CLASSICS PRELIM EXAMINATIONS UPDATE

Key points follow:

1) All papers will be examined online, without exception.

▪ There will be a 6-hour window for each paper.

▪ That is: when a paper "goes live", you will have 6 hours to download the paper, write your answers, and upload your script.

▪ Papers will be downloaded and scripts uploaded through Moodle.

▪ 7 days ahead of time, you will be provided with the information detailing how to find the appropriate page for your paper on Moodle. You will of course not have access to the paper before it "goes live", but you will know exactly where to go to find it, and what to do to gain access. Large Faculties have used this system last year, and students had no difficulty finding their papers and uploading their scripts.

▪ When you download your paper, it will appear as a PDF file. Your answer will have to be written on a different document.

▪ The default option, which most, if not all of you will use, will be to write your answers on Microsoft Word. If you write your answers with a word processor, such as Microsoft Word, please make sure to write all your answers on the same document. Make sure you use a Unicode font, such as Calibri or Times New Roman (which can be used for Greek as well). Please use font size 12.

▪ For candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers: candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage. If you choose to provide hand-written answers, you should upload, on Moodle, a scan of your answers or a clear photograph. We ask candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers to also mail their hand-written script to their DoS on the day of the examination.

▪ For candidates submitting photographs of your hand-written answers: you might like to make use of a scanning app on your phone to improve legibility. Free versions of these exist for various platforms, such as Genius Scan.

▪ Some further points to note: clearly identify each question and write the question number before each answer. Write your candidate number (not your name) on the front page of the document you upload. It is important to write good English. All such relevant instructions will be clearly indicated on the front page of each paper.

▪ Documents will be anonymised before they reach the examiners.

2) Papers are based on the templates of papers from previous years (details on where they might differ from previous years are indicated below). That is, they are conceived as 3-hour papers, as in previous years. 3 hours should be plenty of time to complete the examination. You are given a 6-hour window to make sure you have maximum flexibility to manage your time. No one will be expected to spend more than 3 hours on a paper, but you will be free to organise your time as you see fit within the 6-hour window.

3) Translation questions, needless to say, will not ask you to translate passages, either "seen" or "unseen", from Latin texts whose translations are available online. Latin passages have been chosen instead for which there are no published translations, in print or online. The Latin passages we have chosen for translation are written in the standard Latin you know from the texts you have been reading and studying. We will, in other words, not set texts like inscriptions or obscure technical passages for you to translate. You will be examined on the kind of Latin you have been taught. You are expected to use dictionaries and, if you find it necessary, grammars in your translation.

▪ There is no change to the Undergraduate Handbook marking criteria for translation questions.

4) Most of you do not yet know where you will be at the time of the examinations in the Easter term. We are of course aware that some of you might be in different time zones, and mitigation measures will be in place to make sure this has no adverse effect on you. The relevant information will be sent in due time.

5) Mitigation measures: the Faculty will follow University guidance, yet to be announced, on what mitigation measures should be followed.

6) Rubrics and changes from previous years: paper-by-paper

Paper 1

Rubric:

Answer **all** sections.

The Examiners will give equal weight to each Section.

All answers should be uploaded on the same document.

In Section B, clearly identify each question (i. 1, 2 ... ii. 1, 2...) before each answer.

It is important to write good English.

There is a word limit of 1500 words for the critical discussion.

Write your **candidate number** (**not** your name) on the front page of the document you upload.

For candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers: candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.

Changes from previous years:

There will be no prepared translation questions in Paper 1 this year.

Prelims Paper 1 will contain three Sections (A, B, C) and each Section will contain one question.

The question in **Section A** will consist of a passage for **translation from English into Latin**. The passage will be based on the contents of some chapters of Cicero, *In Catilinam* 1, taken from the prescribed sections. This type of exercise has not been set before but the level of difficulty of the passage will be similar to that of the five English sentences for translation into Latin set in Paper 2.

The question in **Section B** will consist of a series of **grammatical and stylistic questions** on a passage of Cicero, *In Catilinam 1* taken from the prescribed sections. This question will be of the same type as that set previously in Paper 1.

The question in **Section C** will offer a choice of two passages from the prescribed sections of the prescribed texts and ask to write a **Critical Discussion** on one of the two. This question will be of the same type as that set previously in Paper 2.

Paper 2

Rubric:

Answer **all** Sections.

The Examiners will give equal weight to each Section

All answers should be uploaded on the same document.

In Section C, clearly identify each question (i-v) before each answer.

It is important to write good English.

Write your **candidate number** (**not** your name) on the front page of the document you upload.

For candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers: candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.

Changes from previous years:

Prelims Paper 1 will contain three Sections (A, B, C) and each Section will contain one question.

The question in **Section A** will consist of an **unseen passage of Latin prose** for translation into English. For information on the nature of the passage please see above under 3).

The question in **Section B** will consist of an **unseen passage of Latin elegiac verse** for translation into English. For information on the nature of the passage please see above under 3).

The question in **Section C** will consist of five short sentences of **translation from English into Latin**. This question will be of the same type as that set previously in Paper 2.

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