

# **Bachelor of Arts in Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**

## **FHS Handbook**

**for students sitting the final examination in**

# **2028**

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## Dates of Full Terms

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Hilary 2026: Sunday 18 January – Saturday 14 March 2026

Trinity 2026: Sunday 26 April – Saturday 20 June 2026

Michaelmas 2026\*: Sunday 11 October – Saturday 5 December 2026

Hilary 2027\*: Sunday 17 January – Saturday 13 March 2027

Trinity 2027\*: Sunday 25 April – Saturday 19 June 2027

Michaelmas 2027\*: Sunday 10 October – Saturday 4 December 2027

Hilary 2028\*: Sunday 16 January – Saturday 11 March 2028

Trinity 2028\*: Sunday 23 April – Saturday 17 June 2028

\* provisional

## Disclaimer

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This handbook applies to students starting the Bachelor of Arts in Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies in Michaelmas Term 2024 (4-year course) or Michaelmas Term 2025 (3-year course) and sitting the final examination in Trinity Term 2028. 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 22 January 2026, 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 Asian & Middle Eastern 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/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/classics-and-ancient-history-\(including-byzantine-studies-and-modern-greek\)](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/classics-and-ancient-history-(including-byzantine-studies-and-modern-greek))
- Languages, Cultures and Societies: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-languages-cultures-and-societies>

## Useful Links

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BA Classics & Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Course Page in Canvas:

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/ba-classics-and-asian-&-middle-eastern-studies-overview>

Classics Faculty Undergraduate Information in Canvas:

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438>

Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Faculty General Student Handbook:

<https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/handbooks>

Complaints and Appeals: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/complaints-and-academic-appeals>

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

Equality and Diversity at Oxford: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/equality-and-diversity> and <https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity>

Examiners' Reports:

Classics: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/greats-examiners-reports>

Asian & Middle Eastern Studies: [Examiners Reports](#) (Student Hub link)

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://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/lecture-list-prospectus-entries>

Lecture Lists (Asian & Middle Eastern Studies): <http://intranet.orient.ox.ac.uk/roombooker/>

Prizes for Performance in Undergraduate Examinations (Classics):

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/prizes-for-exceptional-performance-in->

[undergraduate-examinations](#)

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/>

## 1. Introduction

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This handbook offers advice and information on the **FHS Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies** course, but the official prescription for the exam is that found in *Examination Regulations*.

There are two versions of the course:

(1) ***Classics with Asian & Middle Eastern Studies***, a four-year degree in which Classics is your main subject and you take up an Asian or Middle Eastern language in your sixth term; and

(2) ***Asian & Middle Eastern Studies with Classics***, a three- or four-year degree in which your main subject is drawn from Asian & Middle Eastern Studies and you take up Classics in your fourth term. For students taking this version of the degree with Arabic, Persian or Turkish, the overall course duration is four years, including a year abroad in your second year (the year abroad is optional for those taking Hebrew).

The two versions of the course are outlined in more detail in Sections 3 and 4 below.

Like most undergraduate degrees at Oxford, the BA in Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies is divided into two parts, each culminating in a formal examination: the First Public Examination (known as “Mods” or “Prelims”) and the Final Honour School. All of the papers available to Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies students are shared with either the BA in Literae Humaniores or the BA in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies. Full descriptions of the papers available and of prescribed texts, as well as guidance and information on topics such as writing essays and commentaries, online study aids, libraries etc., may be found in the [Mods and Greats Handbooks](#) (“Greats” being the informal name for the Honour School of Literae Humaniores) and in the Asian & Middle Eastern Studies [Undergraduate Student 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 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; please consult your tutor if you have any concerns about the availability of teaching.

Also visit the Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies faculty websites for latest news and events, links to online resources for classicists and lecture information  
<https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/> and <https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/>

## **2. Aims and Objectives of the Course**

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### ***Aims***

The BA in Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian or Middle Eastern 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: Classics with Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**

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Classics with Asian & Middle Eastern Studies is a four-year course, in which you spend the first five terms working towards the First Public Examination, **Honour Moderations in Classics** (also known as “Mods”).

#### **Mods syllabus**

Please see the Mods Handbook for the 2026 year of examination at  
<https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/handbooks>.

