

University of Oxford

**HISTORY FACULTY**

Undergraduate Office

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**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN HISTORY 2026**

**To:**

All candidates for the Preliminary Examination in History

All candidates in Joint Schools with History

***CANDIDATES MUST READ THIS CIRCULAR CAREFULLY***

**EXAMINATION PROCEDURES**

Main School examinations are scheduled from Monday, 22 June to Friday, 26 June.

Joint School examinations start on Monday, 15 June and finish on Friday, 26 June.

View your Exam Timetables online at:

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables.](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables)

**\*Please note that the European and World paper is a typed exam\***

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

The majority of in-person exams will occur at the Examinations Schools on the High Street or 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. 'Optional Subject Nature and Art in the Renaissance').

### Legibility and intelligibility

It is your responsibility to write legibly, and you should practise 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 to comment on gobbets in Foreign Text papers). ***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).

### Overlap between papers

Guidance on Overlap can be found on the [OHH](#). While you may reflect on links between different papers, you should avoid repeating in one paper substantial material you have already used in another. But there is no reason why you should not relate your studies for one subject to questions asked in another, if you think them relevant.

**Marking Criteria**

The marking criteria for all papers can be found in the Examination Conventions Prelims 2026 on the OHH.

**Late changes to the Optional Subject**

Any candidate who changes their Optional Subject during Trinity Term, after submitting their entry form, must urgently contact their College Academic Office to complete a Change of Option form for submission to the Academic Records Office. Additionally, a separate notification must be sent to the Undergraduate Office.

**AFTER THE EXAMINATION****Notification of results**

The Preliminary Examination does not receive an overall classification; however, candidates will be able to view their Individual Assessments and Year Outcome results through Student Self-Service (SITS-eVision) by selecting 'My Exams' and then navigating to the 'Academic and Assessment Results' page. Results are expected to be released during the week commencing Monday 20 July.

**Queries**

Any questions arising from this circular or relating to the Examination more generally may be directed via the candidate's College Senior History Tutor or to the Chair of Examiners via [undergraduate.office@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.office@history.ox.ac.uk).

**Examiners**

H Skoda (Chair

F de Vivo (Secretary)

K Lebow

C O'Brien

M Ono-George

S Mortimer