



# **Classics & Oriental Studies Handbook 2020**

**for students taking the examination in the Honour  
School of Classics and Oriental Studies in 2022**

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## Dates of Full Terms

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Trinity 2020: Sunday 26 April – Saturday 20 June 2020

Michaelmas 2020: Sunday 11 October – Saturday 5 December 2020

Hilary 2021: Sunday 17 January – Saturday 13 March 2021

Trinity 2021: Sunday 25 April – Saturday 19 June 2021

Michaelmas 2021\*: Sunday 10 October – Saturday 4 December 2021

Hilary 2022\*: Sunday 16 January – Saturday 12 March 2022

Trinity 2022\*: Sunday 24 April – Saturday 18 June 2022

\* provisional

## Disclaimer

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This handbook applies to students starting the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies in Trinity or Michaelmas Term 2020 and sitting the examination in Trinity Term 2022. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The *Examination Regulations* relating to this course will be published at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/hsocandorientud/studentview/>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the *Examination Regulations* then you should follow the *Examination Regulations*. If you have any concerns please contact [undergraduate@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@classics.ox.ac.uk).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 29 January 2020, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

## Course Details

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Full Title of Award: Bachelor of Arts in Classics and Oriental Studies

Course Length: 3 or 4 years

FHEQ Level: 6

Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmarking Statements:

- Classics and Ancient History: [https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-classics-and-ancient-history-including-byzantine-studies-and-modern-greek.pdf?sfvrsn=21e2cb81\\_5](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-classics-and-ancient-history-including-byzantine-studies-and-modern-greek.pdf?sfvrsn=21e2cb81_5)
- Languages, Cultures and Societies: [https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-languages-cultures-and-societies.pdf?sfvrsn=4ce2cb81\\_4](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-languages-cultures-and-societies.pdf?sfvrsn=4ce2cb81_4)

## Useful Links

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BA Classics & Oriental Studies Course Page in WebLearn:

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/7ZXU7X>

Classics Faculty General Student Handbook: <https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/general-student-handbook>

Oriental Studies Faculty General Student Handbook: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/>

Complaints and Appeals: <https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/general-student-handbook>

Data Protection: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/it/studentrecord/data>

Equality and Diversity at Oxford: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/OxRvaf>

Examiners' Reports: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/7ZXU7X>

Examination Information (University website):

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams?wssl=1>

Joint Consultative Committee for Undergraduate Matters (Classics):

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/eC8mPu>

Lecture Lists (Classics): <http://rbll.classics.ox.ac.uk/>

Lecture Lists (Oriental Studies): <http://intranet.orient.ox.ac.uk/roombooker/>

Prizes for Performance in Undergraduate Examinations (Classics):

<https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/general-student-handbook>

Student Representation (Oriental Studies): <http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/student/reps.html>

## 1. Introduction

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This handbook offers advice and information on the Classics & Oriental Studies course, but the official prescription for this course is that found in *Examination Regulations*.

Fuller descriptions of papers and of prescribed texts, as well as guidance and information on topics such as writing essays and commentaries, online study aids, libraries etc., are available in the Greats Handbook and in the relevant Oriental Studies Handbooks.

If you are in doubt about the precise prescriptions etc., please consult your tutor. It is your responsibility to ensure that your choice of subjects conforms to the regulations. If through some mischance you submit an illegal combination of subjects for the final examination, your college may perhaps apply to Education Committee for permission for you to sit that combination, but such permission will not automatically be given.

It cannot be guaranteed that university lectures or classes or college teaching will be available in all subjects in every academic year: consult your tutor.

Also visit the Classics and Oriental Studies faculty websites for latest news and events, links to online resources for classicists and lecture information <http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/> and <http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/>.

## 2. Aims and Objectives of Classics and Oriental Studies

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### ***Aims***

The BA in Classics and Oriental Studies has the following general educational aims:

- (1) To provide, within the supportive and stimulating environment of the collegiate university, education of excellent quality;
- (2) To attract the best possible students to come to study Classics and Oriental Studies and associated subjects at Oxford at an appropriate level, through a range of courses which offer admission to suitably talented and committed candidates from the widest possible range of backgrounds;
- (3) To build and encourage intellectual confidence and learning capacity in students, enabling them to work independently under appropriate expert guidance;
- (4) To offer students sustained, carefully-designed and progressively-structured courses which require independent effort and rigour from them and which yield consistent intellectual reward and satisfaction;
- (5) To produce graduates who are able to deal with challenging intellectual problems systematically, analytically, and efficiently, and who are suitable for a wide range of demanding occupations and professions;
- (6) To produce graduates, especially at postgraduate level, who will go on to promote the

national and international well-being of Classics and Oriental Studies and associated subjects through teaching those subjects in schools or going on to further research and university teaching in those subjects.