#### **Finals syllabus**

During the second part of the course (terms 6-12), you work towards the final examination, **Honour School of Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**, in which you take five options in Classics and three in your Asian or Middle Eastern language. You may also offer an Optional Additional Thesis as a ninth subject.

At least **two** of your Classics options must involve the study of texts in Greek and/or Latin. The Classics text-based papers are indicated in the list of Classics options in section 6 below. If you take Greek or Latin for Beginners (which consists of two written papers and counts as two options), you are only required to offer one text-based option.

There are a few combinations that are not allowed because of timetabling or overlap: see section 6 below for details. Otherwise, the choice is extremely free and you can choose to concentrate on Literature, say, or Ancient History, if you wish.

A list of the Classics options available at finals is provided in section 6 of this handbook. For full details of these options and the way they are assessed, please consult the Greats Handbook for the relevant year of examination (available at  
<https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/handbooks>).

Below is a summary of the papers which you take in your Asian or Middle Eastern language at finals. Please see the [UG AMES Subsidiary Languages Handbook](#) for further details.

#### **Akkadian**

1. Akkadian as subsidiary language: Translation paper
2. Akkadian as subsidiary language: Prepared texts

3. Akkadian as subsidiary language: Text edition essay (a submitted essay or ‘take-home paper’)

You may, if you wish, replace either paper 2 or paper 3 with one of papers 4, 5 or 6 as specified for Assyriology as a main subject in the regulations for the Honour School of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies. Any substitution may not be available and is subject to approval by the Subject Group.

### ***Arabic***

1. Arabic (as 2<sup>nd</sup> Language): 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***

#### *Either*

1. Classical Armenian prose composition and unprepared translation
2. Prepared religious texts
3. Prepared historical and other texts

*or*

1. Modern Armenian prose composition and unprepared translation
2. Prepared texts from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries
3. Prepared texts from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries

### ***Coptic***

1. Coptic: Translation paper
2. Coptic: Prepared texts
3. Coptic: Text edition essay (a submitted essay or ‘take-home paper’)

### ***Early Iranian***

You must offer 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. This will be assessed in one 3-hour paper comprising two equally-weighted sections. Candidates will answer questions on two sections, the titles/subjects of which will correspond to papers 1-7. 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).

***Egyptian***

1. Egyptian as subsidiary language: Translation paper
2. Egyptian as subsidiary language: Prepared texts
3. Egyptian as subsidiary language: Text edition essay (a submitted essay or 'take-home paper')

You may, if you wish, replace either paper 2 or paper 3 with one of papers 4(i), 4(ii), 5 or 6 as specified for Egyptology as a main subject in the regulations for the Honour School of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, subject to the approval of the Subject Group.

***Hebrew***

Candidates in the Honour School of Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern 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: Rabbinic texts

**(b) Medieval Hebrew:**

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

***Pali***

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

***Persian***

1. Persian Language.
2. Pre-Modern Persian Literature
3. Modern Persian Literature

***Sanskrit***

1. Sanskrit I: Text and translation 1
2. Sanskrit II: Text and translation 2
3. Sanskrit III: Essay questions on classical Indian literature, history, and culture

### **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

## **4. Structure of the Course: Asian & Middle Eastern Studies with Classics**

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Asian & Middle Eastern Studies with Classics is either a three-year or a four-year course, depending on your choice of language in AMES. You will spend the first three terms working towards the First Public Examination, the **Preliminary Examination in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies** (also known as “Prelims”). The options for Asian & Middle Eastern Studies as a main subject are Arabic, Assyriology (Akkadian), Egyptology (Ancient Egyptian), Hebrew, Persian, Sanskrit or Turkish. If you study Arabic, Persian or Turkish you will spend your second year abroad. If you study Hebrew you may optionally spend a year abroad. Students spending their second year abroad will complete their degree in four years. If you study Assyriology, Egyptology or Sanskrit, you will not spend a year abroad, and you will complete your degree in three years.

For year abroad information, please visit the year abroad section of the [General Undergraduate Handbook for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#). There will also be compulsory briefing sessions for students planning their year abroad, and you will be contacted separately with dates and further information.

