

University of Oxford

HISTORY FACULTY

Undergraduate Office

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FINAL EXAMINATION IN THE HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY 2026

To:

All candidates in the Final Honour School of History

All candidates in Joint Schools with History

CANDIDATES MUST READ THIS CIRCULAR CAREFULLY

EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

Main School examinations are scheduled from Monday 25 May to Friday 5 June.

Joint School examinations start on Monday 18 May and finish on Wednesday 17 June.

Exam Timetables are available online at:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables>.

For all other exam-related information, see: [In-person exams | University of Oxford](#) **It is essential that you consult this page, as it contains crucial information on how and when to access the exam room, what you may take with you, what you must wear, and more.**

Most in-person exams will take place at the Examination Schools on the High Street or at Ewert House in Summertown. A small number of exams will also take place at the St Cross Building and St Luke's Chapel.

If you experience unexpected health or personal difficulties within five working days of your exams, or if you wish to inform the examiners of any mitigating circumstances that may have affected your performance during any of your exams, please refer to the guidance available on the [In-person Exams](#) and [Problems Completing Your Assessment](#) webpages.

THE EXAMINATION

Candidate number

For handwritten exams, you will need to know your candidate number to complete the front of your script booklet(s). You can check your candidate number on **student self-service**, as well as on your **timetable**, and you will be able to write this information down to bring with you to the exam room. If you realise at the start of your exam that you do not know your candidate number, an invigilator will be able to assist with providing this information. For typed exams, your candidate number will be shown within Inspira.

To ensure your exam response can be marked anonymously, you **must not** write or type your name or student number anywhere within your exam script or exam response. Write only your candidate number, the School for which you are entered ('History', 'History and Modern Languages', 'History and Economics', 'Ancient and Modern History', 'History and English', or 'History and Politics') and the number and a short title for the paper (e.g. 'Special Subject English Architecture').

Legibility and intelligibility

It is your responsibility to write legibly, and you should practice your handwriting under time constraints in advance of the examination. You must also write intelligibly: do not employ text-speak, non-standard abbreviations, or other deviations from standard written English.

Please ensure that you are contactable after your exams have finished.

If examiners find your exam scripts to be illegible, they will need to be typed in your presence.

Short weight and compulsory questions

You are reminded that in every paper you must observe the rubric about the number of questions to be answered and any compulsory questions (e.g., the requirement in many Further Subjects that at least one question must be taken from section A, and at least one question from section B). ***The Examiners heavily penalise candidates who omit or fail to complete questions.*** Failure to follow the rubric or to complete the required number of questions will have the effect of reducing your mark on the paper by the proportion of the omitted work; thus, if you answer only two questions on a three-question paper, the final mark will be two-thirds of the average of the marks for the completed questions (e.g., two essays of 60 would become a mark of 40).

Asterisked questions

Questions identified by an asterisk [*] may be set in History of the British Isles and European and World History papers. Such questions may be answered with reference to any part or parts of the whole chronological range of the paper.

Further Subjects

You are reminded that in the Further Subject papers, your answers should demonstrate your command of the set texts. While candidates in most Further Subjects will be required to attempt at least one question from section A and one question from section B, this rubric does not apply to FS: Development of the World Economy Since 1800.

Disciplines of History

You are required to complete **TWO** questions: one from part A and one from part B. You should use the additional time per question mainly to think about the questions carefully and to plan your arguments, rather than to write longer answers.

The rubric for part A is that *Candidates must demonstrate sustained and effective comparisons of at least **TWO** case studies drawn from at least **TWO** societies or historical periods.* (For the avoidance of doubt: this may include comparing the same society at two different periods.)

In part B, the rubric requires that you *discuss specific examples of historical writing*. Candidates should consider how specific historians have used historical sources, how they have employed methodologies, and how the historiographic traditions within which they write have developed.

Gobbets

Advice on writing gobbets can be found on the [OHH](#). You are advised not to waste space translating or paraphrasing the passage, as opposed to commenting on its meaning.

Overlap between Papers

Guidance on Overlap can be found on the [OHH](#). In brief, you are encouraged to demonstrate an integrated understanding of what you have studied across different periods and papers, especially in Disciplines of History where you may use any material. But elsewhere, you should not recycle at any length information and ideas already used in another part of the exam. This particularly includes cases in which substantial material from your thesis has been used in other papers, and examiners may impose penalties for such recycling. Note that material acquired in studying Further or Special Subjects may be used in outline papers (British, General, Ancient); but answers in the latter should not be dominated by such material.

Marking Criteria

The marking criteria for all papers can be found within the [Exam Conventions](#) on the Oxford Historian's Hub.

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

Class List

Results received in time for the July Examination Boards (including joint school boards) held in the week commencing 6 July will be ratified at those meetings and released to students via eVision in the week commencing 13 July.

Results not available by the July Examinations Boards will normally be carried forward to a second Examination Boards (including joint school boards) held in the week commencing 7 September, with results released shortly afterwards, although in some cases this may not be possible if results remain outstanding.

Queries

Any questions arising out of this circular or relating to the Examination more generally may be directed via a History Tutor of the candidate's college to the Chair of Examiners via undergraduate.office@history.ox.ac.uk.

Examiners

S Pooley (Chair)

Z Wojnowski (Secretary)

H Gittos

D Parrott

A Power

R Reid

A Smith

H Smith