### **Objectives**

The BA in Classics and Oriental Studies seeks to achieve the following learning outcomes for students by the end of their course:

- (1) To have achieved a successful knowledge and understanding of some core areas and some of a wide range of options in challenging fields of learning within the Greco-Roman and Oriental world, through intense independent study under expert guidance;
- (2) Where relevant, to have acquired the ability to read accurately and critically texts and documents in Latin and/or Greek and in an Oriental language;
- (3) To have acquired the skills effectively to assess considerable amounts of material of diverse types, and to select, summarise and evaluate key aspects;
- (4) To have acquired the skill of clear and effective communication in written and oral discourse, and the organisational talent needed to plan work and meet demanding deadlines;
- (5) To have progressed successfully with the support of a teaching environment in which the key features are close and regular personal attention to individual students, constructive criticism and evaluation of their work, and continuous monitoring of their academic achievement;
- (6) To have made effective and successful use in their courses of study of the very wide range of research expertise in our faculty (the largest in the world) and the excellent specialist resources and collections available in the University.

## **3. Structure of the Course**

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There are two versions of the course: (a) **Classics with Oriental Studies**, in which Classics is the main subject and there is an additional Oriental language; and (b) **Oriental Studies with Classics**, in which the main subject is drawn from Oriental Studies and Classics provides the additional language(s).

Classics with Oriental Studies is normally taken by those who have done Classical Mods; Oriental Studies with Classics by those who have done the Preliminary Examination in Oriental Studies as their First Public Examination.

The additional language always involves three papers; the main subject five for Classics, and five or more for an Oriental subject, as laid down by the regulations for that language. It is also possible to offer a Special Thesis.

### **a) BA Classics and Oriental Studies (Classics with Oriental Studies)**

The requirements for Classics as a main subject are as follows:

You study five papers, of which at least two must involve study of texts in either Greek or Latin (or both). These text-based papers are marked with an asterisk in the list of Classics options (pp. 9-10). If you take Greek or Latin for Beginners (which consists of two papers), you must also take another text-based option.

There are also a few combinations that are not allowed because of timetabling or overlap: see the Greats Handbook or *Examination Regulations* for details. Otherwise the choice is extremely free and candidates can choose to concentrate on Literature, say, or History, if they wish.

Greek/Latin Literature (501-13, 515, 517-8, 524-5, 541-2, 581): you may offer up to five subjects. If you offer three or more, at least one of them must be Greek Core (501) or Latin Core (502).

Ancient History (401-15): you may offer up to five subjects. If you offer two or three, at least one of them must be a period paper (401-6); if you offer four, at least two must be period papers; if you offer five, at least three must be period papers.

Philology and Linguistics (551-4): you may offer up to two subjects.

Greek and Roman Archaeology (601-5): you may offer up to two subjects.

Philosophy (110-1, 115-6, 130-9): you may offer up to two subjects.

For full details of the Classics papers and the way they are assessed, please consult the Greats Handbook for the relevant year of examination (available at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/TUBH5h>).

### ***b) BA Classics and Oriental Studies (Oriental Studies with Classics)***

The requirements for Classics as an Additional Language are as follows:

You study three papers, of which at least one must involve study of texts in either Greek or Latin (or both). These text-based papers are marked with an asterisk in the list of Classics options (pp. 9-10).

There are also a few combinations that are not allowed, either because of timetabling or overlap: see the Greats Handbook or Exam Regulations for details. Otherwise the choice is extremely free and candidates can choose to concentrate on Literature, say, or History, if they wish.

Greek/Latin Literature (501-13, 515, 517-8, 524-5, 541-2, 581): you may offer up to three subjects. If you offer three, at least one of them must be either Greek Core (501) or Latin Core (502).

Ancient History (401-15): you may offer up to three subjects. If you offer two or three, at least one of them must be a period paper (401-6).

Philology and Linguistics (551-4): you may offer up to two subjects.

Greek and Roman Archaeology (601-5): you may offer up to two subjects.

Philosophy (110-1, 115-6, 130-9): you may offer up to two subjects.

For full details of the Classics papers and the way they are assessed, please consult the Greats Handbook for the relevant year of examination (available at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/TUBH5h>).