### **Prelims syllabus**

For full details of the papers which you take in your Asian or Middle Eastern language at Prelims, please see the [Undergraduate Student Handbooks](#).

### **Finals syllabus**

During the second part of the course (terms 4-9), you work towards the final examination, **Honour School of Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**, in which you take three options in Classics and seven in your Asian or Middle Eastern language (five in the case of Hebrew). You may also offer an Optional Additional Thesis as an extra subject.

Unless you are offering Greek or Latin for Beginners, at least **one** of your Classics options must involve the study of texts in Greek and/or Latin. The Classics text-based papers are indicated in the list of Classics options in section 6 below. Greek or Latin for Beginners consists of two written papers and counts as two options.

There are a few combinations that are not allowed because of timetabling or overlap: see section 6 below for details. Otherwise, the choice is extremely free and you can choose to concentrate on Literature, say, or Ancient History, if you wish.

A list of the Classics options available at finals is provided in section 6 of this handbook. For full details of these options and the way they are assessed, please consult the Greats

Handbook for the relevant year of examination (available at <https://classics.web.ox.ac.uk/handbooks>).

Below is a summary of the papers which you take in your Asian or Middle Eastern language at finals (paper numbers as specified in the Examination Regulations for the Honour School of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies). Please see the [Undergraduate Student Handbooks](#) for further details.

### ***Arabic***

1. Arabic unprepared translation into English and comprehension
2. Composition in Arabic
3. Arabic Oral/Aural Examination
4. Arabic literature
5. Islamic History 570-1500
6. Islamic religion
10. Dissertation

### ***Assyriology***

1. Akkadian Translation Paper
2. Akkadian Prepared Texts
3. Akkadian Text Edition Essay: a submitted essay (take home paper)
4. A Special Option
5. Selected Mesopotamian artefacts (together with essay questions on material culture)
6. A General Paper on Assyriology
7. A dissertation

### ***Egyptology***

1. Egyptian Translation Paper
2. Egyptian Prepared Texts
3. Egyptian Text Edition Essay: a submitted essay (take home paper)
- 4(i). A Special Option
5. Selected Egyptian artefacts (together with essay questions on material culture)
6. A General Paper on Egyptology
7. A dissertation

You may, subject to the approval of the Subject Group, replace paper 4(i) with Paper 4(ii). Egyptian Art and Architecture.

### ***Hebrew***

1. Hebrew composition and unprepared translation
2. Prepared texts I: Biblical texts
3. Prepared Texts II: Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew Texts
4. Prepared Texts III: Modern Hebrew literature
8. Dissertation

### ***Persian***

1. Unprepared translation from Persian
2. Translation into Persian and essay

### 3. Oral

Two of papers 4, 5 and 6:

4. Persian literature: 1000 – 1400
5. Persian literature: 1400 – 1900
6. Persian literature: 1900 – the present

### 7. Themes in Iranian history

### 10. Dissertation

### ***Sanskrit***

1. Sanskrit I: Kāvya
2. Sanskrit II: Śāstra
3. Sanskrit III: Ancient Indian linguistics
4. Sanskrit IV: The historical philology of Old Indo-Aryan
5. Sanskrit V: Option paper
6. Sanskrit VI: Essay questions on classical Indian literature, history and culture
7. Dissertation

### ***Turkish***

1. Unprepared translation from Ottoman and modern Turkish
2. Translation into Turkish and essay in Turkish
3. Oral
4. Ottoman historical texts
5. Turkish political and cultural texts, 1860 to the present
6. Modern Turkish literary texts
10. Dissertation

## **5. 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 and Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian & Middle Eastern 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 Asian or Middle Eastern 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 your Asian or Middle Eastern 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 your Asian or Middle Eastern 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 and Asian & Middle Eastern 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.

## 6. List of options in Classics and Philosophy

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Here is a list of the options in Classics and Philosophy available to students sitting finals in Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies in 2028. For detailed prospectuses, text prescriptions and prescribed editions, please refer to the Greats Handbook for your year of examination. Please note that not all Literae Humaniores options are available in Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies.

