



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

**FACULTY OF
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**English and Modern Languages
Prelims Handbook
2021-2022**

1 FOREWORD

1.1 Welcome

A warm welcome to your studies with the Faculties of English and Modern Languages at Oxford. We are very proud of what we can offer you through your course. We have more tutors and students than any other Faculty of English in the UK and both Faculties are ranked first in the world in our subject. Our strength lies in the range of material we cover and the individual attention we can give you to help you find your way. We aim to spark your interest and develop your talents to make you the best critics you can be. Your studies here will be stimulating, testing, challenging, and fun, in equal measure. Oxford has extraordinary resources for the study of literature and culture; it has outstanding libraries and museums and collections, both famous and little-known; a host of entertainment venues to expand your cultural horizons; beautiful and inspiring buildings; and lovely countryside within reach. There are countless opportunities to learn at Oxford and lots of willing brilliant minds to guide you through them. Do not be afraid to seize every chance and to ask questions. We wish you all the best for your time here.

Professor Marion Turner, Chair of the English Faculty Board.

Professor Geraldine Hazbun, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Modern Languages

A great deal of careful planning has taken place before the start of your programme to ensure you remain safe whilst receiving the best possible learning experience, and that you benefit from the resources, services and facilities available to you at Oxford. This handbook will support you with detailed guidance on teaching and assessment for your course and will be an important point of reference for you throughout the year. Please bear in mind, however, that the changing nature of the pandemic and its impact on the University means that the standard information below may not always reflect the specific adaptations that become necessary during 2021-22.

We ask you to bear in mind that circumstances may change at short notice, and that the English Faculty may need to alter, adapt or postpone teaching sessions for reasons beyond our control. All efforts will be made to minimise disruption and maintain the continuity of your course experience. Please ensure that you pay close attention to email communication, remain in regular contact with your key Faculty contacts (details below), and check the University's [Covid-19 webpages](#) regularly to follow the latest institutional-level guidance.

English Assessment in 2021-22

After careful thought and consultation, the Faculty has decided to return to three-hour invigilated exams in Exam Schools for Trinity term 2022. Should the pandemic make this impossible, the backup plan is to hold open book, open web, online exams with an 8 hour submission window.

1.3 Statement of coverage

This handbook applies to students starting the course in Michaelmas Term 2021. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

1.4 Version

| Version | Details | Date |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Version 1.0 | Handbook published | 14.12.2021 |
| | | |

1.5 Disclaimer

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/>. The status of the Examination Regulations as the definitive course document remains suspended for 2021-22. Students will be expected to rely on their course handbooks, examination conventions and communications from their department for the most up to date information on assessment. . If you have any concerns please contact the undergrad@ell.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at the time of publication. However, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

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2 COURSE INFORMATION

2.1 Overview

This handbook covers the Preliminary Examination in English and Modern Languages, the first year of BA (hons) English and Modern Languages award. Undergraduate awards are located at Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications. The Subject Benchmark Statement for English and for Languages, Cultures and Societies can be found at https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-english-15.pdf?sfvrsn=4f9df781_12 and <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-languages-cultures-and-societies-15.pdf>

This handbook contains essential information about the Faculties and the course, but further useful information is available via the English Faculty and Modern Languages Faculty Canvas pages for undergraduates, at <https://login.canvas.ox.ac.uk/>. In particular, you should consult the English Prelims Handbook, Modern Languages Undergraduate Course Handbook and individual language handbooks for the detailed information they provide. These are available online at: <https://oess.web.ox.ac.uk/handbooks> and <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/20010>.

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of whom to contact are provided in section [4.1](#) of this handbook.

2.1.1 Note on Content

The course explores potentially challenging topics. Literature and the other materials we study sometimes portray extreme physical, emotional and psychological states; depict, question, and/or endorse racist, misogynist and prejudiced views or language; and can include graphic representations of inequality and violence (of all kinds). As a Faculty, we believe that one of the important roles of study in the humanities is to explore and challenge ideas that are shocking or uncomfortable, and to understand their origins, expression and influence. We also recognise that these texts will affect students differently depending on their particular backgrounds and experiences. If anything about the material troubles you, please contact your tutors or welfare supporters.

