



# **Classics & Oriental Studies Handbook 2021**

**for students taking the examination in the Honour  
School of Classics and Oriental Studies in 2023**

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## Dates of Full Terms

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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

Michaelmas 2022\*: Sunday 9 October – Saturday 3 December 2022

Hilary 2023\*: Sunday 15 January – Saturday 11 March 2023

Trinity 2023\*: Sunday 23 April – Saturday 17 June 2023

\* 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 2021 and sitting the examination in Trinity Term 2023. 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 <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/>. 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 25 January 2021, 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.gaa.ac.uk/docs/gaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-classics-and-ancient-history-including-byzantine-studies-and-modern-greek.pdf?sfvrsn=21e2cb81\\_5](https://www.gaa.ac.uk/docs/gaa/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.gaa.ac.uk/docs/gaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-languages-cultures-and-societies.pdf?sfvrsn=4ce2cb81\\_4](https://www.gaa.ac.uk/docs/gaa/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 Canvas:

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/ba-classics-and-oriental-studies-overview>

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

Oriental Studies Faculty General Student Handbook:

<https://resources.orinst.ox.ac.uk/handbooks#collapse2222836>

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://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/general-student-handbook>  
and <https://orinst.web.ox.ac.uk/node/636321>

Examiners' Reports (Classics): <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/greats-examiners-reports>

Examination Information (University website):

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

Joint Consultative Committee for Undergraduate Matters (Classics):

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/jcc-for-undergraduate-matters>

Lecture Lists (Classics): <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/lecture-list-prospectus-entries>

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>

Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice>

Information for Student Parents: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/childcare> and <https://www.oxfordsu.org/resources/0/Student-Parents/>

Student Representation (Oriental Studies): <https://resources.orinst.ox.ac.uk/graduate-student-representation>

## Statement from the Humanities Division regarding the impact of Covid-19

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Welcome to the Humanities Division at Oxford University. As you will be aware, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic means that during the 2020-21 academic year the teaching arrangements for your course are being adapted to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff whilst maintaining an excellent learning experience. The academic aims, design and content of your course will remain in place, but there will be changes to the ways in which teaching is delivered, particularly during Michaelmas Term. Whilst this means that your experience of the course will be different to normal, your Faculty and the Humanities Division are confident you will receive an excellent standard of education through a range of complementary teaching methods.

A great deal of careful planning has taken place before the start of your programme to ensure you receive the best possible learning experience and that you benefit from the resources, services and facilities available to you at Oxford. This handbook will support you with detailed guidance on teaching and assessment for your course and will be an important point of reference for you throughout the year. Please bear in mind, however, that the changing nature of the pandemic and its impact on the University means that the standard information below may not always reflect the specific adaptations that become necessary during 2020-21.

During Michaelmas Term 2020 in particular we ask you to bear in mind that circumstances may change at short notice, and that your faculty may need to alter, adapt or postpone teaching sessions for reasons beyond the faculty's control. All efforts will be made to minimise disruption and maintain the continuity of your course experience. Please ensure that you pay close attention to email communication from your faculty, remain in regular contact with your key faculty contacts (details below), and check the University's [Covid-19 webpages](#) regularly to follow the latest institutional-level guidance.

This is a challenging year in which to be commencing your course at Oxford, but it also an opportunity to develop new study skills and to collaborate with fellow students and academic staff in developing innovative and engaging educational perspectives on your course. We are looking forward to working with you to make 2020-21 a success.

# 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 (section 4 below). 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://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/handbooks>).

### ***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 (section 4 below).

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://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/handbooks>).

## 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 BC to AD 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 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 the Orator*, *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 the Orator*, *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 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 the Orator
- \*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 (*N.B. this subject may not be combined with the Early Iranian subject Achaemenid History*)

### **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 2023. 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 section 7).  
Candidates are advised to offer a Special Thesis under COS Regulations (see section 7) rather than an Optional Thesis under OS regulations.

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

**\*\*As of January 2021 the information below differs from the exam regulations available on the University website. Students taking final examinations in Trinity Term 2022 need to follow the information below if the exam regulations have not been updated on the university website.\*\***

1. Translation paper (first language)
2. Prepared texts (first language)
3. Text edition essay (first language; a submitted essay or 'take-home paper')
4. A special option (chosen from a list of topics published at the beginning of Michaelmas Term each year by the EANES Subject Group for examination in the

following academic year; candidates may instead propose their own Special Option, which must be approved by the Subject Group).