## **General restrictions on combinations of options**

### **1. Candidates offering five subjects in Classics**

- At least two of your Classical subjects must be text-based (unless you are offering Greek or Latin for Beginners, in which case only one text-based subject is required).

### **2. Candidates offering three subjects in Classics**

- At least one of your Classical subjects must be text-based (unless you are offering Greek or Latin for Beginners, in which case this requirement does not apply).
- You may offer no more than one of the following post-Classical subjects: 110, 111, 517, 518 and 581.

Notes:

**GTB** – Greek text-based subject

**LTB** – Latin text-based subject

**GLTB** – Greek or Latin text-based subject (depending on which version of the paper you offer)

**S** – assessed by submitted work

## **Ancient Greek, Roman and Medieval Philosophy**

You may offer up to two subjects from the list below.

**110** Medieval Philosophy: Aquinas

**111** Medieval Philosophy: Duns Scotus and Ockham

**115** Plato, *Republic* (in translation)

**116** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (in translation)

**130** Plato, *Republic* (in Greek) **GTB**

**131** Plato on Knowledge, Language and Reality in *Theaetetus* and *Sophist* (in Greek) **GTB**

**132** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (in Greek) **GTB**

**133** Aristotle on Nature, Life and Mind (in Greek) **GTB**

**134** Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in Greek) **GTB**

**135** Latin Philosophy (in Latin) **LTB**

**136** Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in Latin) **LTB**

**137** Plato on Knowledge, Language and Reality in *Theaetetus* and *Sophist* (in translation)

**138** Aristotle on Nature, Life and Mind (in translation)

**139** Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in translation)

## **Ancient History**

If you offer two or three subjects in Ancient History, at least one must be a period paper (401-406 and 421-426). If you offer four subjects, at least two must be period papers. If you offer five subjects, at least three must be period papers.

Subjects 421-424 may only be taken by candidates who offered **Latin as their single language** in Prelims or Mods. Subjects 425 and 426 may only be taken by candidates who offered **Ancient Greek as their single language** in Prelims or Mods. No more than one of subjects 421-426 may be taken.

**401** Greek History 1: Archaic Greek History c.750 to 479 BC (in Greek) **GTB**

**402** Greek History 2: Thucydides and the Greek World: 479 BC to 403 BC (in Greek) **GTB**

**403** Greek History 3: The End of the Peloponnesian War to the Death of Philip II of

Macedon: 403 BC to 336 BC (in Greek) **GTB**

**404** Roman History 4: Polybius, Rome and the Mediterranean: 241 BC to 146 BC (in Greek)  
**GTB**

**405** Roman History 5: Republic in Crisis: 146 BC to 46 BC (in Latin) **LTB**

**406** Roman History 6: Rome, Italy and Empire from Caesar to Claudius: 46 BC to  
AD 54 (in Latin) **LTB**

**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, ca. 300 BC-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 to AD 312)

**413** Sexuality and Gender in Greece and Rome

**414** The Conversion of Augustine **LTB**

**415** The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC

**421** Greek History 1: Archaic Greek History c.750 to 479 BC (in translation)

**422** Greek History 2: Thucydides and the Greek World: 479 BC to 403 BC (in translation)

**423** Greek History 3: The End of the Peloponnesian War to the Death of Philip II of  
Macedon: 403 BC to 336 BC (in translation)

**424** Roman History 4: Polybius, Rome and the Mediterranean: 241 BC to 146 BC (in  
translation)

**425** Roman History 5: Republic in Crisis: 146 BC to 46 BC (in translation)

**426** Roman History 6: Rome, Italy and Empire from Caesar to Claudius: 46 BC to  
AD 54 (in translation)

**499** Thesis in Ancient History **S**

### ***Classical Archaeology***

If you are offering Classics as your main subject, you may offer up to two subjects from the list below, or up to three if one of them is a thesis (subject 699).

If you are offering an Asian or Middle Eastern language as your main subject, you may offer a maximum of two subjects from this list.

**601** The Greeks and the Mediterranean World c.950 BC-500 BC

**602** Greek Art and Archaeology from c.500 to 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

**699** Thesis in Greek and Roman Archaeology **S**

### ***Greek and Latin Literature***

Please note the following restrictions:

- If you offer three or more subjects in Greek and Latin Literature, you must offer at least one of 501/521 Greek Core and 502/522 Latin Core.
- The non-text-based version of Greek Core (521) is only available to candidates offering Greek for Beginners.
- The non-text-based version of Latin Core (522) is only available to candidates offering Latin for Beginners.

