

# Proposal to permit Inf1 exam rubric as a standard option across all years

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To simplify exam setting and avoid confusion by students, we currently permit only two standard exam rubrics in level 9-11 courses. Both of these rubrics permit students a *choice* of questions to answer. In contrast, our Inf1 exams require students to answer *all* questions on the exam.

Providing choices may be appropriate in some courses, but it also has disadvantages: it requires students to spend time deciding which question(s) to answer rather than on demonstrating their knowledge, and it incurs considerable additional overhead for exam setters, scrutineers, and markers. It also can lead to difficulty allocating marks or content appropriately across different compulsory or optional questions.

**I therefore propose we allow the use of the Inf1 rubric in upper-level courses as a standard option** if the lecturer wishes to do so, without requiring special permission for a “non-standard” rubric.

This is not out of line with other courses at the University; for example EPCC exams I checked have an “answer all questions” rubric.

If this proposal is adopted, lecturers who wish to switch to the new rubric would of course need to announce this very clearly to their class, as early as possible and in multiple channels. This is no different from switching from one to the other of the currently standard rubrics.

## Currently available “standard” rubrics:

Both assume there are 3 exam questions worth 25 marks each.

### Rubric 1:

Answer QUESTION 1 and ONE other question.

Question 1 is COMPULSORY.

All questions carry equal weight

### Rubric 2:

Answer any TWO questions.

All questions carry equal weight.

## Inf1 rubric, proposed as Rubric 3:

Note that ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY.

DIFFERENT QUESTIONS MAY HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBERS OF TOTAL MARKS.

Take note of this in allocating time to questions.