

Dear Part II 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 (except A4).
- 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. Note that there are word limits of 2000 words for essays. 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. Note that this is also true for those candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers.
- The marking criteria for the Undergraduate Thesis will be slightly updated to indicate that "wide readings" will not be an assessment factor. All other marking criteria remain the same. Lack of access to scholarship, in other words, will cause no detriment to your mark.

4) A1 Homer, Odyssey and Virgil, Aeneid

For the sake of clarity, the numbering of Paper A1 has been changed since the last communication with candidates and their supervisors. Please note this new description.

The rubric for this paper remains the same as in previous years:

Answer three questions, at least one from section A and at least one from section B.

Changes from previous years:

For 2021, the usual A1 passage in each language for translation and comment has been removed, for reasons of security.

Section A1 now contains eight individual passages in Greek or Latin for comment (you may choose any two). Section A2 allows candidates to comment on any two further individual passages in Greek or Latin from the same selection. Section A2 may only be chosen by those who have also chosen Section A1.

Sections A3 to A7 contain pairs of passages for comment and comparison. There will be one additional pair in Greek and one additional pair in Latin (but no further pair of Greek/Latin passages).

Section B, as in previous years, contains essay questions.

To clarify, candidates can choose between:

- a) any one question from A1 (2 individual passages) plus any one question from A2 (2 further individual passages from the same selection) plus one essay from B;
- b) any two comparison questions (A3-A7) plus one essay from B;
- c) A1 plus any one comparison question (A3-A7) plus one essay from B;
- d) any one question from A1 or A3-A7 plus two essays from B.

Note that a Zoom session will be offered for all candidates and interested supervisors (early in Easter Term) to go over the format of the paper and make sure everything is clear.

5) A 4: Greek and Latin Textual Criticism and Transmission of Texts

A4 will, exceptionally, be examined via “remote proctoring”. The examination will last 3 hours, and will follow the format of previous years. Course directors will give more detailed information.

6) Apart from A1, all other papers will follow the format of previous years.

7) 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.

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

Kind Regards,
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Director of Undergraduate Studies
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