- You may offer only one of subjects 503, 504, 507 and 553. This is because these subjects involve the completion of an extended essay during the same four-week window at the end of Hilary Term (for further details, please see the Greats Handbook).
- Only one of subjects 515 and 524 may be taken.

Subjects 512, 515, 524 and 525 are taught in Faculty classes which take place in alternate years. In the 2026-27 academic year, classes will be given for subjects 515 and 525. In 2027-28, classes will be given for subjects 512 and 524. You may offer these subjects in any year of examination, as long as you are able to attend the classes when they are held.

**501** Greek Core **GTB**

**502** Latin Core **LTB**

**503** Historiography **S** (+ 1.5-hour translation exam) **GLTB**

**504** Lyric Poetry **S** (+ 1.5-hour translation exam) **GLTB**

**505** Early Greek Hexameter Poetry **GTB**

**506** Greek Tragedy **GTB**

**507** Comedy **S** (+ 1.5-hour translation exam) **GLTB**

**508** Hellenistic Poetry **GTB**

**509** Cicero the Orator **LTB**

**510** Ovid **LTB**

**511** Latin Didactic **LTB**

**512** Neronian Literature **LTB**

**513** Euripides, *Orestes*: papyri, manuscripts, text **GTB**

**515** Catullus: manuscripts, text, interpretation **LTB**

**517** Byzantine Literature **GTB**

**518** Modern Greek Poetry **GTB**

**521** Greek Core (non-text-based)

**522** Latin Core (non-text-based)

**524** Seneca, *Medea*: manuscripts, text, interpretation **LTB**

**525** Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan **LTB**

**581** The Latin Works of Petrarch **LTB**

**599** Thesis in Literature **S**

### ***Philology and Linguistics***

You may offer up to two subjects from the list below, or up to three if one of them is a thesis (subject 598). If you are offering an Asian or Middle Eastern language as your main subject, you may not take all three of 553, 554 and 598.

Please note the following restrictions:

- Subject 553 may not be combined with any of subjects 503, 504 or 507.
- Subject 554 may not be taken by candidates who took the Historical Linguistics and Comparative Philology paper at Mods.

**551** Greek Historical Linguistics **GTB**

**552** Latin Historical Linguistics **LTB**

**553** General Linguistics and Comparative Philology **S**

**554** Comparative Philology: Indo-European, Greek and Latin

***Greek or Latin for Beginners***

(referred to as “Second Classical Language” in the Greats Handbook)

This counts as two subjects. If you offered Latin only in Prelims or Mods, you take subjects 566 and 568. If you offered Greek only in Prelims or Mods, you take subjects 567 and 569.

**566 Greek Verse**

**567 Latin Verse**

**568 Greek Prose**

**569 Latin Prose**

***Paper Descriptions***

Descriptions of all of the above 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 Secreto conflictu curarum mearum*, *De Vita solitaria*, *Epistolae familiares* (in F. Petrarcha, *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*).

## **7. Theses in Classics and Optional Additional 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, an Optional Additional Thesis which may be in Classics, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies or a subject linking the two. In the examination, any mark for an Optional Additional 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. those indicated as such in the list above).

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-asian-and-middle-eastern-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 submitting your thesis to the University's online exams platform, Inspera, 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.)

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

## 7. Teaching Provision

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Information about the teaching provision for individual Classics papers may be found in the [Mods and Greats Handbooks](#).

Information about the teaching provision for individual papers in Asian and Middle Eastern languages may be found in the Asian & Middle Eastern Studies [Undergraduate Student Handbooks](#).

## 8. Examination Conventions

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The Examination Conventions for students sitting the Honour School of Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies in 2028 will be published at least one full term before your first submission deadline or written exam in the examination at: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/ba-classics-and-asian-&-middle-eastern-studies-overview>.

## 9. Plagiarism

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This is the University definition of plagiarism (c.f.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism?wssl=1>):

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition. Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence.