2.2 Educational Aims of the BA in English and Modern Languages

The programme aims to enable its students to

- i) Acquire a knowledge of a foreign culture with specific reference to its literature and language, characterised by range, depth and conceptual sophistication
- ii) Achieve a high level of competence in the spoken and written language they are studying, and to communicate effectively in formal and informal registers
- iii) Acquire some knowledge of the historical development of the expressive resources of the English language and the ways in which this relates to and impacts on the production of literary texts

- iv) Think critically and in an historicised manner about the complex relationship between literary texts and their social, political, cultural and other relevant contexts
- v) Develop the skill of independent thinking and writing, drawing on technical skills in literary and linguistic investigation, and on a sensitive understanding of foreign cultures in the past and in the present
- vi) Promote skills of relevance to further professional development of cultural, literary and linguistic understanding, and which are transferable to a wide range of contexts in the workplace and in later life
- vii) Engage and enhance their critical skills, imagination and creativity as an intrinsic part of an intense learning experience.

2.3 Intended learning outcomes

| A | Knowledge and understanding of: | <i>Related teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> |
|----------|---|--|
| 1 | How primary evidence is employed in literary-critical, linguistic and philological analysis and argument; | The detailed study of linguistic structures, literary texts, and films and other artefacts from a range of periods is essential to the course. Literary works are read in their original language, as is some of the associated critical writing. Close attention is paid in lectures, classes and tutorials to the texts' generic, cultural and linguistic specificity. |
| 2 | A broad range of literary and, where chosen, linguistics topics including literary theory, the history of literary criticism, and processes of literary production and dissemination | On the Modern Languages side, students may study broad topics in the literature of different periods of their choice, ranging from the medieval to the modern, and may also choose from a further wide range of courses more focussed on specific literary and linguistic topics. On the English side, the course allows students to read and analyse literature from a wide range of periods and genres and exposes them to a variety of theoretical and ideological approaches to literary and cultural history. |
| 3 | Relevant linguistic skills; | Students have a variety of language classes throughout their course, and also spend their third year abroad to develop their written and oral skills in the language(s) studied. |

Assessment:

In terms of summative assessment, most aspects of the required knowledge and understanding are tested through written examinations held during the course of the third and the twelfth terms of the programme, and by extended essays submitted in the tenth and eleventh terms. Within a range of Special Subjects studied, some options involve coursework. Oral language skills are tested in examinations in the final term of the course.

Formative assessment is provided in both weekly tutorials and practice examinations. Understanding is particularly assessed on a continuous formative basis through the weekly tutorial or seminar, and through language classes. Most colleges also have a regime of termly report reading that offers regular valuable feedback to the student.

| B | Intellectual skills: the ability to | <i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> |
|----------|---|---|
| 1 | Read closely, exercise critical judgement and undertake sophisticated analysis; | There is emphasis throughout the programme on the skills relevant to the careful and critical reading and exegesis of primary texts. The ability to gather, sift, synthesise and interpret secondary material is also recognised as making a particular contribution to the development of sophisticated analytical skills. |
| 2 | Argue persuasively, using appropriate and accurate critical terminology; | Practical rhetorical skills are honed within the weekly tutorial context, and in the classes associated with some elements of the course. Student essays and presentations must display the ability to identify issues, to formulate arguments that are susceptible to demonstration, and to marshal evidence and analysis in a logical and coherent way. |
| 3 | Approach problems with creativity and imagination; | Developing the creative thinking and encouraging the exercise of disciplined imagination of all students is integral to the programme. These attributes are regarded as essential if students are to comprehend the values and expectations of present and past societies, and the literary cultures and languages studied. |
| 4 | Develop the exercise of independence of mind, and a readiness to challenge and criticise accepted opinion. | The study of a foreign culture develops an awareness of contrasts with our native culture. All our learning strategies are designed to inculcate independence of thought, most particularly the vigorous argument that we |

seek to encourage in our regular tutorials. On literary and linguistic or philological topics, students are expected to acquire familiarity with different and sometimes conflicting approaches and interpretations, and to develop their own views through critical engagement with the work of others.

They will also have contact through tutorials and lectures, with post-holders at the forefront of new research whose own work is likely to challenge certain aspects of the status quo within their particular fields.

