

### Examiners Comments:

The exam scripts that I reviewed were generally quite reasonable and demonstrated some degree of prior preparation. While no student who actually sat the exam failed it, there was at least one student eligible to sit who did not do so and failed for that reason. None received a High-Distinction, many papers clustered around the Credit range. This is a good indication that students have achieved a sound general understanding of the course materials.

There was a pleasing degree of consistency in the responses provided most scripts offered reasonably well developed responses, although a handful of papers were let down by a weak response to at least one question. It is important for students to understand that success in this exam is closely tied to consistency. Achieving the highest possible grades is difficult under exam condition, but it is impossible without consistency in one's responses. Exam situations mean that it is often difficult to do more than provide a basic descriptive account of a problem, with little time for pausing to reflect on the issues at stake. By reflection I mean: identifying the significance of the theory/issues discussed; identifying their limitations; identifying where these theories or ideas are strong or accord both with what we know and our best intuitions about what is right, and finally; reaching an overall evaluation of the ideas or theory in terms of plausibility and usefulness. Yet, while it is hard to do much of this under exam situations the better papers included some reflective elements in their responses, they were not merely a descriptive tracking of ideas.

Legibility was, as always, an issue, while most of the papers were legible there were still a number that were very difficult to read. Here my advice is that it is probably better to say less and produce a paper that is completely legible than to strive to say everything that could possibly be said but leave substantial portions of it illegible. Students ought to be pragmatic here, the marker is a person, this person needs to be able to read your work to mark it and can only mark what is legible. Its thus important to remain calm under the pressure of the moment.

In general, however, I am pleased with the performance of students in this exam.

Philip Andrew Quadrio  
Examiner.