While this formal definition is particularly directed towards Finalists writing theses, the following guidelines are relevant to the writing of essays throughout your undergraduate career.

- i. Plagiarism is the use of material appropriated from another source or from other sources with the intention of passing it off as one's own work. Plagiarism may take the form of unacknowledged quotation or substantial paraphrase. Sources of material include all printed and electronically available publications in English or other languages, or unpublished materials, including theses, written by others. The Proctors regard plagiarism as a serious form of cheating for which offenders can expect to receive severe penalties, possibly including disqualification from the examination process or expulsion from the university (as stated in the box above). Plagiarism in tutorial essays or other work which is not formally examined is a disciplinary matter for colleges, who may choose to apply a range of severe penalties, including rustication or even sending down. You should be aware that there are now sophisticated electronic mechanisms for identifying plagiarised passages, and you should also be aware that anyone writing a reference for you in the future who is aware that you have plagiarised work may feel obliged to mention this fact in their reference.
- ii. Your work will inevitably sometimes involve the use and discussion of material written by others with due acknowledgement and with references given. This is standard critical practice and can be clearly distinguished from appropriating without acknowledgement material produced by others and presenting it as your own, which is what constitutes plagiarism.
- iii. An essay is essentially **your** view of the subject. While you will be expected to be familiar with critical views and debates in relation to the subject on which you are writing, and to discuss them as necessary, it is your particular response to the theme or question at issue that is required.
- iv. When you read the primary texts that you will be discussing, it is a good idea to **find your own examples** of episodes, themes, arguments, etc. in them that you wish to discuss. If you work from your own examples, you will be much less likely to appropriate other people's materials.
- v. When you are taking notes from secondary sources, a) Always note author, title (of book or journal, and essay or article title as appropriate), place of publication (for books), and page numbers. b) If you copy out material word for word from secondary sources, make sure that you identify it as quotation (by putting inverted commas round it) in your notes. This will ensure that you recognise it as such when you are reading it through in preparing your

thesis. c) At the same time always note down page numbers of quoted material. This will make it easier for you to check back if you are in doubt about any aspect of a reference. It will also be a necessary part of citation (see vi below).

vi. When you are writing your essay, make sure that you identify material quoted from critics or ideas and arguments that are particularly influenced by them. There are various ways of doing this, in your text and in footnotes. If you are substantially indebted to a particular critic's arguments in the formulation of your materials, it may not be enough to cite his or her work once in a footnote at the start or the end of the essay. Make clear, if necessary in the body of your text, the extent of your dependence on these arguments in the generation of your own – and, ideally, how your views develop or diverge from this influence.

vii. Example: This is a passage from A. Barchiesi, *Speaking Volumes: Narrative and Intertext in Ovid and Other Latin Poets* (London, 2001), 54:

'Something similar might be observed in a "pure" elegiac text, antipodal to epic, such as *Amores* 3.6. This elegy is a long appeal addressed to an obstinate little stream obstructing Ovid's path to his love. The erotic situation lies completely in the background, abstract and vague; Ovid turns his whole attention to the obstacle and to the strategies aimed at overcoming it. The river is described in essentially "anti-Callimachean" terms: it has muddy banks (3.6.1), abundant and even filthy waters (v. 8: *et turpi crassas gurgite volvis aquas*). These features accord well with the narrative function of the stream that obstructs the amorous quest of the elegiac poet. But what is intriguing are the arguments Ovid uses to appease the flood. To honour the unnamed stream, the poet lists lofty examples of great rivers which have felt the power of love . . . He then goes on to develop a long narrative example, the story of a river in love, but, significantly, the story is of *epic* provenance: Mars' rape of Ilia, who afterward was offered consolation by the Anio. The entire story . . . appeared in a prominent position at the beginning of Ennius' *Annales*. This episode, though transcribed by Ovid in his own manner and in the style of elegy, is indeed an unforeseen guest in a poem of the *Amores*.'