Assessment:

The formative assessment provided by weekly tutorials is critical to the development and monitoring of the intellectual skills set out here. Students receive weekly scrutiny of these skills through their presentation and defence of written essay material in front of an established academic and, usually, one or more of the student's peer group. In classes, presentations to a larger group of peers need to be thorough, professional, and critically and textually persuasive.

| C | Practical skills: the ability to | <i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> |
|----------|--|--|
| 1 | Write well in a manner which can be adapted for a variety of audiences and contexts; | The continuous scrutiny of written work, whether produced for tutorials, language classes or examinations, aims to promote writing which is marked by well-structured and coherent argument, in a prose that is clear, appropriate and fluent. |
| 2 | Engage in oral discussion and argument with others, in a way that advances understanding of the problems at issue and the appropriate approaches and solutions to them; | The weekly tutorials and other classes or seminars provide ample opportunity to develop and refine high-level skills in oral presentation and discussion. |
| 3 | Ensure that a range of evidence and opinion can be brought to bear on a problem, and to develop research skills to this end; | Emphasis is placed on showing a familiarity with a variety of bibliographical resources and on demonstrating an ability to identify and retrieve primary sources and secondary literature in English and other languages. |

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| 4 | Employ advanced language skills in oral and written contexts. | A range of language classes is provided throughout the undergraduate course. Conversation, discourse and comprehension classes with native speakers develop oral and aural skills in formal and informal contexts. Classes on the written language teach formal grammar and extend students' accuracy and knowledge of different registers through translation into and out of the language(s) studied, and through essay composition and other exercises. |
| 5 | The ability to access, manipulate and assess electronic data | Induction sessions in IT are supplemented by a range of opportunities to develop skills in this field. |

Assessment:

Formative assessment through the weekly tutorial, seminar presentations where appropriate, and language classes enables a continuous monitoring of the development of practical skills. Termly reports from tutors and language teachers identify both points of excellence and of concern, while more formal assessment through termly College-based examinations ('collections') provides opportunities to monitor and provide feedback on skills associated with timed written examinations.

| <i>D</i> | Transferable skills: the ability to | <i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> |
|----------|---|---|
| 1 | Find information, organise and deploy it; | Information retrieval from printed materials, together with the regular use of IT (library catalogues etc.), is integral to all aspects of the programme. |
| 2 | Draw on such information to consider and analyse complex problems, in ways that are imaginative and sensitive to the norms and traditions of other cultures; | These are the skills at the heart of our programme. They are eminently transferable to contexts beyond the university and they foster cultural awareness. |
| 3 | Work well independently, with a strong sense of self-direction, but with the ability to work constructively in co-operation with others; | The tutorial system is designed to promote independent research skills, while Faculty and College-based seminars for certain options encourage collaboration. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 4 | Structure and communicate ideas effectively in a variety of written and oral formats; | Fostering the ability to present ideas effectively and to respond constructively to the ideas of others is integral to the nature and construction of the programme. |
| 5 | Plan and organise the use of time effectively; | Students who are expected to produce up to four pieces of written work per week (tutorial essay plus language work) learn how to organise their time very efficiently. |
| 6 | Employ language skills at an advanced level. | Graduates of this programme will have received extensive language training and will normally have spent a year abroad in the relevant country, refining their language skills in a variety of practical contexts. |

Assessment:

The transferable skills identified in (1)-(6) above are essential elements of this programme. As such they become the focus of much of the regular comment provided by tutors and language teachers in their weekly contacts with students, and in the various modes of formal feed-back provided to students throughout the course.

2.4 Course structure

The Preliminary Examination (also known as the First Public Examination or FPE) is taken in, or just after, Trinity Term and consists of six papers, four in your modern language and two in English literature. Section 2.6 below gives a general outline of the papers; you should consult the handbooks for English and the language you are studying for further details about each paper.

In the Final Honour School you will take Part 1 (MML Papers), either Part II or Part III (English Papers) and Part IV (Dissertation).

For your Modern Languages papers you will continue with language work and translations, and also choose two option papers.

For the English side of your programme, you will take three papers from the English single honours course, choosing to take all your papers from either English Course I or Course II.

Finally, all students will write a dissertation in any area of English Language or Literature, or combining English with your Modern Language.

In total, up to four papers for EML (including the dissertation) may take the form of submitted work.

2.5 Recommended Pattern of Teaching

Please see the appropriate sections in the relevant handbooks of each parent school for more detailed information on typical patterns of teaching.

2.6 Preliminary Examination Paper Information: English

Every candidate offers two English papers, one compulsory, the other involving a choice from three alternatives. The compulsory paper is Introduction to English Language and Literature. The second paper must be chosen from Literature in English 650 – 1350, 1830 – 1910, or 1910 – present day, (as below).

2.6.1 Paper 1: Introduction to English Language and Literature

This paper is intended to introduce you to English language and literature as a discipline, and to a variety of approaches to reading texts. It will introduce you to formal study of the English language, with particular reference to its historical development, its use as a literary medium, and the role of cultural and social factors on its development and use. The paper will also acquaint you with a wide range of theoretical issues and reading skills, but in doing so seeks to encourage you to think for yourself and to exercise critical scrutiny.

