Informatics 1 – Introduction to Computation
Proposal to alter assessment

Until 2017/18, all first-year Informatics students took the two 10-point courses *Informatics 1 – Functional Programming* and *Informatics 1 – Computation and Logic* in their first semester. Inf1-FP was assessed by a mid-semester class test (10%) and a final programming exam (90%), and Inf1-CL was assessed by a final written exam. Students were required to pass both courses.

In 2018/19, these courses were combined to form the single 20-point course *Informatics 1 – Introduction to Computation*, which is assessed by a mid-semester class test (5%) and a final programming exam (45%) covering the material on functional programming, and a final written exam (50%) covering the material on computation and logic. According to the DRPS entry:

> *The marks from the practical and written final exams will be combined to give a single exam mark. Students are required to achieve a passing mark for the course as a whole; there is no requirement that they separately pass one or both of the exams.*

We now believe that this was a mistake and that we should revert to requiring students to pass both of the components (class test + final programming exam, and final written exam).

In 2018/19, a significant minority of students failed one of the exams – in some cases badly – but did well enough on the other exam to pass. (Of the 375 students who sat the exam, 8 failed CL but passed overall, and 37 failed FP but passed overall.) Such students are likely to have gaps in their understanding of these very basic topics, meaning that they will have trouble in later courses that build on this material.

We propose to replace the text above with the following:

> *The marks from the practical and written final exams will be combined to give a single final mark for the course. In order to pass the course, students are required to achieve a passing mark in both the assessment for the functional programming component of the course and the assessment for the computation and logic component of the course.*

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February 2019