

Teaching Evaluations

Charles Parry

University of Cambridge

This document summarises my teaching roles, student evaluations, and evidence of teaching effectiveness. A full appendix with complete evaluation reports (all student comments and score distributions for each cohort) is available online.¹

Teaching roles and responsibilities. I teach core Macroeconomics at both the Master’s (MPhil) and undergraduate levels at the University of Cambridge. I have led the weekly problem-set classes for the compulsory graduate Macroeconomics sequence (R200/E200), which includes the PhD-track. I have also taught undergraduate Macroeconomics in small-group supervisions. My responsibilities include:

- delivering classes;
- giving targeted exam preparation and individual feedback;
- marking assessed work and exams;
- providing support in office hours and by email.

I have taught across different formats and scales: small supervisions (three students) at undergraduate level; weekly graduate classes of around 25–30 students; and revision sessions for entire cohorts (up to 80 students).

Recognition. Based on student feedback, I was awarded the Faculty of Economics “Best Teaching Assistant” prize by the Degree Committee in 2021 and 2022.

Quantitative evaluations. The following Figure and Table summarise my quantitative evaluations. The Figure reports the evolution of student answers to the question “I am satisfied with the quality of these classes as a whole” on a 1–5 scale. The Table reports averages across a range of questions, pooling across years and courses.

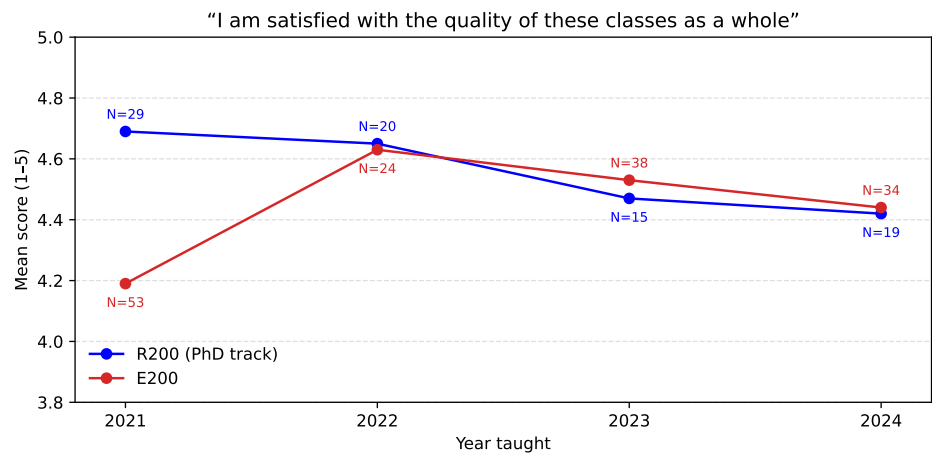


Figure 1. Overall class quality over time. Mean student rating of “I am satisfied with the quality of these classes as a whole” (1–5 scale) for each year taught in the compulsory graduate Macroeconomics sequence. Labels show the number of responding students (N), which is typically below total enrolment. R200 Advanced Macroeconomics is part of the MPhil in Economic Research; E200 Macroeconomics is part of MPhil in Economics.

	Score
Student satisfaction ratio	91%
The Teaching Assistant is good at explaining things	4.5 / 5.0
The Teaching Assistant is enthusiastic about what they are teaching	4.5 / 5.0
The classes are well organised and run smoothly	4.6 / 5.0
The amount of material covered is not excessive	4.3 / 5.0
I am satisfied with the quality of these classes as a whole	4.5 / 5.0

Table 1. Average student ratings across all cohorts. “Student satisfaction ratio” is the share of satisfied students (yes/no). Other scores are on a 1–5 scale. Averages are across courses (E200, R200) and across years (2021–2024), unweighted.

¹See https://cparry96.github.io/website/unabridged_teaching_evaluations.pdf. The reports are unedited except for the redaction of email addresses and the anonymisation of other instructors’ names.

Student feedback. Students repeatedly emphasise (i) clarity and explanation of difficult material, (ii) organisation and structure of classes, and (iii) individual support and exam preparation. Selected comments below are taken verbatim from formal teaching evaluations of the compulsory MPhil Macroeconomics sequences (R200/E200) and associated revision sessions.

Clarity and explanation of difficult material.

- “Charles is superb. He makes complicated material seem easy, and explains everything in intuitive terms.”
- “Brilliant TA - really made concepts easier to understand.”
- “Charles was a great TA, and helped explained concepts really clearly. Also provided great and helpful feedback on each of our problem sets.”

Organisation and structure.

- “Fantastic explanations, really great structure to the classes. Always walked out of class having understood the problem set and answers in much greater detail.”
- “Charles explained the material well, gave clear guidance on what was expected from us, was happy to answer questions and held enjoyable classes.”
- “The classes were really well done, and definitely enhanced the content from lectures.”

Support, responsiveness, and exam preparation.

- “Mr Parry delivered thorough feedback and was incredibly supportive. His classes were engaging and enlightening.”
- “He is an excellent teacher, and goes above and beyond just teaching us the answers to problem sets. He helps us understand concepts, gives advice on how to tackle unfamiliar problems, and gives practical advice for exam technique,”
- “Charles was a great TA, and helped explained concepts really clearly. Also provided great and helpful feedback on each of our problem sets.”

Other comments.

- “One of the best TAs I have ever had.”
- “Charles is the best teacher/supervisor I have had in my time in Cambridge (undergrad or postgrad) by a significant margin.”
- “His enthusiasm and skills both radiated throughout the sessions and I want to say thanks to him here for making things click for me!”