# Introduction to Assessment for New Academic Staff

2022/23 Academic Year

Arick Shao (UG SEB Chair)
Robert Johnson (PGT SEB Chair)

## **Overview**

Our students take eight modules each year:

▶ Partly dictated by degree programme, some free choice.

#### **Overview**

Our students take eight modules each year:

▶ Partly dictated by degree programme, some free choice.

Modules have levels from 4 to 7, indicated in module code.

- ▶ (Level 4 modules named MTH4\*\*\*, etc.).
- ▶ Roughly, students in n-th year take modules at level n + 3.

## Overview

Our students take eight modules each year:

▶ Partly dictated by degree programme, some free choice.

Modules have levels from 4 to 7, indicated in module code.

- ► (Level 4 modules named MTH4\*\*\*, etc.).
- ▶ Roughly, students in n-th year take modules at level n + 3.

**Note:** Some modules have multiple codes:

Depending on which cohort of students is sitting them.

# **Assessment patterns**

Most modules are lecture courses.

# Assessment patterns

Most modules are lecture courses.

The standard assessment pattern for such modules is:

- ▶ **UG.** 20% coursework, 80% final exam.
- ▶ **PGT.** (Varies).

# **Assessment patterns**

Most modules are lecture courses.

The standard assessment pattern for such modules is:

- ▶ **UG.** 20% coursework, 80% final exam.
- ▶ **PGT.** (Varies).

However, there are many exceptions:

- ▶ IFoA modules. Actuarial curriculum, external accreditation.
- ► Coursework-only modules. No final exam.
- ► PGT modules.

## **Excused absences**

Students may miss assessments due to illness, etc.:

▶ Submit EC (extenuating circumstances) claim, with evidence.

#### **Excused absences**

Students may miss assessments due to illness, etc.:

▶ Submit EC (extenuating circumstances) claim, with evidence.

ECs handled centrally, through Maths Office.

► You need not worry about this.

#### **Excused absences**

Students may miss assessments due to illness, etc.:

▶ Submit EC (extenuating circumstances) claim, with evidence.

ECs handled centrally, through Maths Office.

You need not worry about this.

What happens to missed assessments?

- ► Small assessments (courseworks). Mark discounted.
- ► Large assessments (exams, projects). First-sit at later date.

#### In-term assessments

## Implemented on QMPlus:

- ▶ Handwritten. Students submit handwritten PDF file.
- ▶ **QMPlus quiz.** Multiple choice, fill in blank, etc.

#### In-term assessments

## Implemented on QMPlus:

- ▶ Handwritten. Students submit handwritten PDF file.
- ▶ **QMPlus quiz.** Multiple choice, fill in blank, etc.

**Important:** Submission points should match assessment pattern.

- ► For example, if module has 5 courseworks, then you should have exactly 5 separate submission points and deadlines.
- ► (Avoid weird schemes, best 5 of 6, etc.)

## Late submissions

**Important:** Post coursework solutions immediately after deadline.

▶ Then, late (unexcused) submissions receive 0 marks.

#### Late submissions

**Important:** Post coursework solutions immediately after deadline.

▶ Then, late (unexcused) submissions receive 0 marks.

Otherwise, you must follow QMUL late submission policy:

- ▶ 5 marks (out of 100) deducted per 24 hours late.
- ▶ 0 marks given if more than 7 days late.
- Students can submit ECs to waive deductions.

## Late submissions

**Important:** Post coursework solutions immediately after deadline.

▶ Then, late (unexcused) submissions receive 0 marks.

Otherwise, you must follow QMUL late submission policy:

- ▶ 5 marks (out of 100) deducted per 24 hours late.
- ▶ 0 marks given if more than 7 days late.
- ▶ Students can submit ECs to waive deductions.

Announce (on QMPlus) which late submission policy you use.

#### **Final exams**

Final exams are semester-based:

- ▶ Semester A modules. Early-mid January.
- ► Semester B modules. Mid-late May.
- ▶ Late summer. Early August (re-examinations only).

#### Final exams

#### Final exams are semester-based:

- ▶ Semester A modules. Early-mid January.
- ► Semester B modules. Mid-late May.
- ▶ Late summer. Early August (re-examinations only).

## This academic year:

- ► Some exams will be on-campus.
- Some exams will be online.
- (Details unclear, awaiting decisions by university.)

#### **Exam formats**

#### Possible online exam formats:

- ► Handwritten. Traditional, for most upper-level modules.
- ▶ QMPlus quiz. For larger modules, quiz-type questions only.
- ▶ **Hybrid.** Some quiz-type questions, with handwritten part.