The English Faculty Library's Guide to Prelims 1: <http://ox.libguides.com/english-prelims-paper-1> contains direct links to an invaluable range of online and bibliographic resources. Many of these are essential for work on the language section of the paper.

There is a course of 16 core lectures which run weekly through Michaelmas and Hilary terms. The lectures in Michaelmas Term will cover topics relating to literature, and those in Hilary Term will cover language.

Colleges will normally supplement these by eight college classes spread over those two terms, and by four tutorials. This college teaching will give you the opportunity to practise written work for your portfolio examination.

NOTE: College tutors will not necessarily base classes and tutorials on the weekly lecture topics and the further reading that accompanies them. The lectures are designed to introduce topics and to suggest approaches to them. Your college work will supplement and challenge what you have learnt in lectures. You will be expected to make connections between and around the lecture topics, and you will want to think about how studying for this paper informs and enriches your first year work as a whole.

Assessment

Assessment for this paper will be by portfolio. The examination paper, consisting of a section on language and a section on literature, will be released by the Faculty on Monday of week 4 of Trinity Term. Your portfolio will consist of two pieces of written work of between 1,500 and 2,000 words each (including footnotes but excluding bibliography). The portfolio must be submitted online on Thursday of week 5, Trinity Term.

You are required to choose one question from each of the two sections. Questions in the language section require an answer in the form of a commentary. This commentary is based on texts that you

choose for yourself. You should be careful to select textual material that meets the precise terms of the question you have chosen to answer. **Copies of the texts or passages used must be included as an appendix to the portfolio, and the combined length of all texts you have chosen must not exceed 70 lines in total.** Texts or passages should be clearly annotated with line numbers (e.g. every five lines); it is fine to do so by hand. You should also list a line length for each text as well as a total line length for all appended material.

Questions in the literature section require an answer in the form of an essay.

You must avoid duplicating material used in this paper when answering other papers, ie. if writing on a text or extract from a text under this paper, you may not write on the same text under any other Prelims paper. In addition, you are not permitted to duplicate material between the two sections of the portfolio.

Information on presentation and referencing requirements for portfolio essays may be found in section 3.4 of this handbook.

2.6.2 Paper 2

Candidates must choose one from the three options below:

2.6.2.1 a) *Early Medieval Literature, c. 650 – 1350*

This paper introduces literatures characterized by astonishing invention and innovation. In 650 Britain and Ireland comprised numerous competing kingdoms. Christianity, introduced to England in the late sixth century by missionaries from the Roman and Celtic Churches, was assuming a dominant religious and cultural influence. Languages and cultures mingled and clashed, including early English dialects, Irish, Welsh, Pictish, Old Norse, Byzantine, and varieties of Latin. This is the time of the earliest extant English poem ascribed to a named author, Cædmon, yet the seventh century also produced, in Bede, the finest scholar in Europe at the time; in Aldhelm one of the most talented of poets (he wrote in Latin); and at Canterbury the best school in northern Europe, run by an abbot born in North Africa and an archbishop from Tarsus (in what is now south-east Turkey).

By 1350 England was a powerful nation with imperial ambitions, embroiled in wars with Scotland and France, but also ravaged by the Black Death of 1348. King Edward III and his court chroniclers and poets drew upon an extensive cultural and literary heritage, in which history and fiction blended, consciously emulating the legendary King Arthur, holding tournaments and festivals in celebration of court, knighthood and chivalry. And around the middle of the whole period comes the Norman Conquest of 1066 and the subsequent colonization of England and, in time, Wales and parts of Ireland. The Norman castles and cathedrals still prominent in many towns are only one kind of material legacy from 650–1350, in which the development of literacy, manuscript production, the legal system, schools and universities including Oxford gave huge scope for artistic and literary creativity.

The Norman Conquest changed English language and literature profoundly, and helps mark a shift between what we call Old English (to c.1100) and Early Middle English (c.1100 to c.1300 or so). However, it was one of numerous moments of political and demographic change, starting with Germanic migration before this period begins, and including Viking and Danish raiders, settlers and

rulers, religious and mercantile travellers, and a significant community of Jews, who became subject to persecution and were eventually expelled in the late thirteenth century. At the same time, successive attempts to capture and control contested holy sites such as Jerusalem fed the development of religious and racial, including racist, ideologies. Throughout this period, questions of identity and belonging are probed across a vast range of literary forms: lyric and epic; debate and dialogue; riddles; secular and saintly biographies; fable and vision; sermons and sagas; history and romance.

