

Dear Part IA Classics students,

Following my October email concerning the Faculty's plans for examinations in the Easter term, this message contains crucial updates and lays out what you should now expect. This information will also be posted on the Faculty website. Our aim is to give you maximum clarity now, as early as possible, independently of how the situation evolves. Here are the key points for you to know.

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. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that the scan or photograph uploaded is legible. In cases where the examiners cannot read a scanned script they reserve the right to ask the candidate to read out what they can read from the scan or photograph in question. 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 latest available templates, as featured on Moodle, adapted for online examination (details on where they 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. Note that there are word limits of 2000 words for essays and 1500 words for critical discussions. 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) There is no change to the Undergraduate Handbook marking criteria for essays and critical discussions. Essays and critical discussions will be marked exactly as they would have been in previous on-site examinations. You are expected to produce examination essays and critical discussions, not supervision essays and practical criticisms.

- There is, notably, no expectation for you to provide footnotes or bibliographical references. You are free to refer to an author or individual piece of work in your answers, but do note that every word counts towards the word limit. Our advice is to keep such references to the bare minimum. Focus on your own ideas and arguments.

- You can (if you wish) consult lecture notes or individual items of scholarship. Do make sure you do not reproduce any text or sustained argument without attribution. This will be easily detectable (notably via the software TurnItIN), and might be identified as plagiarism. The Faculty's advice on plagiarism can be found here:

<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/student-information/plagiarism>

- Note that you are not assessed for depth and range of bibliographical coverage. Quotes and references to scholarship should be used sparingly, as they will count towards the word count, and will only be useful if they contribute to the case \*you\* are making. Again: focus on your own ideas and arguments in your answers.

- The same is true for quotes of ancient texts. Avoid quoting large blocks of text, as they will contribute to the word count, and quotes will only add to the quality of your answer if used judiciously.

▪ You will be responsible for providing a word count for every essay or critical discussion. Note that this is also true for those candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers.

4) Translation questions for this year, needless to say, will not ask you to translate passages, either "seen" or "unseen", whose translations are available online. Passages for translation have consequently been chosen instead from Greek and Latin texts for which there are no published translations, in print or online. The Greek and Latin texts we have chosen for translation are written in the standard Greek and 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 Greek and 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.

5) There will of course be no back-translation in Papers 6 or 7, but Section B will contain a passage based on a set text you know.

6) 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.

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

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

## **Papers 1-4**

### Rubric:

Answer all three questions, which carry equal marks.

All three answers should be uploaded on the same document.

Clearly identify each question and write the question number 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:

Questions 1 and 2 will be unseen passages of Latin, one in prose and one in verse. Unlike in previous years, they will not be taken from the specified authors but will be passages in similar style.

**Paper 5**

Rubric:

Candidates for the Classical Tripos must answer three questions, one from Section A, one from Section B and one from either section. All questions carry equal marks.

Candidates for the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos must answer three questions, at least one from Section A. All questions carry equal marks.

All three essays should be uploaded on the same document.

Clearly identify each question and write the question number before each answer.

Please provide a word count for each essay.

There is a word limit of 2000 words for each essay.

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

It is important to write good English.

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:

None.

**Paper 6**

Rubric:

Candidates must attempt one section only.

Section B may be attempted only by candidates who have offered Paper 2A or Paper 2B of the Classical Tripos, or Paper GL2A or Paper GL2B of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos.

Credit will be given for knowledge of the principles of Greek accentuation.

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

Clearly identify the passage before your composition.

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:

Section B contains one passage of English prose based on the vocabulary of Lysias 1. The one verse passage, in Section C, can be written in iambics or elegiacs.

**Paper 7**

Rubric:

Candidates must attempt one section only.

Section B may be attempted only by candidates who have offered Paper 4 of the Classical Tripos.

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

Clearly identify the passage before your composition.

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:

Section B contains one passage of English prose based on the vocabulary of Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*.

Kind Regards,  
Renaud Gagné

Director of Undergraduate Studies  
University of Cambridge, Faculty of Classics  
06-02-2021