## 4. Choosing your Classics options

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In choosing your options for the Final Honour School, it is vital that you discuss the question with your tutors. The syllabus allows you a very wide diversity of choice, even within each of the sub-disciplines, and you need to choose your papers with care if you are to make the most of what is on offer. For a joint school like Classics & Oriental Studies it is especially important to realise that different subjects involve quite distinct ways of thinking. Most people find that they only get fully conversant with a particular way of thinking when they have done a couple of papers that require the same sort of thinking. So, while you should not be afraid to try something new, you must look for groups of papers that cohere and support one another.

The options within each Oriental subject are in most cases firmly prescribed, so it may be best to start from those, and then think about which Classical options would go with them. There are no link papers for this Joint School, but there are ways of constructing bridges between your two subjects. For example, someone doing Arabic will be studying Islamic texts or religion, and this might be helpfully informed by study of the Ancient History paper *412 Religions in the Greek and Roman World (c. 31 B.C. to A.D. 312)*, which in turn links with *406 Rome, Italy and Empire 46 BC to AD 54*, for which any of the following would be a good partner: *510 Ovid*; *512 Neronian Literature*; or *604 Art under the Roman Empire*. Similar observations would apply to *Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew*. On the other hand, those doing Sanskrit regularly take advantage of their knowledge by doing a Philology paper, in particular *554 Comparative Philology: Indo- European, Greek and Latin*. And Egyptologists often do a Classical paper that allows them to explore the Greek world's interactions with Egypt, such as *508 Hellenistic Poetry* and *409 The Hellenistic World*; and for someone doing five Classics papers, those would link well with, say, *404 Polybius, Rome and the Mediterranean: 241 BC to 146 BC*, *502 Latin Core*, and *511 Latin Didactic*.

Another thing to think about if you did Classical Mods course I is whether or not you wish to carry on with both Greek and Latin. Given that you are going to be learning a new language, it will require considerable effort to keep both Greek and Latin going at a good level, and concentrating on one language can help focus your choices. But you may wish to continue exploring the link between the two literatures, and regard the Oriental Language as an essentially separate part of your studies.

The following would be an example of a combination which seems unlikely to be advisable, whatever the Oriental Language: *501 Greek Core*, *509 Cicero*, *553 General Linguistics and Comparative Philology*, *605 Roman Archaeology: Cities and Settlement in the Roman Empire*, *134 Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy*. On the other hand any two or three of these could appear in a coherent group of classics papers, e.g. *501 Greek Core*, *402*



*Thucydides and the Greek World: 479 BC to 403 BC, 405 Republic in Crisis: 146 BC to 46 BC, 509 Cicero, 601 The Greeks and the Mediterranean World:* any of the historical and archaeological papers would also allow a student to do some work on places and cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean and their contact with the Greeks or Romans.

When you have made a preliminary selection of papers, discuss it with your tutors. As well as having views about good combinations of papers and about your particular academic strengths, they will know what the timetabling constraints are (some papers are taught in University Classes and so can only be taken in particular terms). The normal pattern for someone who has done Classical Mods is to do two Classics papers in the Trinity Term after Mods, with one carrying on into the Michaelmas, and the other postponed for later completion. In Michaelmas study of the Oriental Language will begin in earnest (you may have done some introductory work beforehand, e.g. by going to a summer school). And thereafter the two sides will mainly operate in tandem. Make sure you know before you go down for the Easter vacation which two papers you will be working on during the Trinity Term so that you can start adequately prepared. Whatever your choice of papers, Classics & Oriental Studies is a very challenging degree; and to ensure that it is exhilarating and not just gruelling, it is vital to get off to a flying start.

### ***Classics Options***

[\* = text-based paper]

#### **A. Subjects in Greek and Latin Literature**

- \*501: Greek Core
- \*502: Latin Core
- \*503: Historiography
- \*504: Lyric Poetry
- \*505: Early Greek Hexameter Poetry
- \*506: Greek Tragedy
- \*507: Comedy
- \*508: Hellenistic Poetry
- \*509: Cicero
- \*510: Ovid
- \*511: Latin Didactic
- \*512: Neronian Literature
- \*513: Euripides, *Orestes*: papyri, manuscripts, text
- \*515: Catullus: manuscripts, text, interpretation
- \*517: Byzantine Literature
- \*518: Modern Greek Poetry
- \*524: Seneca, *Medea*: manuscripts, text, interpretation
- \*525: Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan
- \*541: Homer, *Iliad*
- \*542: Virgil, *Aeneid*
- \*581: The Latin Works of Petrarch