## **Exam formats**

#### Possible online exam formats:

- ► Handwritten. Traditional, for most upper-level modules.
- ▶ **QMPlus quiz.** For larger modules, quiz-type questions only.
- ▶ **Hybrid.** Some quiz-type questions, with handwritten part.

## In-person exams:

► LATEX style file and template for setting exams.

#### **Exam contents**

#### Exam should test a combination of:

- ▶ Bookwork (definitions, theorem statements, proofs).
- Material similar to coursework (examples, calculations).
- ▶ Unseen material (novel examples, extension of theory).

#### **Exam contents**

#### Exam should test a combination of:

- ▶ Bookwork (definitions, theorem statements, proofs).
- ▶ Material similar to coursework (examples, calculations).
- Unseen material (novel examples, extension of theory).

## General rule. Follow previous year's format. Otherwise:

- ▶ Need to provide a sample paper.
- ▶ May need separate exam for previous years' students.

#### **Exam contents**

#### Exam should test a combination of:

- ▶ Bookwork (definitions, theorem statements, proofs).
- ▶ Material similar to coursework (examples, calculations).
- Unseen material (novel examples, extension of theory).

## General rule. Follow previous year's format. Otherwise:

- ▶ Need to provide a sample paper.
- ▶ May need separate exam for previous years' students.

## Online exams: Try to avoid cheating:

Randomised questions, avoid direct bookwork/coursework.

#### **Re-examinations**

If a student fails a module, they are entitled to a resit exam:

- Second attempt, mark capped at minimum pass (40 or 50).
- Most resits are synoptic—100% of module mark.

#### Re-examinations

If a student fails a module, they are entitled to a resit exam:

- Second attempt, mark capped at minimum pass (40 or 50).
- Most resits are *synoptic*—100% of module mark.

If a student EC's an exam, they are entitled to a first-sit:

• First attempt, no cap on mark.

#### **Re-examinations**

If a student fails a module, they are entitled to a resit exam:

- Second attempt, mark capped at minimum pass (40 or 50).
- Most resits are *synoptic*—100% of module mark.

If a student EC's an exam, they are entitled to a first-sit:

First attempt, no cap on mark.

Students given new exams at first available opportunity:

- ▶ Mainly held in late-summer exam period.
- ► Some held in following main exam period(s).

# **Exam pipeline**

- ▶ Lecturer sets both main and late-summer exams.
- ► Checker works both exams, checks for errors.
- ▶ **Deadline week 7.** Checked exams uploaded to OneDrive.

# Exam pipeline

- ▶ Lecturer sets both main and late-summer exams.
- ▶ Checker works both exams, checks for errors.
- ▶ **Deadline week 7.** Checked exams uploaded to OneDrive.

- Exams checked by internal scrutiny committee.
- Exams sent to external examiners for approval.

# **Exam pipeline**

- ▶ Lecturer sets both main and late-summer exams.
- ▶ Checker works both exams, checks for errors.
- ▶ **Deadline week 7.** Checked exams uploaded to OneDrive.

- Exams checked by internal scrutiny committee.
- ► Exams sent to external examiners for approval.

- Scrutiny and external comments given on "green form".
- ▶ Make final changes, respond to comments on green form.
- ▶ **Deadline week 12.** Final version submitted to OneDrive.

First examiner. Module organiser, lecturer.

► Responsible for setting exam.

First examiner. Module organiser, lecturer.

▶ Responsible for setting exam.

Second examiner. Checker.

Checks exam for correctness, length, and difficulty.

First examiner. Module organiser, lecturer.

▶ Responsible for setting exam.

Second examiner. Checker.

Checks exam for correctness, length, and difficulty.

Checking allocation sent at beginning of academic year.

► Co-taught modules. First/second examiner roles are shared.

First examiner. Module organiser, lecturer.

► Responsible for setting exam.

Second examiner. Checker.

Checks exam for correctness, length, and difficulty.

Checking allocation sent at beginning of academic year.

► Co-taught modules. First/second examiner roles are shared.

**Internal scrutiny.** Ensures exam in line with other modules.

# **Exam marking**

**First examiner.** Responsible for marking exam.

**Second examiner.** Responsible for checking exam marking.

▶ **Co-taught modules.** First/second examiner roles are shared.

# **Exam marking**

**First examiner.** Responsible for marking exam.

Second examiner. Responsible for checking exam marking.

▶ **Co-taught modules.** First/second examiner roles are shared.

Large modules may have team marking and/or team checking.

May involve PhD students.

