Faculty of Oriental Studies

Setting conventions for the MSt in Oriental Studies, 2017-18

The formal procedures determining the conduct of examinations are established and enforced by the University Proctors. These conventions are a guide to the examiners and candidates but the regulations set out in the Examination Regulations have precedence. The examiners are nominated by the Nominating Committee in the Department and those nominations are submitted for approval by the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors.

- Numbering of papers follows that in the Examination Regulations 2017. The Examination Schools website (http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/exams/entry/) gives information on the provisional start date of the examination. The date, time and location of individual papers will be published not less than 5 weeks before the start of the first examination. For the order of papers in the examination itself, please refer to the Examination timetable. Academic dress must be worn for all parts of the examination including the viva if applicable.

- In order to maintain the anonymity of the examination, candidates are instructed to write their numbers, not their names, on their scripts.

- When submission of written work is required, the penalty posed in case of late submission without the Proctors' permission, will range from outright failure of the submitted work to a reduction in the mark awarded, as stated in Guidelines for the setting and marking of Examinations.

- As well as two hard copies of the dissertation, which it is compulsory for candidates to submit, we also request candidates to submit if possible a copy of their dissertation on CD in PDF format.

- Candidates submitting written work (e.g. dissertation, extended essay, take-home essay etc...) to Examination Schools as part of their degree assessment are required to confirm the work is their own. You may do this by completing the declaration form (available from http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/docs/Forms/work_declaration.pdf), seal it in a separate envelope and put this inside the envelope containing your written work.

- The Chairman of Examinations in Oriental Studies would like to advise candidates to obtain a signed receipt from Exam Schools for their submitted work (e.g. if you are submitting dissertations or take-home essays). Remember to write your candidate number and not your name on all submitted work.

- Candidates should note that if they have any complaints or queries concerning the examination process, including results, these should be directed in the first instance to their colleges and not to the examiners or any member of the teaching staff.

Candidates must complete a certificate confirming attendance at and participation in such lecture courses and seminars as their supervisor specified. This is downloadable from examination related forms at http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/general/forms.html
The examination will consist of the following four parts:

(i) Either:

(A) two pieces of written work, each of between 5000 and 7000 words in length, presented in proper scholarly form, two typed copies of each piece of written work to be handed in to the Chairman of Examiners, c/o The Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than 12.00 noon on Friday of 4th Week of Trinity Term. The written work must bear the candidate’s examination number (but not the name), and must be submitted with a signed declaration in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chairman of Examiners that the work is the candidate’s own. The written work and signed declaration must be in a parcel bearing the words “WRITTEN WORK FOR THE M ST IN ORIENTAL STUDIES” in block capitals on bottom left-hand corner. Each piece of work will be weighted equally in the final mark for part (i).

or

(B) a dissertation of between 12,000 and 15000 words in length, presented in proper scholarly form, two typed copies to be handed in to the Chairman of Examiners, c/o The Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than 12.00 noon on Friday of 4th Week of Trinity Term. The written work must bear the candidate’s examination number (but not the name), and must be submitted with a signed declaration in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chairman of Examiners that the work is the candidate’s own. The written work and signed declaration must be in a parcel bearing the words “WRITTEN WORK FOR THE M ST IN ORIENTAL STUDIES” in block capitals on bottom left-hand corner.

(ii), (iii) Two three-hour examination papers, consisting of either two language papers, or one language paper and another non-language paper, or two non-language papers, each paper weighted equally. Detailed setting conventions for these two papers for each candidate are listed below.

(iv) A prescribed essay of between 5000 and 7000 words on methods and research materials relating to each candidate’s area of study chosen under (i) above. The topics will be announced by the Chairman of Examiners at the conclusion of the two examination papers taken in the Examination Schools (see above, part (ii)), and can be collected from the Faculty Office in the Oriental Institute after noon on that day. Two typed copies of the essay, presented in proper scholarly form, must be handed in to the Clerk of the Examination Schools not later than seven days from the date on which the topic was set.

Examination weighting for all MSt OS subjects:
12,000-15,000 word thesis - 40%
OR
2x 5,000-7,000 word essays - 20% each
Prescribed research methods essay - 20%
Exam 1 - 20%
Exam 2 - 20%
Chinese Philosophy

1. **Current debates among selected Chinese political philosophers**
   This is a three-hour examination, in which the candidate must answer three questions from a paper consisting of ten questions altogether. Each question carries equal weighting.

2. **Philosophical themes in contemporary Neo-Confucianism**
   This is a three-hour examination, in which the candidate must answer three questions from a paper consisting of ten questions altogether. Each question carries equal weighting.

Egyptology

1. **Middle Egyptian Texts of Healing and Protection**
   This is a three-hour examination. Between four to six passage will be set. Candidates should attempt three questions; answers should include translation and annotation of the passage set, and a short essay on the passage, assessing its significance and its context, and analyzing its physical form. Each passage carries equal weighting.

