

Examination Procedures for the Computer Science Tripos

Based on a 2008 presentation by Simon Moore

Going to the examination

- Identify the location of the exam early
- Take your exam number with you
- Take pens, pencils and possibly coloured pencils, calculator
- Arrive 10 minutes early
- Find the correct desk
- Spend at least 10 minutes at the beginning of the exam reading the paper and choosing questions

Excerpt from the Form and Conduct Notice 2011

Computer Science Tripos Part IA

Paper 1 will be divided into four sections. Section A will contain two questions on Foundations of Computer Science. Section B will contain two questions on Discrete Mathematics I. Section C will contain two questions on Algorithms I. Section D will contain three questions: one on Computer Fundamentals, one on Floating-Point Computation and one on Object-Oriented Programming with Java. Candidates will be expected to answer one question from each of Sections A, B and C, and two questions from Section D.

Paper 2 ...

Note that papers 3 to 9 are not divided into sections.
For further details, see:

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/formcond.pdf>

Example Rubric taken from I_A

*Answer **one** question from each of Sections A, B and C and **two** questions from Section D.*

*Submit the answers in five **separate** bundles, each with its own cover sheet. On each cover sheet, write the numbers of **all** attempted questions, and circle the number of the question attached.*

Notes:

- You may write on both sides of the paper
- You must write each question on separate sheets
- Papers 3 to 9 are not divided into sections



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COVER SHEET

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE'S
EXAMINATION NUMBER
(on desk ticket)

9	8	7	6	A
---	---	---	---	---

DESK NUMBER
(on desk ticket)

18

EXAMINATION
(e.g. Tripos and Part)

Computer Science Tripos

Subject/Paper No. and Title

Paper 1

SECTION
(where
applicable)

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What is right?

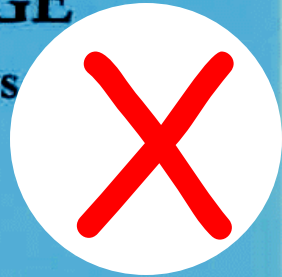
- Candidate number is the one supplied to you and has 4 numbers and a letter checksum
- Desk number is the number on the desk!
- Examination is uniquely identified
- The paper number is just the number of the paper!
- The section letter is not required

Your Name



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COVER SHEET

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE'S
EXAMINATION NUMBER
(on desk ticket)

C	S	T	1	1
---	---	---	---	---

DESK NUMBER
(on desk ticket)

EXAMINATION
(e.g. Tripos and Part)

Subject/Paper No. and Title

SECTION
(where
applicable)

What is wrong?

- Don't put your name on the cover sheet since the marking process is anonymous
- Candidate number is incorrect, e.g. I have seen one student using a number starting "CST" to indicate that they were a Computer Scientist!
- Missing desk number
- Examination information is incomplete
- Subject/paper number does not tell us which paper you sat

Read carefully any instructions on the question paper.

Write on both sides of the paper unless there is a different instruction on the question paper.

Start each answer on a fresh sheet.

Fasten your answers securely together in numerical order with the tag provided, with this cover-sheet on top.

Write your Candidate Number, your Desk Number, the examination, the title of the subject/paper and the numbers of the questions answered in the spaces provided.

Before you leave your desk check through your unused script paper to see if you have left any written answers in amongst the sheets.

Candidates are expected to write legibly; those who do not may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.

It is forbidden to remove any writing-paper, whether written on or not, or blotting paper, from the examination-room.

(WordMisc/Coversheet)2001

**QUESTIONS
ATTEMPTED**
(in numerical order)

2
3
6
8
10



Common Mistakes

- Only writing one question number on the sheet
 - the redundant information is useful once answers are separated
- Not circling the answer number in this bundle
- Joining all the answers into one bundle
 - we allocate questions to different markers so your answers will not stay together

When Answering Questions

Do:

- write legibly!
- don't worry about crossing things out
- include question number (further redundant information) and subsection letter
- write on both sides of the paper unless the question asks you to do otherwise
- ensure that each question starts on a separate sheet

Miscellaneous

- wear something comfortable (no formal dress required!)
- “comfort stops” are allowed, but expect an attendant to go with you
- leave your mobile phone at home (or risk a fine!)
- only official calculators allowed
- no paper allowed in or out of the exam room
 - except the exam paper itself!
- if you find an error in the exam paper, report it to the invigilator as early as possible
- if you are ill, tell your tutor and DoS as early as possible