

**Action points arising from the meeting of the
Student Staff Liaison Committee
on 22nd January 2024**

First year

- PX160/PX161: Can the weekly examples sheets be submitted electronically?
An informal survey of students would indicate that some prefer to hand in hard copies, thus receiving feedback in hardcopy also. We are also keen to encourage students to visit the department regularly, to visit the workrooms, speak to the UG office staff, and so on.
- PX157: Some students are struggling with the mathematical methods used. Integration methods are introduced in MA145 (MathsPhys) and PX153 (other programmes). Further resources are provided on the PX157 page, and students are encouraged to approach their examples class leaders and personal tutors for extra support.
- PX153: In lectures, the lecturer sometimes answers a different question from the one asked.
We encourage students to ask questions in the lecture hall, by email, and through the module forum. If you do not understand the answer to a question, or think that your question was misinterpreted, we would encourage you to clarify this with the lecturer. You can also approach your examples class leaders and personal tutor for extra support.
- PX151/152: Laboratory sessions can be time-pressured.
We will pass this feedback on to the coordinator of the first-year laboratory module. Do not be concerned if you do not complete the first-year experiments. This is quite normal. You should be able to write a good report on the data that you did obtain.
- PX161: There has been a clump of deadlines in term 2.
In advance of each academic year, we endeavour to ensure that assessment deadlines are spaced out. We will review this again for next year. There is quite a bit of flexibility with the term 2 worksheet deadlines, so there may be room for optimisation there.
- More resources are wanted for help with exam preparation.
Physics is one of a minority of departments which publish solutions (and examiners' reports) to all the most recent five exam papers for all modules. For new modules, we provide a mock exam paper. There are three tutorials scheduled for term 3, and you should tell your personal tutor which past exam topics you would like to work through.

Second year

- PX271/283: There are perceived ambiguities in some of the lab scripts.
The SSLC convener reported that this matter had been resolved in advance of the SSLC meeting.

- Some rooms for MA modules are on the small side.
We will pass this on to the timetabling coordinator in Maths.
- PX284: The statistical mechanics lectures have been well received.
We are always grateful to hear positive feedback. We will pass it on to the lecturer.

Third year matters

- PX3A4: It is impossible to see what is written on the blackboard in many of the recordings. Could the lecture notes be released more frequently?
We apologise that some of the recordings have not worked well. We will remind the lecturer that the camera can be configured at the lectern at the beginning of each lecture. We understand that the notes are uploaded by topic (every 1-2 lectures).
- PX3A5 and PX385 have been well received. Students liked the blend of slides and visualiser notes in PX385.
We are always grateful to hear positive feedback. We will pass it on to the lecturers.
- PX3A9: One student noted that the delivery was enthusiastic and wished that the module could go into more mathematical depth.
Generally, lecturers would not formulate problems in a more mathematical way unless that gave a better description of the phenomena. In complex problems, understanding the functional dependencies of quantities on each other gives a good understanding of what is observable. Part of the attraction of the subject matter in astrophysics is that these come from all of physics – quantum theory, thermodynamics, classical mechanics and EM Theory.
- PX3A0/3A1: Some students have yet to receive feedback on their interim report. Some students have received very detailed feedback, whereas some have received only a few sentences.
The interim report marks and feedback have yet to be formally released. Once they are, supervisors can discuss the report with you. Please ask your supervisor about feedback once the marks are released.
- PX390: The feedback provided on assignment 3 was generic to the whole cohort. Some students, especially those with low marks, felt they would have benefited from individual feedback. Would that be possible? If not, could a corrected code be released?
We apologise for this. The usual practice is to provide marks against individual criteria, as well as an overall mark. This approach will definitely be in place for the following assignments. For now, this matter has been escalated to the Head of Department. It is not possible to release a fully corrected code, as versions of this code may be used for assessments in future years.

Fourth year matters

- *None*

Mathematics matters

- There is a clash between MA3D1 (core for FG31) and PX3A8 lectures on Tuesdays at 10am.
We apologise for this. We have resolved the clash from next week, and personal timetables are being updated.