

Summary of the Introduced Changes

The Preliminary Examinations have been abolished, and a Part IA and Part IB structure replaces the two-year Part I: the rationale behind this is more flexibility for students coming in from another Tripos or indeed moving onto a Part IB in another Tripos if needed. Likewise this offers a way into the AMES Tripos at Part IB level language courses for students whose language might be too advanced for first year language courses.

Part IA:

Students will offer one of three “pathways”:

- (a) East Asian Studies (studying primarily either Chinese or Japanese)
- (b) Middle Eastern Studies (studying one or two languages chosen from Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, with the possibility of borrowing either Akkadian or Egyptian language papers)
- (c) Middle Eastern Studies with a Modern Language (offering Arabic, Hebrew or Persian combined with a language from the MML Tripos)

These “pathways” are continued throughout all three Parts of the Tripos.

All students are expected to offer an equivalent workload: four written papers and associated oral examinations.¹

In East Asian Studies, the former papers CP4 (Chinese History) and JP4 (Japanese History) are combined into a revised common core course, EAS1. This introductory course in East Asian History is to be taken by all first year students in Chinese and Japanese and is team-taught. This combined course has the additional benefit of having all DEAS undergraduates together for a number of sessions shortly after their arrival in Cambridge.

In Middle Eastern Studies, the former papers AR4 (Middle Eastern history and culture) and HP4 (Modern Hebrew literature and its history) are combined into a common paper, MES6 (Introduction to the History and Cultures of the Middle East) and a new paper, MES7 (Introduction to the Contemporary Middle East) has been created. Students (with the exception of those combining Arabic with a MML language) will be required to take at least one of these content papers.

Part IB:

All students are again expected to offer one subject, building on their experience in Part IA of the Tripos. All students offer five written papers and associated oral examinations.

AMES.1 is a continuation of the existing cross-faculty paper OS1 Cinema East. This paper will be offered to all students in the Faculty. The Faculty Board also has the option of announcing from time to time additional papers which may be offered to all students, or to students offering particular subjects.

In East Asian Studies, former papers C3 and C4, and J2 and J3, have been reduced to one single paper; C2, a paper in classical Chinese, has been dropped, and a segment on contemporary China

¹ Students offering pathway (c) will offer five papers, the additional paper being a content paper in the MML Tripos.

has been added to C8 in view of a pending appointment in contemporary China studies and the need to give more space to contemporary China at Part I level. The title of J8 (formerly J6 “Japanese Culture”) has been changed to “Japanese Literary Modernity” although the paper remains the same; likewise J15 “Modern Japanese Culture” has been re-titled “Modern Japanese Cultural History”. J6 (formerly J4) has been renamed Japanese History (instead of “Modern Japanese History”).

Various routes of choice have been created in the second year that will enable students to combine content courses across the Chinese-Japanese pathways. The most likely combinations include:

- combining a Chinese with a Japanese history course or vice versa (C7, C8, J7, J8)
- taking the cross-faculty paper AMES 1 “Cinema East” as an elective.

To reduce workload and ensure parity across the Chinese and Japanese pathway, the Chinese pathway has been reduced to 5 papers + oral, as recommended in the GB review.

In Middle Eastern Studies, all language papers (IS1 and IS2 for Arabic; IS5 for Persian and H1, H2, H4, and H5 for Hebrew) and literature papers (IS3 and IS4 for Arabic H3, IS6 and IS7 for Persian and H6 for Hebrew) have been reduced to one language and one literature paper in each language area. The contents papers (MES16 to 19) replace the previous IS7-10 and continue the trend towards team-taught papers and integration of all three cultural areas. In addition, students are offered flexibility with a choice of papers “borrowed” from other Faculties, such as Divinity, MML, and Arch & Anth.

Part II:

The range of subjects in Part II is increased to reflect some branching of “pathways”. Specifically, formal combinations of Chinese and Japanese are offered, and instead of taking a year abroad, students offering these combinations will undertake a programme of “catch-up” studies and offer four written papers and an oral examination in their third year and six written papers in their fourth year. All other Part II students will offer four papers and a dissertation covering their year abroad.²

With the exception of this combined language option, all students are expected to offer a year abroad before commencement of Part II. In particular, the year abroad has been harmonized for Chinese and Hebrew students, who now also spend the entire third year abroad. For students offering Chinese, this in practice means a reduction in “Cambridge” workload equivalent to one term of instruction. Chinese students will be required to take courses at our partner institutions in Beijing and Qingdao. They will also be asked to work on a portfolio of assignments during their year abroad. In Middle Eastern Studies, with a view towards increased integration of the studies

² Given the intrinsically different needs for advanced language teaching in Chinese and the need to retain some instruction in literary Chinese as a required component of the curriculum in the fourth year, students offering Chinese will offer an additional paper. The latter will be even more essential since Chinese students will now spend their entire third year away from Cambridge and will have no or little instruction in the subject while in China. In terms of workload within the East Asian Studies pathway this is however offset by a higher weighting of the Japanese dissertation requirements.

of the regions, students taking Hebrew might be encouraged to spend some time in an Arabic speaking country and vice-versa.

The Faculty Board has restructured the content of the Part II programme to allow for an annual revision of a significant number of papers on offer. A full "menu" of papers is outlined in the regulations for the Tripos and, in any one year, only a subset will be offered. It is intended that a number of papers offered by other Faculties will also be announced annually. The regulations have been written to ensure that students are provided with an appropriate range of optional papers, and this flexibility will allow for the rapid development of attractive additional papers. The Faculty Board may also use this flexibility to include the study of other languages and topics, in sympathy with student demand and staff interests and availability.

In East Asian Studies: C16/C18 and J13: these were existing advanced texts papers attached to the special option electives. To simplify presentation, all special subject advanced text papers are now organized into one single paper (C14 and J13) which will be examined in subsections. Students will be required to answer the section of the exam paper that relates to their elected special option course.

C12, a paper containing a literary Chinese language component in the current Tripos, has been reviewed. To respond to the GB's recommendation to open-up the Tripos to non-language students and/or DEAS students opting to take less language in their final year, this paper (C15) will now be called "The Chinese Tradition" and will be a content only paper requiring no language work and hence open to students in other faculties.

EAS2 is a new content course specifically aimed at a combined audience of Chinese/Japanese students and students from other social-science faculties.

K1 has been added in agreement with the Department's strategic plan to integrate the study of Korea into the East Asian Studies curriculum and the pending appointment of a postholder in Korean Studies.

Our redistribution of existing papers combined with a number of newly conceived papers will ensure not only flexibility in view of leave patterns of UTOs but it now also offers a balanced menu of language papers and content papers covering both contemporary and pre-modern aspects of East Asia across all years.

In Middle Eastern Studies, we have continued the simplification of the language and literature papers in the three MES languages on offer, as well as the flexibility offered by team-taught contents papers and the redistribution of the contents papers into "History" and "Special Subject" papers. Provisionally and according to the availability of UTOs, the department would offer a pre-Modern and a Contemporary paper in each of these disciplines. We also continue to use a menu of "borrowable papers" offers the students an additional choice of papers taught in other faculties.

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