#### **A. Plagiarism:**

'*Amores* 3.6 is addressed to a river which is stopping Ovid from getting to his love. Ovid leaves the love-situation in the background, and turns his whole attention to the river, and strategies for overcoming this obstacle. The description of the river makes it essentially "anti-Callimachean": it has muddy banks and dirty waters. These features fit the narrative function of the stream that obstruct the elegiac love-poet's quest. Ovid's arguments to the river are very interesting. He lists lots of lofty examples of rivers in love, and then develops a long narrative of a story about a river in love from epic. This story concerns the river Anio, which offered his love to Ilia after Mars' rape of her. The whole story had a prominent position at the beginning of Ennius' epic poem the *Annales*. Ovid treats it in his own manner and in elegiac style; but it still comes as a surprise in the *Amores*'.

This version adds almost nothing to the original; it mixes direct appropriation with close paraphrase. There is no acknowledgement of the source; the writer suggests that the argument and the development of it are his or her own.

#### **B. Legitimate use of the passage:**

'*Amores* 3.6 forms part of the intensified conflict between genres which marks Book 3 of the

*Amores*. In the first poem of Book 3, Tragedy and Elegy vie for Ovid's soul; in the last, he wistfully abandons elegy for tragedy. In this poem, addressed to a river that prevents the speaker from reaching his beloved, Ovid moves into the prolonged narration of a story that comes in epic: the river Anio's winning and wooing of Ilia after Mars has raped her. This story came in the first book of Ennius' *Annales*. Barchiesi has pointed out that the river seems "anti-Callimachean" in its size and dirtiness.<sup>1</sup> The relation with epic may, however, be more elaborate and complicated. Within the *Iliad*, Achilles' heroic advance is halted by a river; he fears an ignominious and rustic death (21.279-83). The situation of *Am.* 3.6 as a whole could be seen to mimic, on a lower level, an episode already generically disruptive. And the Anio's speech to Ilia (53-66) sounds very like a love-poem – which naturally does not work as persuasion. Epic, then, does not simply interrupt elegy in *Amores* 3.6; and the poem is part of a larger design, not just a curious surprise.

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<sup>1</sup> A. Barchiesi, *Speaking Volumes: Narrative and Intertext in Ovid and Other Latin Poets* (London, 2001), 54.'

This version uses an acknowledged paraphrase of part of the passage in forming a wider argument, with some fresh points. (The footnote is sound scholarly practice, but its omission would not be a matter of plagiarism.) The reference to the *Annales*, though originally derived from Barchiesi, does not require acknowledgement, since the writer can reasonably suppose it to be common scholarly knowledge. The final phrase echoes Barchiesi's, while disagreeing with it; but no explicit acknowledgement is required, least of all after the earlier mention.

## **10. Use of Artificial Intelligence in Learning and Assessment**

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All students are expected to abide by the Classics Faculty's policy on the acceptable use of Artificial Intelligence, which can be found in Canvas at  
<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/42438/pages/use-of-ai-in-learning-and-assessment>.

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

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This list gives the names of the various members of the Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Faculties who are holding major administrative jobs as of October 2023, some of whom are referred to in this handbook.

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

Chair: Professor Llewelyn Morgan (Brasenose)

Head of Administration: Mrs Hayley Merchant (Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles')

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

Academic Support Officer: Miss Nikki Carter (Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles')

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

Chair: Professor Adrian Kelly (Balliol)

Secretary and Lecture-List Secretary: Professor Bruno Currie (Oriel)

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

Chair: Professor Peter Thonemann (Wadham)

Secretary and Lecture-List Secretary: Dr Anna Clark (Christ Church)

### ***Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies***

Chair of the Faculty Board: Professor Henrietta Harrison (Pembroke)

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Professor Christian Sahner (New College)

Senior Academic Administrator: Mr Edmund Howard

Head of Administration: Mr Thomas Hall

### ***Chair of Standing Committee for Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies***

Professor Adrian Kelly (Balliol)

### ***Harassment Officers***

**Classics:** Dr Laura Swift (Magdalen); Professor Peter Stewart (Ioannou Centre)

**Asian & Middle Eastern Studies:** Dr Laurence Mann; Ms Leyla Najafzada

### ***Librarians***

**Classics (for Bodleian and AA&AW Libraries):** Dr Charlotte Goodall

**Asian & Middle Eastern Studies:** 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 <https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/article/our-staff>. 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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