#### **B. Subjects in Greek and Roman History**

- \*401: Archaic Greek History: c. 750 to 479 BC
- \*402: Thucydides and the Greek World: 479 to 403 BC
- \*403: The End of the Peloponnesian War to the Death of Philip II of Macedon: 403 to 336 BC

- \*404: Polybius, Rome and the Mediterranean: 241–146 BC
- \*405: Republic in Crisis: 146–46 BC
- \*406: Rome, Italy and Empire from Caesar to Claudius: 46 BC to AD 54
- 407: Athenian Democracy in the Classical Age
- 408: Alexander the Great and his Early Successors (336 BC -302 BC)
- 409: The Hellenistic World: Societies and Cultures c.300–100 BC
- 410: Cicero: Politics and Thought in the Late Republic
- 411: Politics, Society and Culture from Nero to Hadrian
- 412: Religions in the Greek and Roman World (c.31 BC – AD 312)
- 413: Sexuality and Gender in Greece and Rome
- \*414: The Conversion of Augustine
- 415: The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC

### **C. Subjects in Philology and Linguistics**

- \*551: Greek Historical Linguistics
- \*552: Latin Historical Linguistics
- 553: General Linguistics and Comparative Philology
- 554: Comparative Philology: Indo–European, Greek and Latin.

*N.B. It is not certain whether paper 553 General Linguistics and Comparative Philology will be on offer to students sitting finals in 2022. Some of its component parts have been integrated into the other Philology papers.*

### **D. Subjects in Greek and Roman Archaeology**

- 601: The Greeks and the Mediterranean World c.950 BC – 500 BC
- 602: Greek Art and Archaeology, c.500–300 BC
- 603: Hellenistic Art and Archaeology, 330-30 BC
- 604: Art under the Roman Empire, AD 14-337
- 605: Roman Archaeology: Cities and Settlement under the Empire

### **E. Subjects in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy**

- 110: Aquinas
- 111: Duns Scotus, Ockham
- 115: Plato, *Republic* (in translation)
- 116: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (in translation)
- \*130: Plato, *Republic* (in Greek)
- \*131: Plato on Knowledge, Language, & Reality in the *Theaetetus* & *Sophist* (in Greek)
- \*132: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (in Greek)
- \*133: Aristotle on Nature, Life and Mind (in Greek)
- \*134: Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in Greek)
- \*135: Latin Philosophy (in Latin)
- \*136: Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in Latin)
- 137: Plato on Knowledge, Language, & Reality in the *Theaetetus* & *Sophist* (in translation)
- 138: Aristotle on Nature, Life and Mind (in translation)
- 139: Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in translation)

### **F. Other Subjects**

- 566/568: Greek for Beginners
- 567/569: Latin for Beginners

Descriptions of all these papers are available in the Greats Handbook, with the exception of:

**581 The Latin Works of Petrarch**, with special study of *Africa* (ed. N. Festa, Florence, 1926), Books I, II, V, VII, IX. Candidates will also be expected to have read *Vita Scipionis* (in *La vita di Scipione L'Africano*, ed. G. Martellotti, Milano-Napoli, 1954), and to show acquaintance with Petrarch's major Latin works, e.g. *Rerum memorandarum libri* (ed. G. Billanovich, Florence, 1945), *De Secretis conflictu curarum mearum*, *De Vita solitaria*, *Epistolae familiares* (in F. Petrarca, *Prose*, ed. G. Martellotti, P.G. Ricci, E. Carrara, E. Bianchi, Milano-Napoli, 1955).

Petrarch was the major cultural and intellectual figure in mid-fourteenth century Italy, and his pioneering role in ushering in the new age of Humanism and the Renaissance made him famous throughout Europe. The works which articulated his new ideas and established his reputation were mostly in Latin (the vernacular poems of the *Canzoniere* and *Trionfi* represent only a small part of his output). Sensing more accurately than his predecessors the distance that separated his time from the classical past, he was the first writer to revive major classical genres such as epic (*Africa*), biography (*Vita Scipionis*), the dialogue (*Secretum*) and letter-writing (*Epistolae Familiares*). Petrarch's Latin works shed invaluable light on his views on history, morality, the role of the intellectual, literary creativity and imitation, as well as helping to understand more fully his vernacular poetry.

In the examination candidates will be required to comment, without translating, on one passage (from a choice of three, each of around 35 lines) from the prescribed books of the *Africa*, and to answer two essay questions (from a choice of about ten; the essay questions will cover all the prescribed works, including the *Africa*).

