THREE YEAR CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR BA/BSC DEGREES FOR 
STUDENTS FROM THE 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

This Classification Scheme is approved by the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees. Last updated: March 2019

This classification scheme should be read in conjunction with the General Academic Regulations, Regulations for First Degrees, the relevant BA/ BSc programme regulations, the relevant online Undergraduate course guides and the Code of Good Practice for Undergraduate, Diploma and Postgraduate Programmes: Teaching, Learning and Assessment.

Award of Marks
1. The examiners for each course will decide a numerical mark for each course a student has taken using the following scale:
   - First Class Honours: 70 - 100
   - Upper Second Class Honours: 60 - 69
   - Lower Second Class Honours: 50 - 59
   - Third Class Honours: 40 - 49
   - Fail: 0 - 39

Eligibility for Award
2. A student will only be eligible for the award of a degree if they have attempted and completed every component of assessment for all courses required by the Programme Regulations i.e. all summative assessments set out in the course guides must be completed and students must have met the criteria set out in the General Academic Regulations and the Regulations for First Degrees.

Classification Marks and the Aggregate
3. The classification of each student shall be based on eighteen classification marks, comprising:
   - 3.1 the marks achieved in all eight second and third year papers with full-unit marks counted twice and half-unit marks counted once to make a total of sixteen classification marks.
   - 3.2 the seventeenth and eighteenth classification marks will use the First Year Average full unit mark counted twice.
   - 3.3 the First Year Average will be calculated using the average of the best six out of eight marks in first year papers. All first year full unit marks will be counted twice and any half unit marks counted once to make a total of eight first year marks.
   - 3.4 for second-year direct entry students, the seventeenth and eighteenth marks will be the average of all sixteen second and third year papers resulting in 2 identical classification marks.

4. The aggregate for each student is the sum of the eighteen classification marks.
5. In all cases, the ‘classification marks’ shall be based on the marks obtained by the student in their latest attempt at each element of assessment for each course.
6. The mark for LSE100 is not a classification mark and is not used to calculate the award.

Degree Classification
7. Subject to the application of the penalty rules for failed papers in section 11 below, the classification of an award shall be calculated as follows:
   - 7.1 For first class honours: Ten first class marks; or nine or eight first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1180.
   - 7.2 For upper second class honours: Ten upper second class marks (or above); or nine or eight upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1030.
   - 7.3 For lower second class honours: Ten lower second class marks (or above); or nine or eight lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 880.
   - 7.4 For third class honours: Sixteen third class marks (or above).
   - 7.5 For a pass degree: A pass degree will only be awarded as a result of the application of the penalty rules set out in section 11 below or, despite being eligible for an award, failing to meet the criteria for a third class honours degree as set out in section 7.4 above.
8. Where an assessment is failed and re-taken within the In-year Resit and Deferral Assessment Period (IRDAP) or attempted by the end of the IRDAP, the overall mark for the course for which the resit assessment was taken will be capped at Pass for the purposes of calculating the final degree classification. Both the original fail mark and the new mark achieved at resit will be shown on the transcript.

9. Students are permitted three attempts to pass a first year paper\(^1\) and two attempts to pass a second year paper\(^1\).

10. A student will be awarded a degree at the first point at which they become eligible. Students eligible for award with unredeemed failed papers\(^1\) will not be given the opportunity to resit any failed assessments.

**Penalty Rules**

11. The classification of an award for a student with an unredeemed fail in any paper\(^1\) taken in fulfilment of the programme regulations shall be calculated as follows (n.b. sections 11.1 and 11.2 do not apply for a second-year direct entry student):

   11.1 a drop of one class in the award classification shall result where a student has unredeemed fails in more than one paper\(^1\) i.e. more than one full-unit or two-half units.

   11.2 the degree shall be capped at 'Pass' where a student has unredeemed fails in three papers\(^1\) i.e. three full-units or six half-units.

   11.3 any unredeemed fail(s) in a first year paper\(^1\) (or papers\(^1\)) will be taken into account under sections 11.1 and 11.2.

**General Proviso**

12. It is also open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees any departure from this Scheme if, in their judgement, this would be equitable for any individual student as a direct result of a formal Exceptional Circumstances submission to the Student Services Centre. Such circumstances need appropriate supporting evidence, must fall outside of the normal assessment process and apply to that student only. The following conditions also apply:

   12.1 that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary i.e. within 3 marks in a single paper\(^1\) which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or two half-units or 10 marks on aggregate using the criteria determined in section 4; and

   12.2 that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and

   12.3 that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student’s own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and

   12.4 that the student’s performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.

**Notes**

\(^1\)Under the programme regulations for all of the School’s three year BA/BSc degrees, students have to complete four ‘papers’ in each of their three years of study. Second year direct entry students have to complete four ‘papers’ in each of their second and third years of study. Each ‘paper’ represents a full-unit course or two half-unit courses.

\(^2\)Where marks are averaged, the resulting average will be rounded up to the nearest whole mark.

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See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.