

## The assessment of objective tests

All departments in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities use the full marking scale between 0% and 100%. This scale is subdivided into 6 classes which can be glossed as follows:

|      |         |   |
|------|---------|---|
| I    | 70% +   | distinction – work of exceptional quality |
| II.1 | 60%-69% | very good – merit                         |
| II.2 | 50%-59% | average – good                            |
| III  | 40%-49% | passable – adequate                       |
| F1   | 30%-39% | redeemable fail                           |
| F2   | 0%-29%  | not a serious attempt                     |

The % mark is a symbolic representation of a student's performance within a given class. The % is derived from the class, not the other way around. For example, one talks of marks in the II.1 class in the following way:

|         |                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 60%     | a borderline II.2/II.1                |
| 61%-63% | a low II.1                            |
| 64%-66% | a mid II.1                            |
| 67%-68% | a high II.1                           |
| 69%     | not quite a I (needs to be justified) |

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has laid down guidelines for assigning classes to essay-type assignments. This present document is concerned with the assessment of so-called objective tests. Objective tests are correct answer tests/ items which have unequivocal answers. These may be useful in the assessment of discrete linguistic skills and/or knowledge. Objective items can be designed to focus on specific knowledge and skills, and can be set at any required level of difficulty.

### Objective test types

- ❖ Gap tests of various kinds
- ❖ Comprehension exercises (True/False; Multiple choice; questions requiring students to locate specific information in the source text; ...)
- ❖ Matching questions + answers/beginnings + ends of sentences; Sentence completion

The main strength of objective tests is the fact that they can be marked with complete reliability, thus eliminating the possibility of marker subjectivity or bias. The assessment of objective tests may also present a problem because of possible confusion arising from (a) marks as symbolic representations of attainment and (b) marks as raw scores, without reference to standard/scale.

In the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies the top mark for objective tests is normally 80. This is an indication of a very high I class mark. Exceptional performances may, however, be awarded a mark in excess of 80.

Objective tests are normally used in conjunction with other tests, in order to ensure that students may obtain an overall mark within the full range 0-100.

The rubric in tests and examinations indicates the pass mark in any exercise. The pass mark is not fixed: it is determined by the difficulty of the test, the range of skills and knowledge that are being tested and the level of the students.