

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY MSc PROJECT DISSERTATION MARKING 2017/18

MASTER MARKSHEET

CANDIDATE NUMBER:

TITLE OF PROJECT:

Supervisor's mark

%

Agreed mark

%

Examiner's mark

%

Agreed classification

Fail		Pass		Merit		Distinction	
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RATIONALE FOR THE AGREED MARK

(This **must** be included if the report marks differ by more than 10% of the supervisor's mark, and is requested in all cases, although a single sentence will suffice where the mark difference is small). Once you have settled on an overall mark, please comment also in your report on whether you believe the dissertation is of fail, pass, merit or distinction standard. This comment should be based on your judgment of the quality of the dissertation and not just mechanically on the mark, and is particularly important for marks close to a borderline (50, 60 or 70%). When you are discussing the agreed mark with the other examiner, please also discuss this issue explicitly and complete the tick boxes above – the ones on the supervisor's copy of the sheet should represent your joint view.

Supervisor:

Signed:

Name: **Date:**

Examiner:

Signed:

Name: **Date:**

MARKING PROCEDURE

Please do not write on the student's report.

The dissertation is marked simultaneously and independently by the supervisor and by another member of the department (generally the second supervisor). The examiner and the supervisor will then meet to arrive at an “agreed mark” for the project dissertation, which will be recorded and signed by them both on the supervisor’s copy of this sheet. If this agreed mark differs by more than 1/10th of either mark, a brief written statement outlining the reasons for the change **must** be appended (again, just on the supervisor’s mark sheet). Such a statement is also helpful in other cases, to indicate why one or other examiner has changed their mind. If no mark can be agreed, a third marker will be brought in and/or the externals will be consulted.

Guidelines for the final mark of the project

The detailed mark sheet has been developed with the following guidelines in mind for the final mark of a project:

- [0-19]: **Extremely poor**, with little relevant material and no conceptual framework;
- [20-29]: **Poor**, with major omissions and little conceptual framework, but with some relevant material in places;
- [30-39]: **Inadequate**, with significant irrelevance and omissions and poor conceptual framework;
- [40-49]: **Not quite of pass level**, showing only a basic coverage of the relevant material. Some part of the project may be covered well; others will have major omissions or misunderstandings;
- [50-59]: **Pass level**, with competent presentation, coverage of the material and understanding, offset by some omissions and misunderstandings;
- [60-69]: **Merit level**, with good presentation, full coverage of the material, and good understanding in most places;
- [70-79]: **Distinction level**: top of this range; some original work, **but not sufficient for publication**;
- [80-89]: Excellent and well presented, with substantial original work or insightful synthesis of the material.
- [90-100]: An outstanding dissertation, of publishable quality. **A mark in this range should be given only if the student has made some original contribution to the subject.**

The marker may wish to take into account these guidelines as appropriate when assessing each category.

Review projects

In the case of review projects, only in exceptional cases, such as when a candidate synthesises material in a particularly novel way, should marks be awarded for "Student's originality of ideas" and "Contribution to physics". Most review projects will therefore be limited to a maximum of 80%.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2018
AT THE LATEST

More information on the project requirements and marking criteria can be found on the:
Physics & Astronomy project reports Study Direct site.

*If you have any question about the procedure or marking,
please contact the MSc Exam Board Deputy Chair (Dr Ilian Iliev)*

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PROJECT MARKER'S MARKSHEET

CANDIDATE NUMBER:

TITLE OF PROJECT:

Category	Explanation	Mark (max)	Rationale
		Totalling 100/100	(Information for the exam board)
Student's independence (Supervisor Only)	1=just followed instructions; 15=worked independently, with no intellectual input from anybody else.	(15)	
Explanation of the project (2nd Marker Only)	Consider whether the student explained the project so that a non-expert physicist could understand it. (15=fully understandable by P&A MSc student in a different field).	(15)	
Student's originality of ideas	Originality of any ideas, methods, etc, that the report states that the student has had him/herself. (10=extremely novel approach).	(10)	
Structure of the project	Sound structure, content in logical order, and material matching headings. (10=suitable for journal publication).	(10)	
Scientific level	Consider the academic level of the work carried out. (15=sufficiently advanced for publication in peer-reviewed journal/review article).	(15)	
Background material and context	Consider the amount, relevance and description of the background material included. (15=extremely complete description; of peer-reviewed journal quality).	(15)	
Clarity of explanation and style of writing	Does writing style "flow"? Are sources well cited, figures well explained in captions? Can the text be followed easily? Are all units included? Appropriate significant figures on numbers? Grammar, spelling OK? (10=of peer-reviewed journal quality).	(10)	
Analysis of results	Critical analysis of results, including strengths, weaknesses, context and possible future work. Inclusion as appropriate of uncertainties etc. (10=suitable for refereed journal).	(15)	
Contribution to physics	Consider whether the student has added to the general knowledge of physics (10=student's work forms the core of paper publishable in refereed journal).	(10)	