

## Veterinary Sciences Tripos Part IA Marking and Classing Scheme 2025

The following marking and classing scheme has been approved by the Faculty Board of Biology for VetST Part IA in 2024.

### MARKING

1. The maximum marks allocated to each subject under Regulation 16 (*Statutes and Ordinances 2023*, page 435) are as follows:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Homeostasis (HOM)                       | 100        |
| Molecules in Medical Science (MIMS)     | 100        |
| Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology (VAP) | 100        |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>300</b> |

2. Within these totals the allocation of marks will be:

| <u>Examination</u> | <u>Section I</u>          | <u>Section II</u>       | <u>Section III</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| VAP                | Short answers, incl. MCQs | Practical               | 2 essays           |
|                    | <b>17</b>                 | <b>33</b>               | <b>50</b>          |
| HOM                | Short answers, incl. MCQs | Practical and Notebooks | 2 essays           |
|                    | <b>30</b>                 | <b>20</b>               | <b>50</b>          |
| MIMS               | MCQs                      | Practical               | 3 essays           |
|                    | <b>25</b>                 | <b>25</b>               | <b>50</b>          |

The mark book will show each section and the marks shown for each section should be out of the total shown above.

### CLASSING

3. The minimum percentages and marks for various classes within a subject shall be:

|                      |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| Class I              | 70% | 70  |
| Class II.i           | 60% | 60  |
| Class II.ii          | 50% | 50  |
| Class III            | 40% | 40  |
| Maximum subject mark |     | 100 |

4. It is normally expected that the distribution of candidates between classes in individual subjects should be in the following ranges. For subjects in which medical and veterinary students take the same exam, these ranges apply to the combined medical/veterinary cohort:

| Class      | Number of candidates taking the paper | Range (% of candidates) |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| I          | 51 and above                          | 15.0 – 25.0             |
| Ii         | >25                                   | 32.5 – 65.0             |
| Iiii       | >25                                   | 20.0 – 57.0             |
| III & Fail | >25                                   | 0.0 – 17.0              |

5. Where scaling of marks is necessary to meet the expected distribution, and to allow examiners to combine exam sections with substantially different distributions, it is expected that examiners will use the method of linear scaling introduced in 2008. Senior Examiners should use the spreadsheets and instructions provided by the Faculty Office to carry out the scaling. The spreadsheets will scale marks between certain boundaries. If Senior Examiners are unable to scale subject marks to an appropriate distribution using the default boundaries, they may need to amend the boundaries used. Senior Examiners may be asked to justify their marking at the Final Meeting of Examiners.
6. In drawing up a provisional mark book for the Tripos, the following class boundaries will be applied (see note):

|      |        | Aggregate mark |
|------|--------|----------------|
| I    | 70%+   | 210+           |
| Ii   | 60-69% | 180 – 209      |
| Iiii | 50-59% | 150 - 179      |
| III  | 40-49% | 120 - 149      |
| Fail | <40%   | <120           |

It will remain the case that at the Final Meeting of Examiners discretion will be exercised in considering the class of individual candidates at the boundaries.

7. The actual mark boundaries for classes applied in previous years for the combined Medical and Veterinary Sciences Tripos up to 2018, and for both MedST and VetST thereafter were:

| <b>Class</b> | <b>Minimum Total (Out of 300)</b> |                               |                    |                    |                               |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|              | <b><u>2003 - 2006</u></b>         | <b><u>2007 &amp; 2008</u></b> | <b><u>2009</u></b> | <b><u>2010</u></b> | <b><u>2011 &amp; 2012</u></b> | <b><u>2013, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22 &amp; 23</u></b> | <b><u>2014</u></b> | <b><u>2016</u></b> | <b><u>2021</u></b> | <b><u>2024</u></b> |
| I            | 205                               | 207                           | 209                | 209                | 210                           | 210   | 207                | 206                | 207                | 204                |
| II           | 150                               | 150                           | 150                | 149                | 150                           | N/A   | N/A                | N/A                | N/A                | N/A                |
| II.1         | N/A                               | N/A                           | N/A                | N/A                | N/A                           | 180   | 180                | 180                | 178                | 180                |
| II.2         | N/A                               | N/A                           | N/A                | N/A                | N/A                           | 150   | 150                | 150                | 150                | 150                |
| III          | 120                               | 120                           | 120                | 120                | 120                           | 120   | 120                | 120                | 120                | 120                |

*NB: A divided second class was introduced in 2013.*