

NST Part II Psychology and BBS Psychology (major) Assessment & Classing Criteria 2025-26

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NST Part II Psychology and BBS Psychology (major) Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria applies to the papers run by the Department of Psychology within Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos: Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3, PS2, PS3, Research Project and Optional Dissertation.

In NST Part II Psychology students take five papers, which are assessed by a variety of methods as outlined in the course materials. This document contains a section for each assessment method.

Marking Criteria for written examination essays (Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3, PS2 and PS3)

Written examination essays are marked using the [Faculty of Biology's marking criteria for Tripos essays](#).

Marking Criteria for coursework (research projects and optional dissertations)

Coursework is marked using the [Faculty of Biology's marking criteria for Part II dissertations](#).

NST Part II Psychology Classing Criteria

The following information only applies to single-subject (project) students. BBS students are classed by the BBS Board of Examiner and should refer to the [BBS course materials](#) for information.

- The classing criteria for NST Part II Psychology are designed to ensure that all five papers of the examination are weighted equally.
- The Examiners responsible for each paper will award the candidate a mark which determines their class for that paper.
- The following Class boundaries are applied to the percentage marks for each paper:

First	(Class I)	100 – 70.00%	Third	(Class III)	49.99 – 40.00%
2:1	(Class II.i)	69.99 – 60.00%	Fail		39.99% or lower
2:2	(Class II.ii)	59.99 – 50.00%			

- The Examiners reserve the right to scale the marks of a paper and this will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with no precedence set based on whether marks were scaled in previous years. Any scaling will be agreed during the meeting of the Examination Board.
- A candidate's overall class for NST Part II Psychology will be determined using their average mark across all five papers. The average mark will be calculated to two decimal places. The mark will not be rounded further.
- Candidates who fail one paper or more will be considered for failing, but the Examiners have discretion.
- The Examiners reserve the right to adjust the overall class boundaries. Any adjustments will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with no precedence set based on whether adjustments were made in previous years.
- For the purposes of ranking candidates within each overall class for the Tripos as a whole, each mark is scaled to give a rank mark. The mean of a candidate's rank marks is used to determine their ranking within each class. Discretion will be exercised by the Examiners in considering the class of individual candidates at the boundaries.

What you will graduate with

Full guidance on degree classification can be found on the [CamDATA website](#).

Students entering from October 2020

All undergraduate Tripos students beginning their study in October 2020 and onward will receive an overall degree classification at the end of their final year. For the PBS Tripos, 100% of your final degree classification will be based on work completed in your Part II year. In addition, each part of the Tripos will receive an individually classed result, but your final overall classification will be considered your degree outcome.

Further guidance on how this is calculated and will be reported can be found in the [CamDATA website](#).

Accreditation by the British Psychological Society (BPS)

To qualify for accreditation by the BPS, candidates for NST Part II Psychology Option A must pass (i.e. receive a mark of at least 40) Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3 and the research project.

Candidates will also be required to have passed NST Part IA Mathematical Biology and NST Part IB Experimental Psychology, and must receive a final degree classification of at least a 2:2.

If a candidate does not pass one of the six core papers, they will not qualify for accreditation by the BPS.

Please note that NST Part II Psychology Option B and Part II BBS Major Subject Psychology (Option A or Option B) are **not** accredited by the BPS.