## 5. Papers for Oriental Studies as the Main Language

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### **Arabic with Classics**

1. Arabic unprepared translation into English and comprehension.
2. Composition in Arabic.
3. Spoken Arabic
4. Arabic literature.
5. Islamic history, 570-1500.
6. Islamic religion.
- 7, 8, 9. Three papers from Classics.
10. An Optional Thesis (under OS Regulations) or Special Thesis (see p. 12). Candidates are advised to offer a Special Thesis under COS Regulations (see p. 12) rather than an Optional Thesis under OS regulations.

### **Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies with Classics (Egyptian or Akkadian)**

1. Translation paper (first language).
2. Paper chosen from Classics
3. Literary and historical topics including prepared translation from first language.
4. Literary and historical topics including prepared translation from first language (take-home paper).
5. Paper chosen from Classics
6. Paper chosen from Classics

7. A field of concentration
8. Selected Egyptian and/or Ancient Near Eastern artefacts together with essay questions on material culture.
9. General paper
10. Dissertation
11. An optional Special Thesis (see p. 12)

Either paper 7 or paper 10 can be replaced by Egyptian art and architecture.

### ***Hebrew with Classics***

1. Hebrew composition and unprepared translation.
2. Prepared texts I: Biblical texts
3. Prepared Texts II: Biblical and Rabbinic Texts
4. Prepared Texts III: Modern Hebrew literature
5. General paper: language, history, religion, and culture
- 6, 7, 8. Three papers from Classics
9. An optional special subject OR an optional Special Thesis (see p. 12)

### ***Persian with Classics***

1. Persian prose composition and unprepared translation.
2. Spoken Persian
- 3, 4, 5. Three papers from the following:
  - (a) Classical Poetry: Lyric Genres
  - (b) Classical Poetry: Narrative Genres
  - (c) Classical Prose
  - (d) Modern Literature
  - (e) Modern social and political writing
6. General questions  
The transition from Sasanian to Islamic Persia (up to the tenth century AD); or one of the options (i), (ii) or (iii) below, taken from BA Persian papers 11 and 12.
  - (i) Iranian history 1501-1722.
  - (ii) Iranian history from the rise of the Qajars to the end of the Constitutional Revolution.
  - (iii) Iranian history 1921-1979.
7. A special subject (to be approved by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies)
- 8, 9, 10. Three papers from Classics.
11. An optional Special Thesis (see p. 12)

### ***Sanskrit with Classics***

1. Sanskrit unprepared translation.
2. Essay questions on the history of classical Indian literature and civilization.
3. Indian linguistics.
5. Unprepared translation from Sanskrit texts in the chosen area.
6. Essay questions on the chosen area.
7. A special subject  
Choose one from among the following:
  - (a) Comparative grammar of Sanskrit and Old Iranian.
  - (b) Indian art and archaeology.
  - (c) Composition in Sanskrit prose and/or verse.

(d) Practical criticism and appreciation, including translation from the Sanskrit.

(e) Other special subjects as approved by the Faculty Board

8, 9, 10. Three papers from Classics.

11. An optional Special Thesis (see p. 12)

### ***Turkish with Classics***

1. Unprepared translation from Ottoman and modern Turkish.

2. Translation into Turkish and essay in Turkish.

3. Spoken Turkish.

4. Ottoman historical texts

5. Turkish political and cultural texts, 1860 to the present

6. Modern Turkish literary texts.

7, 8, 9. Three papers from Classics.

10. An optional special subject (to be approved by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies) OR an optional Special Thesis (see p. 12). Candidates wishing to write a thesis as an optional paper are advised to offer it as a Special Thesis under COS Regulations (see p. 12) rather than as an optional special subject under OS regulations.

## **6. Papers for Oriental Studies as the Additional Language**

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### ***Akkadian***

Please see below under Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Egyptian or Akkadian).

### ***Arabic***

1. Arabic prose composition and unprepared translation.

2. Additional Arabic: literary texts.

3. Additional Arabic: Islamic texts.

### ***Aramaic and Syriac***

1. Syriac prose composition and Aramaic and Syriac unprepared translation.

2. Aramaic prepared texts.

3. Syriac prepared texts.

### ***Armenian***

1. Classical Armenian prose composition and unprepared translation.

2. Prepared religious texts

3. Prepared historical and other texts

### ***Coptic***

1. Coptic unprepared translation and grammar.

2. Prepared texts I

3. Prepared texts II, with general questions

### ***Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Egyptian or Akkadian)***

1, 2, 3 = Papers 2, 5 and 6 as specified for Akkadian or for Egyptian in the Honour School of Oriental Studies (Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies).

Paper 2: Translation paper (second language).

Paper 5: Literary and historical topics including prepared translation from first language.