5. Selected Ancient Near Eastern and/or Egyptian artefacts (together with essay questions on material culture)
6. General paper on Ancient Near Eastern Studies or Egyptology
7. A dissertation on a topic to be approved by the EANES Subject Group (of a different character from the topic chosen for the Special Option paper)
- 8–10. Three papers chosen from Classics
11. An optional Special Thesis (see section 7)

For candidates offering Egyptian as first language, either paper 4 or paper 7 can be replaced by Egyptian Art and Architecture (paper 8 in the Examination Regulations for EANES in the Honour School of Oriental Studies), subject to the availability of relevant teaching and to tutors' approval.

### ***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 section 7)

### ***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 section 7)

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

1. Sanskrit unprepared translation
2. Essay questions on classical Indian literature, history and culture.
3. Ancient Indian linguistics

4. The historical philology of Old Indo-Aryan, with particular reference to: selected *sūktas* from the *R̥gveda Saṃhitā* and/or the *Atharvaveda Saṃhitā* and/or selected passages of prose from the *Yajurveda Saṃhitā* and/or *Brāhmaṇas*, and/or from the early *Upaniṣads*
5. Chosen area of Sanskrit studies. Chosen area to be approved by the Subject Group. Applications for approval must be submitted by the Monday of the sixth week of the Trinity Term of the academic year preceding the examination
6. A special subject as approved by the Subject Group
7. Dissertation
- 8, 9, 10. Three papers on one of the following additional languages: Hindi, Early Iranian, Pali and Prakrit, Tibetan or Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies)

### ***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 section 7). Candidates wishing to write a thesis as an optional paper are advised to offer it as a Special Thesis under COS Regulations (see section 7) rather than as an optional special subject under OS regulations.

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

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### ***Akkadian***

1. Translation paper (second language)
2. Prepared texts (second language)
3. Text edition essay (second language; a submitted essay or 'take-home paper')

Instead of *either* paper 2 *or* paper 3, candidates may offer one of papers 4, 5, 6, or 7 as specified for the Honour School of Oriental Studies (Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies) and listed under Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies as a main subject in this handbook, subject to the availability of relevant teaching and to tutors' approval.

### ***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. Translation paper
2. Prepared texts
3. Text edition essay (a submitted essay or 'take-home paper')

### **Egyptian**

1. Translation paper (second language)
2. Prepared texts (second language)
3. Text edition essay (second language; a submitted essay or 'take-home paper')

Instead of *either* paper 2 *or* paper 3, candidates may offer one of papers 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 as specified for the Honour School of Oriental Studies (Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies), which are the same as papers 4, 5, 6, and 7, together with Egyptian Art and Architecture, as listed under Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies as a main subject in this handbook, subject to the availability of relevant teaching and to tutors' approval.

### **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 offering Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies), Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit or Turkish as main subject will offer three papers, with at least one but 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. The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC
7. The Sasanian Empire, 224-651 AD

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

8. Texts and Topics

For paper 8, 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 groups (a)-(c), and in addition may not choose under (d) a subject from group (a) if they are already offering two subjects from group (a).

### ***Pali and Prakrit***

(for candidates offering Sanskrit or Classics in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies as main subject).

The following papers will be set:

1. Unprepared translation from Pali and/or Prakrit literature
2. Prepared texts
3. Questions on Middle Indic language, literature, and culture

### ***Persian***

1. Persian prose composition and unprepared translation.
- 2 & 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 Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/ba-classics-and-oriental-studies-overview>. 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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The Examination Conventions for students sitting the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies in 2023 will be published at <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/ba-classics-and-oriental-studies-overview>. Students will be notified of any changes to the conventions at least one whole term before the start of the examination.

## 10. 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: Dr Neil McLynn (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 Barnaby Taylor (Exeter)

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

Chair: Dr Georgy Kantor (St John's)

Secretary and Lecture-List Secretary: Dr Christina Kuhn (Lady Margaret Hall)

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

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

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Professor Jay Lewis (Wolfson)

Senior Academic Administrator: Mrs Christine Mitchell

Head of Administration: Mr Thomas Hall

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

Professor Richard Rutherford (Christ Church)

### ***Harassment Officers***

**Classics:** Professor Philomen Probert (Wolfson); Dr Ed Bispham (Brasenose)

**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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