# **Exam marking**

**First examiner.** Responsible for marking exam.

Second examiner. Responsible for checking exam marking.

▶ **Co-taught modules.** First/second examiner roles are shared.

Large modules may have team marking and/or team checking.

May involve PhD students.

Marking and checking must be properly documented:

► Marks, marked scripts made available for externals.

# Non-exam modules

MTH4112	Actuarial Professional Development I
MTH5127	Actuarial Professional Development II
MTH5001	Introduction to Computer Programming
MTH6110	$Communicating \ and \ Teaching \ Mathematics$
MTH6150	Numerical Computing in C and $C++$
MTH7*/M*	Various PGT modules

#### Non-exam modules

MTH4112	Actuarial Professional Development I
MTH5127	Actuarial Professional Development II
MTH5001	Introduction to Computer Programming
MTH6110	Communicating and Teaching Mathematics
MTH6150	Numerical Computing in C and $C++$
MTH7*/M*	Various PGT modules

Assessment methods vary (consult previous module organiser):

- ▶ Project (assigned at end of term, due before exam period).
- ► Only in-term courseworks.

#### Non-exam modules

MTH4112	Actuarial Professional Development I
MTH5127	Actuarial Professional Development II
MTH5001	Introduction to Computer Programming
MTH6110	Communicating and Teaching Mathematics
MTH6150	Numerical Computing in C and $C++$
MTH7*/M*	Various PGT modules

Assessment methods vary (consult previous module organiser):

- Project (assigned at end of term, due before exam period).
- Only in-term courseworks.

 $\geq 50\%$  assessments (by mark) must be approved by externals.

#### **Dissertation modules**

MTH6138 Third-year Project

MTH717U MSci Project

MTHM038 Project Dissertation

#### **Dissertation modules**

MTH6138 Third-year Project

MTH717U MSci Project

MTHM038 Project Dissertation

All members of academic staff asked to propose projects.

▶ Students may ask you to supervise their project.

#### **Dissertation modules**

MTH6138 Third-year Project

MTH717U MSci Project

MTHM038 Project Dissertation

All members of academic staff asked to propose projects.

Students may ask you to supervise their project.

#### Dissertations are double-marked:

- ▶ First marker. Project supervisor.
- ▶ **Second marker.** Additional staff member.
- ▶ Moderation meeting. Compare various project marks.

## **Finalising marks**

Tight schedule for marking/checking.

- ▶ Marking. Roughly 20 scripts/day.
- ► **Checking.** Roughly 60 scripts/day.

# **Finalising marks**

Tight schedule for marking/checking.

- ▶ Marking. Roughly 20 scripts/day.
- ► **Checking.** Roughly 60 scripts/day.

May need to address failure rates (especially with timed exams):

- ▶ **Near-fails.** May look for 1-2 extra marks.
- ▶ **Scaling.** May scale exam marks if far out of line.

# **Finalising marks**

Tight schedule for marking/checking.

- ► Marking. Roughly 20 scripts/day.
- ► Checking. Roughly 60 scripts/day.

May need to address failure rates (especially with timed exams):

- ▶ Near-fails. May look for 1-2 extra marks.
- ▶ **Scaling.** May scale exam marks if far out of line.

Finalised marks at least one week before exam board meeting.

# **Exam board meetings**

# SEB (subject exam board) meetings:

- ► Approve exam and module results.
- ▶ Approve progression and degree classification.

# **Exam board meetings**

# SEB (subject exam board) meetings:

- Approve exam and module results.
- ► Approve progression and degree classification.

#### Two SEB meetings per year:

- ▶ Main. Late June (UG, PGT).
- ▶ Late-summer. Late August (UG), early October (PGT).

# **Exam board meetings**

# SEB (subject exam board) meetings:

- Approve exam and module results.
- ▶ Approve progression and degree classification.

### Two SEB meetings per year:

- ▶ Main. Late June (UG, PGT).
- ▶ Late-summer. Late August (UG), early October (PGT).

#### All examiners should attend:

▶ If you are away, then ask someone to speak on your behalf.

### **Instructions and queries**

We will give detailed guidance through the year.

- ► All documents are on the QMPlus Staff Intranet: https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4268
- ▶ Please ask if you have any questions.

### Instructions and queries

We will give detailed guidance through the year.

- ➤ All documents are on the QMPlus Staff Intranet: https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4268
- Please ask if you have any questions.

#### Key people:

- ► Arick Shao (UG exam board chair)
- Robert Johnson (PGT exam board chair)
- Simon Rawstron, Dale Breame (Education manager)
- Hamida Begum (Student Support Officer)