Paper 6 (second language) is a take-home examination.

Instead of either paper 5 or paper 6, candidates may offer one of papers 7, 9 or 10 as specified for the Honour School of Oriental Studies (Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies).

### ***Hebrew***

Candidates in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies may offer either (a) Biblical and Rabbinic or (b) Medieval Hebrew.

#### **(a) Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew:**

1. Prose composition and unprepared translation
2. Prepared texts I: Biblical texts
3. Prepared texts II: Biblical and Rabbinic texts

#### **(b) Medieval Hebrew:**

1. Unprepared translation
2. Prepared texts I
3. Prepared texts II

### ***Early Iranian***

Candidates will offer three papers, with no more than two from group (a).

#### **(a) Old and Middle Iranian Language**

1. Avestan Texts
2. Old Persian texts
3. Middle Persian texts

#### **(b) Religion and Philology of Ancient and Late Antique Iran**

4. Zoroastrianism
5. Indo-Iranian Philology

#### **(c) History of Ancient and Late Antique Iran**

6. Achaemenid History
7. Sasanian History

#### **(d) Early Iranian Texts and Topics:**

Candidates will choose two of the subjects 1 to 7 above. Candidates may not choose under (d) a subject which they are also offering from group (a).

### ***Pali***

1. Pali unprepared translation.
2. Questions on Pali language and literature, on Theravāda Buddhist doctrine, and on the early history of Buddhism in South Asia.
3. Prepared texts, with questions on contents.

### ***Persian***

1. Persian prose composition and unprepared translation. 2 and 3. Two papers from the following:

- (a) Classical Poetry.
- (b) Classical Prose.
- (c) Modern Literature.
- (d) Modern social and political writing.

### ***Sanskrit***

- 1. Sanskrit unprepared translation.
- 2. Questions on Sanskrit language and literature.
- 3. Prepared texts.

### ***Turkish***

- 1. Turkish prose composition and unprepared translation.
- 2. Either (a) Additional Turkish: Late Ottoman and modern Turkish literary texts.  
Or (b) Additional Turkish: Modern Turkish literary texts.
- 3. Either (a) Additional Turkish: Political and cultural texts, 1860 to the present.  
Or (b) Additional Turkish: Political and cultural texts, 1920 to the present.

## **7. Theses in Classics and Special Theses**

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You may offer a Thesis in Classics as one of your main papers and also, as an optional extra subject, a Special Thesis in Classics, or in Oriental Studies, or in a subject linking Classics and Oriental Studies. In the examination, any mark for a Special Thesis may, if it is to the candidate's advantage, be substituted for another, lower, main mark, provided that the mark that is replaced is not lower than 30. The resulting combination of papers must conform to the rules concerning text-based papers (i.e. papers 130-6, 401-6, 414, 501-13, 515, 517-8, 524-5, 541-2, 551-2 and 581).

If you offer a thesis but are subsequently prevented e.g. by illness from sitting the examination and wish to submit the thesis for examination in the following year, you must resubmit the title in the usual way in the following year.

Thesis proposals (including a title and a 100-word outline) should be submitted on a form which is available in WebLearn: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/7ZXU7X>. The completed form should be emailed to [undergraduate@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@classics.ox.ac.uk).

The deadline for applying for approval of a thesis topic is Wednesday of first week of the Michaelmas Term preceding your examination. However, you may wish to submit your thesis proposal during the first half of Trinity Term in your penultimate year in order to obtain early approval of your topic, enabling you to spend time in the long vacation reading widely and developing your ideas.

The word limit for theses is 10,000 words, excluding bibliography but including notes and appendices. In the case of a commentary on a text, any substantial quoting of that text need not be included in the word limit.

The deadline for submission of theses in hard copy to the Examination Schools is noon on Friday of 0th week of your final Trinity Term. Late submission will incur accumulating automatic penalties until two weeks after the submission deadline, at which point the

examination will be considered as failed. The Proctors have indicated that under no circumstances will they accept computer problems or postal delays as a justification for late submission. (If you are prevented by good cause from submitting your thesis on time, consult your Senior Tutor immediately.)

In addition to submission of your thesis in hard copy, you must also send an electronic version in Microsoft Word format to [undergraduate@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@classics.ox.ac.uk), which may be used to check the word length of your thesis. Note that electronic submission is not considered, in itself, as meeting the required deadline for the hard copy version. Theses over the word limit will be penalised.

Further guidance on writing and presenting theses is available in the Greats Handbook.

## 8. Teaching Provision

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Information about the teaching provision for individual Classics papers may be found in the Greats handbook.

