

## **Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Papers available for the Honour School of Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**

### **For students commencing in MT26 for examination in 2028.**

*Examination Regulations* require candidates “to offer eight papers. Three papers must be in Religion and three in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; the other two may be in either Religion or Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. All candidates will be required to submit as one of their eight papers either a thesis (in Religion) or a dissertation (in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies).”

For Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, candidates specialising in Hinduism (with Sanskrit) must offer papers from the approved lists below.

### **Hinduism with Sanskrit**

The official syllabus descriptions for individual papers are provided in the Bachelor of Arts in Sanskrit Handbook, accessible through [the Faculty’s Handbooks page](#).

All candidates must offer the following papers:

*Sanskrit Texts I OR Advanced Sanskrit Texts I*

*Sanskrit Texts II OR Advanced Sanskrit Texts II*

*Essay questions on classical Indian literature, history and culture*

Additionally candidates may offer ONE or TWO papers selected from the list below, providing that the total number of AMES papers offered does not exceed five, including the AMES dissertation (if offered).

*Brāhmaṇism (Sanskrit)*

*Vaiṣṇavism (Sanskrit)*

*Śaivism (Sanskrit)*

*Ancient Indian Linguistics*

*The historical philology of Old Indo-Aryan*

Option paper

The availability and approval of Option Papers are confirmed annually. Students should consult their Sanskrit tutor at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies to discuss possible permissible options, which will be reviewed by the Joint Committee of the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Theology and Religion in Trinity Term 2027, when this statement may be reissued.

With the exception of the Special Subject, teaching for the optional papers will take place during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms of a student’s final year and will consist of weekly reading classes in the chosen language and ca. 6 essays with accompanying tutorials. (For

*Ancient Indian Linguistics*, lectures are also scheduled in Michaelmas Term of the final year.) The method of examination will be one three-hour in person paper containing a combination of texts for translation into English and essay questions on the topics covered in the tutorials.

The Special Subject will be taught in the Michaelmas and Hilary Terms of a student's final year, but primarily through tutorials and examined by one three-hour essay paper or, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee of the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Theology and Religion, a second dissertation. In the case of the latter, students will receive regular supervision from an appropriate faculty member to discuss a suitable topic, research methods and bibliography. Not all options may be available each year.

### **The Asian and Middle Eastern Studies dissertation**

Candidates may (and if **not** offering the Theology and Religion Thesis, candidates **must**) offer an AMES dissertation as a fourth or fifth AMES paper.

Candidates choosing an AMES dissertation (rather than a Theology and Religion thesis) will be subject to the same structure and deadlines as other Sanskrit students within the Faculty. More information on the dissertation is available from the [the Faculty's Handbooks page](#).

### **Prerequisites and restrictions**

The offering of individual papers is subject to the restrictions and prerequisites pertaining to those papers in the Bachelor of Arts in Sanskrit Handbook, accessible through [the Faculty's Handbooks page](#).

The offering of individual papers from the Faculty of Theology and Religion is subject to the restrictions and prerequisites pertaining to those papers.

Any students or college tutors concerned about the suitability of a particular paper or paper combination are welcome to approach the Sanskrit course coordinator for advice.

### **Weighting in Assessment**

All papers, including the AMES dissertation, are equally weighted as one of eight Honour School papers. The delivery and assessment of each option is outlined in the individual paper descriptions.