2. **Iconography with Ancient Egyptian Case-studies**
   This is a three-hour examination, in which the candidate must answer three questions from a paper consisting of six to nine questions. At least one question should be answered from each of the two parts of the paper. Each question carries equal weighting.

Cuneiform Studies

1. **Prepared translations of Sumerian texts and related essay questions**
   In three questions passages from the prepared texts will be set for transliteration into Roman script, translation into English, and comment. A question may consist of two or more passages of appropriate length. All passages should be attempted. There will be three essay questions relating to the prepared texts. One essay question should be attempted. All four questions attract equal marks.

2. **Prepared translations of Akkadian texts and related essay questions**
   In four questions passages from the prepared texts will be set for transliteration into Roman script and translation into English. A question may consist of two or more passages of appropriate length. All passages should be attempted. Candidates will be required to transcribe two passages into Roman script marking vowel lengths and to comment on two passages. There will be three essay questions relating to the prepared texts. One essay question should be attempted. All five questions attract equal marks.
Sanskrit

1. Sanskrit Drama.

A list of about eight questions will be set, out of which the candidate should choose four to answer. The questions will carry equal marks.

2. Prakrit.

The paper will consist of two parts, equally weighted. The first part will consist of between two and four passages of dramatic Prakrit to be translated. These translations will be equally weighted. The second part will consist of a list of about four questions, out of which two should be answered. These answered will be equally weighted.

Tibetan

1. History and Societies of Tibet and the Himalayas

Candidates will be asked to answer three questions from a selection of eight. Each question will count equally towards the final mark.

2. Tibetan Literature and Religions

This paper will consist of two parts. Part I will contain two questions related to the classical Tibetan texts read in Michaelmas and Hilary terms (Ti se'i gnas yig by Chung tshang VI, and Chos 'byung me tog snying po by Nyang ral Nyi ma 'od zer). (30% of total marks per question)

In Part II candidates will be asked to answer one question from a selection of three. (40% of total marks)

Classical Indian Studies

(Sanskrit Narratives and their Transmission to China)

1. Sanskrit Literature

The paper will consist of three parts.

(A) Seen Sanskrit Texts: Two Sanskrit passages will be set for translation into English, each worth 20% of the total marks. There will also be two sets of short grammatical questions on the texts, each set worth 5%.

(B) Sanskrit Grammar: From a list of about 12 questions on Sanskrit grammar, the candidate will be asked to answer 6, each worth 5%.

(C) Unseen Sanskrit Translation: A short passage of Sanskrit will be set, with a few vocabulary items provided, worth 20%.

The relevant Set Texts are:

1) Pañcatantra, Books 1-2.
2) Rāmāyaṇa, the first Canto of Book 1.
2. **Buddhist Chinese (3 hours).**

There will be two parts. One part will contain seen material from the Buddhist texts in Chinese read during the course, and one part will contain unseen material. Each part will consist of two passages for translation into English. Each part will carry equal weight. Dictionaries may not be used in this examination.

The relevant Set texts are:

- **Weimojie suo shuo jing** 維摩詰所說經 T 475, chapter 2 (T vol. 14, no. 475, p. 539a 7-c 13), with excerpts from the commentary *Zhu Weimojie jing* 注維摩詰經 T 1775 (T vol. 38, no. 1775, p. 338c 13-343c 12).
- Extracts from Daoxuan’s *Shijia fangzhi* 释迦方志 T 2088 Part VI 969c27-970b29; 972a28-972b18.
- Extracts from Daoxuan’s *Ji Shenzhou Sanbao gantong lu* 集神州三寶感通録 T2106 T52 No. 2106, 422c9-423a7; 424c22-425a15.
- Biography of Daoxuan from Zanning’s *Song gaoseng zhuan* 宋高僧傳 T2061 790b7-791b26.
- Extracts from Daoxuan’s *Daoxuan lūshi gantong lu* 道宣律師感通録 T2107 436c24-437a14; 437b13-c5.
- Extract from Meng Xianzhong’s *Jin’gang bore jing jiyan ji* 金刚般若經集驗記 XZJ Volume 87, No. 1629 461b12-462a16.

All texts are taken from either the *Taishō* edition (text and apparatus) of the Chinese Buddhist canon (Takakusu Jun'irō 高楠順次郎 and Watanabe Kaikyoku 渡辺海旭 [eds.]. *Taishō shinshū daizōkyō* 大正新修大藏經, Tōkyō: Issaikyō kankōkai, 1924-1932), or the *Xuzangjing* (XZJ), the *Continued [Buddhist] Canon* (text and apparatus; *Shinsan Dainihon Zokuzōkan* 新纂大日本續藏經, Tokyo: Kokusho Kankokai, 1975-1989), as reproduced in the electronic CBReader: [http://cbetaonline.dila.edu.tw](http://cbetaonline.dila.edu.tw).