## 9. Examination Conventions

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Below are the Examination Conventions which we expect will apply to students sitting the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies in 2021. Students will be notified of any changes to these conventions at least one whole term before the start of the examination.

### **Boards of the Faculty of Classics and the Faculty of Oriental Studies Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies 2022 Examination Conventions**

#### **1. Introduction**

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of an award.

#### **2. Rubrics for individual papers**

See the Examination Conventions for the Honour School of Literae Humaniores for details of individual papers in Classics: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Es47yz>.

For details of papers in Oriental Studies, please refer to the examination conventions for the relevant Oriental language in [Canvas](#).

Copies of past papers may be viewed in OXAM at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/oxam>.



Where a paper in Classics is offered for the first time, a specimen paper may be found on the Classics Faculty's WebLearn site at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/yyOLui>.

### **Points to note about individual papers and their rubrics**

Please see the Examination Conventions for the Honour School of Literae Humaniores at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Es47yz>.

## **3. Marking Conventions**

### **University scale for standardised expression of agreed final marks**

Agreed final marks for individual papers will be expressed using the following scale:

70-100	First Class
60-69	Upper second
50-59	Lower second
40-49	Third
30-39	Pass
0-29	Fail

### **Marking Descriptors**

Marks are given on a numerical scale ranging from 0 to 100 (0 to 85 for translation papers).

#### **(a) Classics papers**

Please refer to the Examination Conventions for the Honour School of Literae Humaniores at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Es47yz>.

#### **(b) Philosophy papers**

#### **(c) Papers in Oriental languages**

Please refer to the examination conventions for the relevant Oriental language in [Canvas](#).

### **Verification and reconciliation of marks**

All papers (with the exception of translation papers in Ancient History) are independently marked by two examiners or assessors. Once they have each awarded an initial mark for each script, the two markers confer in order to arrive at an agreed mark; the final mark is not generated simply by averaging the two initial marks. In the event that the two markers are unable to reach agreement on a final mark for a script, a third marking is arranged; in such cases, the middle of the three marks will normally be adopted as the final mark, although the board of examiners may at its discretion use an alternative method of determining the final mark when appropriate.

## Weighting of sections/components in particular papers

The weighting will also be noted on the front of question papers during the examination itself, except for philosophy papers.

### (a) Classics papers

Please refer to the Examination Conventions for the Honour School of Literae Humaniores at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Es47yz>.

### (b) Philosophy

In all papers, each question (except for translations: see (3) above) carries equal weight. This includes gobbet questions; i.e. the performance on the whole gobbet question is weighted the same as one essay question.

### (c) Oriental Languages

Please refer to the examination conventions for the relevant Oriental language in [Canvas](#).

## Scaling

The Examiners may choose to scale marks where in their academic judgement:

- a) a paper was more difficult or easy than in previous years;
- b) a paper has generated a spread of marks which are not a fair reflection of student performance in terms of the qualitative marks descriptors.

Scaling will only be considered and undertaken after moderation of a paper has been completed, and a complete run of marks for all papers is available. In the event that scaling is undertaken, details of the reason for the scaling and the algorithm used will be published in the examiners' report.

## Short-weight convention and departure from rubric

Where a candidate has failed to answer a compulsory question, or failed to answer the required number of questions on a paper, a mark of zero shall be awarded for the unanswered question(s).

Candidates will also be penalised for ignoring instructions on the question paper (such as 'show knowledge of both authors'), which vary according to the seriousness of the omission.

## Penalties for late or non-submission

The following penalties shall apply for late submission of extended essays and theses:

Late submission	Penalty
Up to one day (submitted on the day but after the deadline)	-5 marks

Each additional day (i.e. two days late = -6 marks three days late = -7 marks etc.; note that each weekend day counts as a full day for the purposes of mark deductions)	-1 mark
Max. deducted marks up to 2 weeks late	-18 marks
More than 2 weeks late	Failure of the whole examination

### Penalties for over-length work and departure from approved titles or subject-matter

The following penalties shall apply for exceeding the word limit for items of presubmitted work:

Percentage by which the maximum word limit is exceeded	Penalty (up to a maximum of -10)	Example: essays with word limit of 6,000 – number of words into which percentage translates	Example: theses with word limit of 10,000 – number of words into which percentage translates
Up to 2%	-1 mark	1-120 words over	1-200 words over
Over 2% and up to 4%	-2 marks	121-240 words over	201-400 words over
Over 4% and up to 6%	-3 marks	241-360 words over	401-600 words over
Each further 2%	-1 further mark	Each further 120 words over	Each further 200 words over

### Penalty for non-attendance at examinations

Failure to attend an examination will result in the failure of the whole Second Public Examination.

