

Student-Staff Forum – additional Questions and Comments
Monday 21st June 2021
13:00 – 14:00
Remote via MS Teams

28. Are these extra sessions be on top of normal hours or replacing lecture time?

See answer to forum Q1 and Q9.

29. Preparation for open book exams this year has also been hard as no relevant resources were provided - most mock papers were simply copied from past exam Qs and not indicative of new open book style at all.

Please see answer to forum Q15.

30. The problem sheet question in comps was from Physics of the Universe - a course which is often not taken by year abroad students who also sit comprehensives. Will this be taken into account?

A comment can be made after the exam marking has been completed.

31. I have heard that a couple of years ago there were more students than seat in LT1. This seemed to have been mitigated by having an online live streams in neighbouring lecture halls so that everyone could attend in person (or just watch them online on their computer) Would this be a possible solution?

The Department is planning on live-streaming in-person talks on Panopto when they run.

32. I think the solution to avoid the overworking and zoom fatigue is in person lectures. Pre-recorded lectures feel like workload rather than meetings where we are taught. That's why us 19/20 year olds are struggling to keep up. Upvote if you agree.

See answer to forum Q13.

33. Can the quantity of content for online options for 3rd year labs be evaluated, as it seemed that a lot more time was required than for practical exams. I think a significant problem is that there were generally a number of tasks to complete over the lab time, but we were expected to then go beyond this to create new content for the lab report AFTER the cycle had finished, at the same time as starting on the new cycle.

The format and content of the Year 3 laboratory course is being reviewed for the next academic year.

34. Most mock up papers were nowhere close in difficulty and style to the open book exams this year. So we had no resources to practice an exam style that was!! radically different to other years, whether intentionally or not!

Thanks for your comment.

35. Why are we paying normal fees for essentially open university?

See answer to forum Q9

36. I'm a third year. I really appreciated the experiment of Foundation of Quantum Mechanics

Thanks for your comment.

37. I'm a third year and I really appreciated the FQM module which had blackboard lectures. I generally found power points quite heavy.

Thanks for your comment.

38. If exams stay open book next year I'm dropping out. Please drop all of it. Not all of us are as smart as xxxxxx clearly is. The course is hard enough as is without the nervous

breakdowns during exams that are essentially all unseen content (with all due respect). Upvote if you agree.

Thanks for your comment.

39. I made a couple of mistakes in my TRA upload which meant I had to apply for mitigation for an honest mistake, and I know I'm not alone in this. Are there any updates on mitigation for exams?

There will be an update from the Department after the exam marks have been released.

40. Can remote teaching via PowerPoint please be banned?

PowerPoint won't be banned, however there will be more in-person teaching in the next academic year.

41. It was announced that the number of Firsts concerning the overall degree will remain the same as before. Will the decision on who gets possibly scaled up to a First also allow some "scaling space" for August exams? If not, how is it ensured that people having to sit exams in August, will not be disadvantaged because the degree class scaling will have been made before the August exams even took place?

See answer to forum Q7

42. No lectures lend themselves to online delivery. There are absolutely no pedagogical benefits to pre-recorded lectures. Humans learn in three dimensions, in groups and through questions. If we have to have these to save lives, so be it. But let's please stop pretending they are as or more effective, in my humble opinion that is ridiculous. With love...

Thank you for your comment.

43. One of the major issues within the physics department is to do with levels of stress and high expectations of ourselves. I think this also stems from the general level of stress and long working hours of staff. What is being done to work against this cultural issue, both for students and staff?

See answer to Q13. Please email the Student Liaison Officer with ideas on how the Department can address this issue.

44. In case there is no further variant and all governmental restrictions get fully eased by October, how is it justified that not all lectures are given in person? If nightclubs are allowed to reopen and big concerts with no social distancing are allowed to take place, i.e. if everything is back to normal in that best case, why can we not have normal lectures in person as before the pandemic?

See answer to forum Q6.

45. A lot of pre-recorded lectures next year will be recycled from this year, right? This means the second college/government greenlight it we can have lectures in person, right? As we wouldn't be "double-working" staff.

See answer to forum Q2 and Q6.

46. I don't like the idea of getting reused lectures. I have YouTube for that. I think it's unfair to us, especially because many modules were quite heavy online.

Thank you for the comment. Please see answer to forum Q24.

47. Can we extend the meeting length? There are some very important questions that have been been skilfully avoided.

Yes, it is clear from this first trial forum we need more time to answer and go through the student questions and comments.

48. The scaling documents tells us input and output. The department uses really complicated algorithms that essentially determine what our transcripts look like (and

notably, alter order of student marks). Can we have some more detail on how this works?

The scaling algorithms are shared after the exam results are released and posted on the UG Physics webpages.

49. Notice that many papers have removed the option of choosing, is it possible to get those restored? (i.e. Having choices in questions in Exam)

There has been a mixed response to this change. It is something we should discuss further, please raise it as an item for discussion in the next forum.

50. It is not fair for high achievers nonetheless.

Thanks for the comment.

51. What is linear scaling?

Are you asking about forum Q 26 or Q48 above?

52. Get the lectures in person!!!

Thanks for your comment.

53. How is it the case that we were only told now i.e. after three years that there is internal scaling i.e. redistributions of marks in exams ? That makes it impossible to focus not the questions with a lot of marks as they may end up being worth a lot less.

The Department has always used scaling for exams and this is shared with students every year. See Q.48.