

Review of marking methodology for the JIEB 2008 examinations

The objective of the Board and Senior Moderator in reviewing assessment methodology is one of continuous improvement to ensure that the exam is fair, consistently marked and as reliable as possible in determining the pass / fail decision on marginal candidates.

In recent years we have moved to compulsory questions so that all candidates are effectively taking the same examination, and to single-question marking, with separate overviews of scripts 'as a whole' to help consistency and fairness.

Our focus in this latest review of methodology was to introduce a wider range of available marks, as well as defined measures to assess whether each question, and the script as a whole, was pass-worthy. Accordingly, the quality of argument / structure and the holistic quality of the answers, always important in marking, will now receive more detailed attention.

Previously, examiners could award up to 10% of the marks on a discretionary basis for presentation; from 2008, a new *holistic* mark will be awarded per question on consistent criteria, and worth 15 – 20% of the available marks.

The detailed methodology has been developed in conjunction with the examinations office, including specialist advice, and has been field-tested successfully by the examining team to ensure consistency of the pass standard.

The rating scale is shown below for the reference of tutors and students in their preparation.

<i>Rating scale for candidates' responses</i>		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Rating</i>
An answer without value: it fails to address the question	Without value	0
A poor answer: although it contains relevant information, it is too brief or it also includes irrelevancies; it fails to address the question adequately.	Poor	1
An answer that has merit but is not quite sufficient: it does not include quite enough relevant information, and / or it does not demonstrate competence in dealing with the question.	Not quite sufficient	2
An acceptable answer: it includes just sufficient relevant information, any examples are mainly correct, and it demonstrates competence in dealing with the question.	Acceptable	3
A good answer: it has very substantial detail and examples, it deals with the question, and it is well presented.	Good	4
An excellent answer: it shows comprehensive knowledge, it deals with the question, and it is very well presented.	Excellent	5