

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Role of External Examiners

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy has an external examiner for each of Political Science, Philosophy and Sociology and there are two external examiners for Economics (covering different aspects). External examiners are sent the college link to <https://www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/external-examiners/> and the following guidelines are set out in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy undergraduate handbook.

- For degree examinations the draft examination papers and module descriptors of each discipline are sent to the relevant External Examiners for review.
- JS and SS Exam papers are marked and second-marked by internal examiners and moderated by the relevant external examiners who would generally be given the court of examiner reports for each programme and a cross-section of papers within each grade, and be asked to review all failed papers, all borderline papers, all firsts and all potential prize winners and Gold Medals. External examiners may also be requested to moderate SS dissertations.
- Where more than one internal examiner is involved in a paper, the mark recorded must be agreed by *all* examiners concerned. Any paper about which the internal examiners disagree may also be referred to the external examiners. In the case of a paper being graded by an external examiner, the judgement of the latter is normally accepted as final.
- Module results are considered at Department/School internal examiners meetings and with external examiners before being presented to the relevant Court of Examiners.
- The External Examiner for each discipline attends the Sophister exam boards. Along with approving final results, external examiners are also invited to confirm that academic standards have been met and that equity of treatment has been applied in the examination process for all students.
- External Examiners for each discipline are expected to write a report on the previous academic year and identify and communicate areas for improvement.