM Examination according to the following conventions, though these are conventions only, and classification is ultimately a matter for the decision of the Examiners, taking into account a candidate’s performance in the examination as a whole.

For the avoidance of doubt: examiners have discretion in appropriate cases to award a mark of distinction despite the candidate in question not being placed in the First with Distinction class in accordance with these conventions.

Law Tripos Part II

Unless otherwise indicated, the marks in two half-papers in Law Tripos Part II are aggregated, and the aggregate is treated for the purposes of these Conventions as a single mark.
Covid-19 mitigation: the safety-net convention

A. Candidates who were previously classed in Law Tripos Part IB will be classed in Law Tripos Part II as follows:

1. Candidates will first be placed in a class (class X) by application of conventions 1, 2 and 3 below.

2. If class X is equal to or higher than the class in which candidates were placed in Law Tripos Part IB, candidates will remain in class X.

3. If class X is lower than the class in which candidates were placed in Law Tripos Part IB, candidates will be placed in the same class as that in which they were placed in Law Tripos Part IB.

B. This convention does not apply to:

1. Candidates who were not previously classed in Law Tripos Part IB.

2. Candidates who, on the basis of conventions 2 and 3 below, are refused honours.

For the avoidance of doubt: no change will be made to candidates’ marks in Law Tripos Part II in consequence of the application of the safety-net convention.

1. Candidates having no fail marks

A. Subject to convention B below, candidates who have no fail marks will be placed in a given class (class X) if either originally or after the application of the compensation convention (see below):

1. they have five marks in class X.

2. they have four marks in class X and one mark in the class next above or below.

3. they have three marks in class X and two marks in the class next above or below.

Candidates taking half-papers are regarded as falling within this convention if they have marks in class X in two full papers and one half-paper, where the other marks are all in the class next below and the total of the marks in the two half-papers is less than the boundary mark of class X, provided that the lower of the half-paper marks is equal to or greater than the mid-point mark of the class next below class X. The mid-point marks are:

- First Class - 75
- Class II(1) - 65
- Class II(2) - 55
- Class III - 45

B. Candidates who have no fail marks will be placed in class X if before any application of the compensation convention they have a total mark equal to or greater than the aggregate boundary mark for class X (but less than the aggregate boundary mark for the class next above, if any) unless the examiners conclude that there is some particular consideration in a given case that would render it proper not to apply this convention. The aggregate boundary marks are:
First Class with Distinction - 800  
First class - 700  
Class II(1) - 600  
Class II(2) - 500

2. Candidates having one or more fail marks

1. Candidates who have one fail mark, and who are regarded as deserving honours, are classed as follows:
   
a. the fail mark is notionally treated as a mark of 80;
   b. the candidate is classed on this basis applying the conventions applicable to candidates having no fail marks;
   c. the resulting class is reduced by one class, unless it is a third class, in which case the candidate remains in the third class.

2. Candidates who have two or more fail marks are usually refused honours.

3. The compensation convention

The compensation convention applies to candidates whose original marks are neither all in the same class nor all in two consecutive classes. It does not apply to fail marks.

The convention allows a good performance in one paper to ‘compensate’ for a poorer performance in another paper, by allowing pairs of marks in two classes separated by one or more intervening classes to operate upon each other to produce, depending upon the separation of the original marks, two notional marks in a single intervening class, or one notional mark in each of two intervening classes.

Compensation may, if necessary, be applied more than once to the marks of a given candidate.

LLM EXAMINATION

Covid-19 mitigation convention

Where a candidate’s lowest mark falls in a class (class X) which is lower than the class or classes in which all the candidate’s other marks fall, conventions 1A, 1C, 2 and 3 below will be applied on the basis that the candidate’s lowest mark falls in the class next above class X.

For the purpose of convention 1C below, if applicable, a mark which is notionally moved up by a class under this convention is treated as being equal to or greater than the mid-point mark of the class into which it has notionally been moved up, if it was equal to or greater than the mid-point mark of its original class, and vice versa.

This convention does not apply to fail marks.

For the avoidance of doubt: (i) no change will be made to candidates’ marks in the LLM Examination in consequence of the application of this convention; (ii) this convention does not apply to convention 1B below concerning aggregate marks.

Covid-19 mitigation: amendment to convention 1C (mid-point mark convention)

Note: in addition, also for the purpose of Covid-19 mitigation, an amendment has been made
to convention 1C below, with the result that that convention requires only one mark (rather than both marks) in the class next below class X to be equal to or greater than the relevant mid-point mark in order for a candidate to be placed in class X under convention 1C.

1. **Candidates having no fail marks**

   **A.** Candidates who have no fail marks will be placed in a given class (class X) if **either originally or after** the application of the compensation convention (see below):

   1. they have four marks in class X, or
   2. they have three marks in class X and one mark in the class next above or below.

   **B.** Candidates who have no fail marks will be placed in class X if before any application of the compensation convention they have a total mark equal to or greater than the aggregate boundary mark for class X (but less than the aggregate boundary mark for the class next above, if any) unless the examiners conclude that there is some particular consideration in a given case that would render it proper not to apply this convention. The aggregate boundary marks are:

   - **First Class with Distinction** - 640
   - **First Class** - 560
   - **Class II(1)** - 480
   - **Class II(2)** - 400

   **C.** Candidates who have no fail marks, and who do not fall within convention B above, will be placed in class X if either originally or after the application of the compensation convention (see below) they have two marks in class X and two marks in the class next below, and at least one mark in the class next below is equal to or greater than the relevant mid-point mark. The mid-point marks are:

   - **First Class** - 150
   - **Class II(1)** - 130
   - **Class II(2)** - 110
   - **Class III** - 90

   Provided that no candidate may be placed in class X under this section without, before any application of the compensation convention, having at least two marks in class X or the class (if any) next above.

2. **Candidates having one or more fail marks**

1. Candidates who have one fail mark and are regarded as deserving honours are classed as follows:

   (a) the fail mark is notionally treated as a mark of 80;
   (b) the candidate is classed on this basis applying the conventions applicable to candidates having no fail marks;
   (c) the resulting class is reduced by one class, unless it is a third class, in which case the candidate remains in the third class.

2. Candidates who have two or more fail marks will not usually pass.
3. The compensation convention

The compensation convention applies to candidates whose original marks are neither all in the same class nor all in two consecutive classes. It does not apply to fail marks.

The convention allows a good performance in one paper to ‘compensate’ for a poorer performance in another paper, by allowing pairs of marks in two classes separated by one or more intervening classes to operate upon each other to produce, depending upon the separation of the original marks, two notional marks in a single intervening class, or one notional mark in each of two intervening classes.

For the purposes of convention C above, a mark which is notionally moved down by a class by compensation is treated as being equal to or greater than the mid-point mark of the class into which it has notionally been moved down.

For the purposes of convention C above, a mark which is notionally moved up by a class by compensation is treated as being equal to or greater than the mid-point mark of the class into which it has notionally been moved up, if it was equal to or greater than the mid-point mark of its original class, and vice versa.

If it is necessary to choose a mark upon which to operate compensation the choice is exercised in the fashion most beneficial to the candidate.

Compensation may, if necessary, be applied more than once to the marks of a given candidate.

April 2020