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**Buddhist Studies (Pali and Philosophy)**

1. **Pali**

There will be two parts. One part will contain seen material from the Pali corpus (Chattha Saṅgāyana Tipiṭaka Version 4.0, Vipassana Research Institute, Igatpuri [http://tipitaka.org/romn/]), and one part will contain unseen material also from the Pali corpus (same edition). Each part will contain two passages for translation in English, and each part will carry equal weight. Dictionaries may not be used in this examination.

The relevant Set Texts are:

- Angulimala Sutta, Majjhima Nikaya MN 86.
- Yodhajiva Sutta, Samyutta Nikaya SN 42.3.
- Bhaddekaratta Sutta, Majjhima Nikaya MN 131.
- Mahagovinda Sutta, Digha Nikaya DN 19.
- Upasampada kammavaca (Dickson, JRAS 1885).
- Upasampadavidhi, Mahavagga, Vinaya.
- Kammavaggo, Pancavaggo, Parivara, Vinaya, sections 482 and 485.
- Parivara Atthakatha, Vinaya, sections 484 and 485.
- Jataka 148, 113 and 407, Khuddaka Nikaya.
- Bhikkhuni Vagga, Samyutta Nikaya, suttas 1–5.
2. **Buddhist Philosophy**

A three-hour examination on fundamental concepts and theories in Buddhist philosophy. At least ten essay questions will be set, of which candidates will be asked to answer three. All questions attract equal marks.

**Buddhist Studies (Chinese and Sanskrit)**

1. **Buddhist Chinese**
   
   There will be two parts. One part will contain seen material from the Chinese Buddhist Canon (Takakusu Junjirō 高楠順次郎 and Watanabe Kaikyoku 渡辺海旭 [eds.]. *Taishō shinshū daizōkyō* 大正新修大藏經. Tōkyō: Issaikyō kankō kai, 1924-1932. Digital edition: CBETA Reader 2014), and one part will contain unseen material, also from the Chinese Buddhist Canon. Each part will consist of two passages for translation into English. Each part will carry equal weight.

2. **Elementary Sanskrit**
   
   The paper will consist of two parts.
   (A) **Seen Sanskrit Texts:** Two Sanskrit passages will be set for translation into English, each worth 20% of the total marks. There will also be two sets of short grammatical questions on the texts, each set worth 5%.
   (B) **Sanskrit Grammar and Composition:** From a list of about 12 questions on Sanskrit grammar, the candidate will be asked to answer 5, each worth 5%. Also, a short passage of English will be set for translation into Sanskrit (in the *devanāgarī* script), worth 25%.

**Modern Indian History**

1. **‘Societies and Economies in India, c. 1600-1800’**, taken from the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies course, administered via SIAS. The assessment will be based on a three hour written examination. Students must answer three questions out of at least 8 questions that will be set for the paper. For marking purposes, all answers are equally weighted (33.3% per answer).

2. **An Optional paper, entitled ‘Qualifying Examination in Persian’**. The assessment will be based on a three hour written examination. Four questions will be set.

   Q1. Reading comprehension. Candidates will be required to demonstrate their understanding of a passage of Persian by answering questions on it in English (20% of the marks).
   Q2. One passage will be set for translation from Persian into English (30% marks).
   Q3. Two passages will be set for translation from English into Persian. Candidates should select one passage for translation (30% of the marks).
Q4. Three titles will be set for an essay in Persian (150 words). Candidates should select one title (20% of the marks).

3. ‘The History and Politics of South Asia’, taken from the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies course, administered via SIAS. The assessment will be based on a three hour written examination. Students must answer three questions out of at least 8 questions that will be set for the paper. For marking purposes, all answers are equally weighted (33.3% per answer).

4. ‘The Economic Development of South Asia: 1947-2017’, taken from the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies course, administered via SIAS. The assessment will be based on a three hour written examination. Students must answer three questions out of at least 8 questions that will be set for the paper. For marking purposes, all answers are equally weighted (33.3% per answer).

**Hebrew (Modern Middle East)**

History of the Middle East, 1860-1970, taken from the MPhil in Modern Middle East. The assessment will be based on a three-hour written examination. Students must answer three out of 10 questions that will be set for the paper. For marking purposes, all answers are equally weighted (33.3% per answer).

**Modern Middle East**

1. **International Relations of the Middle East**

Candidates must answer three questions from a paper of at least ten essay questions. Each essay represents one third of the total available marks. It is thus extremely important for candidates to complete three full essays to do well in these papers.

2. **History of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1979-2005**

Candidates must answer three questions from a paper of at least ten essay questions. Each essay represents one third of the total available marks. It is thus extremely important for candidates to complete three full essays to do well in these papers.

**Turkish**

This paper consists of 3 parts: Part 1: Comprehension (25%): The candidates will be required to demonstrate their understanding of a passage of modern Turkish by answering questions on it in English. Part 2: Translation from Turkish (35%): The candidates will be required to translate a passage of modern Turkish (unseen) into English. Part 3: Grammar (40%): A set of English sentences, designed to test
knowledge of Turkish grammar, will be set for translation into Turkish. Candidates should attempt all the sentences. Dictionaries may not be used in this examination.