## 4. Classification

### Qualitative descriptors of classes

See mark bands and descriptors in section 3 above.

### Classification rules

Candidates are assigned to Classes according to the following criteria. 'Average mark' means the average of the individual marks for the eight main subjects (adjusted as appropriate for performance in the translation papers).

**First Class:** A First will be given to a candidate whose average mark is 68.5 or greater, with at least two marks of 70 or above, and no mark below 50.

**Upper Second Class:** An Upper Second will be given to a candidate not getting a First whose average mark is 59 or above, with at least two marks of 60 or above and no mark below 40.

**Lower Second Class:** A Lower Second will be given to a candidate not getting a First or an Upper Second whose average mark is 49.5 or greater, with at least two marks of 50 or above and no mark below 30.

**Third Class:** A Third will be given to a candidate not getting a Lower Second or better whose average mark is 40 or above, with not more than one mark below 30.

**Pass:** A Pass will be given to a candidate not getting a Third or better whose average mark is 30 or greater, with not more than two marks below 30.

**Fail:** A fail will be awarded to any candidate not achieving a Pass or better.

#### **Consideration of borderline cases**

Where the average of a candidate's agreed marks is not more than 0.25 below a classification threshold and the candidate would be placed in the higher class if the higher of their initial marks were accepted throughout in place of their agreed marks (both criteria to be satisfied), any of that candidate's scripts for which the agreed mark is below the higher initial mark will automatically be given a third reading. The resulting mark will be treated according to the normal rules for the treatment of third marks, with the proviso that that it cannot be lower than the original agreed mark.

#### **Vivas**

No vivas will be held as part of the examination.

## **5. Resits**

Candidates who fail or gain a pass degree at the first attempt may resit the examination on one occasion. They will be required to take the whole examination.

## **6. Mitigating Circumstances**

Where a candidate or candidates have made a submission, under Part 13 of the Regulations for Conduct of University Examinations, that unforeseen factors may have had an impact on their performance in an examination, a subset of the board will meet to discuss the individual applications and band the seriousness of each application on a scale of 1-3 (with 1 indicating minor impact, 2 indicating moderate impact, and 3 indicating very serious impact). When reaching this decision, examiners will take into consideration the severity and relevance of the circumstances, and the strength of the evidence. Examiners will also note whether all or a subset of papers were affected, being aware that it is possible for circumstances to have different levels of impact on different papers. The banding information will be used at the final meeting of the board of examiners to adjudicate on the merits of candidates. Further information is provided at [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance).

## 19. List of Faculty and Sub-Faculty Officers

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This list gives the names of the various members of the Classics and Oriental Studies Faculties who are holding major administrative jobs as of January 2020, some of whom are referred to in this handbook.

### ***Faculty of Classics***

Chair: Professor Tobias Reinhardt (Corpus Christi)

Head of Administration: Dr Audrey Cahill (Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles')

Academic Administrative Officer: Mr Andrew Dixon (Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles')

### ***Sub-Faculty of Classical Languages and Literature***

Chair: Professor Tim Rood (St Hugh's)

Secretary and Lecture-List Secretary: Dr Luke Pitcher (Somerville)

### ***Sub-Faculty of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology***

Chair: Professor Jonathan Prag (Merton)

Secretary and Lecture-List Secretary: Professor Andrew Meadows (New College)

### ***Faculty of Oriental Studies***

Chair of the Faculty Board: Professor Ulrike Roesler (University)

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr Linda Flores (Pembroke)

Senior Academic Administrator: Mrs Christine Mitchell

Head of Administration: Mr Thomas Hall

### ***Chair of Standing Committee for Classics and Oriental Studies***

Dr John Lowe (Wolfson College)

### ***Harassment Officers***

**Classics:** Professor Rhiannon Ash (Merton)

Professor Jonathan Prag (Merton)

**Oriental Studies:** Professor Polly O'Hanlon (St Cross)

### ***Other Useful Contacts***

**Classics Librarian (for Bodleian and Sackler Libraries):** Ms Charlotte Goodall

**Oriental Studies Librarian:** Ms Lydia Wright

Contact details for academic staff may be found at [www.classics.ox.ac.uk/faculty/directory](http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/faculty/directory) and [www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/staff/academicstaff.html](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/staff/academicstaff.html). Email addresses and telephone numbers for the whole University are available at [www.ox.ac.uk/contact](http://www.ox.ac.uk/contact).



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