In the 3-hour examination you will write two essays, and will be able to choose between writing a critical commentary on a passage of either Old or Early Middle English. The passages set will be taken from the following recommended texts.

i. Old English (All in Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson, *A Guide to Old English* (Oxford, 2012), 8th edition.)

- *The Dream of the Rood*
- *The Battle of Maldon*
- *The Wanderer*
- an extract from *Beowulf* ('Beowulf's fight with Grendel', lines 702–897)

ii. Early Middle English

- *The Owl and the Nightingale*, an extract (in John Burrow and Thorlac Turville-Petre, *A Book of Middle English*, 3rd edn (Oxford, 2005), lines 1–390)
- *Layamon's Brut*, an extract (in W.R.J. Barron and S.C. Weinberg, *Layamon's Arthur* (Exeter, 2001), lines 13971–14297)
- *Havelok*, an extract (in Ronald B. Herzman, Graham Drake, and Eve Salisbury, *Four Romances of England* (Kalamazoo, 1999), lines 2512–2855)
- *Ancrene Wisse*, an extract (in Robert Hasenfratz, *Ancrene Wisse* (Kalamazoo, 2000) Part 7, lines 1–194.

(Annotated editions of all of these texts and extracts are available via Canvas)

On the examination paper candidates will be able to choose from a total of four commentary passages each year (two Old English and two Early Middle English). You will be expected to comment on aspects of content and style and to show that you have a good understanding of either Old or Early Middle English as a literary language.

The essay questions will tend to be based on topics rather than individual authors. You can answer them with reference to either Old or Early Middle English literature, or by comparative consideration of the two. You are expected to focus closely on the recommended texts (Old and/or Early Middle English) in your work for this paper as a whole, but there is also scope to read beyond the recommended texts and to work more broadly on some of the major preoccupations of the literature of the period c. 650–1350. You may write an essay on the text on which you also write a commentary, but if you do so you must not repeat material. You must show substantial knowledge of at least THREE texts across the two essays. You may write on texts in languages other than English (e.g. Latin, Anglo-Norman, Old Norse) for up to one

third of this paper (e.g. all of one essay, or a portion of both essays). However, you are required to show substantial knowledge of Old English and/or Early Middle English language in BOTH section A and Section B of the paper.

2.6.2.2 b) Literature in English 1830 - 1910

This paper examines literature in English from roughly 1830 to 1910, though you are permitted to look at material earlier and later than these boundaries in order to make sense of any particular writer's development. The essay questions in the examination tend to be based on topics, rather than authors. This gives you the opportunity to write across a range of authors, focusing on some of the major preoccupations, both thematic and stylistic, of the period. Alternatively, you may choose to focus each of your examination answers on the work of only one or two authors.

Issues that you might choose to cover could include (for example) the development of realism, responses to industrialism, women's writing, concepts of identity and selfhood, guilt and transgression, memory and uses of the past, verbal and metrical experimentation, attitudes towards nation, race and Empire, decadence, the roots of modernism, symbolism, science, religion, class, domesticity, writing for children and the treatment of childhood, romance, popular fiction, melodrama, the social problem play, drama and identity, theatre and performance issues, the relationship between literature and art. These are only some of the possible topics that might legitimately be studied for this paper; there is no set list of texts or topics you are expected to cover.

Among the authors you might consider studying are the following: Arnold, Braddon, the Brontës, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, Carlyle, Carroll, Clough, Wilkie Collins, Conrad, Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Frederick Douglass, George Eliot, Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Gaskell, George Gissing, Hardy, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Hopkins, Harriet Jacobs, Henry James, Melville, Meredith, John Stuart Mill, Newman, Pater, Patmore, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Poe, Christina Rossetti, Ruskin, Olive Schreiner, Shaw, R. L. Stevenson, Swinburne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Tennyson, Thackeray, Thoreau, Twain, H. G. Wells, Wharton, Whitman, and Oscar Wilde. However, you may also choose to study groups of writers or particular genres, such as spasmodic poetry, Gothic, the dramatic monologue, elegy, and so on.

Candidates are encouraged to read widely within the period. You may discuss any literature written in the English language: there are no exclusions based on the author's citizenship, country of origin, or residence.

Structure of the examination

This paper is examined by a 3-hour written exam. Students will be expected to answer three essay questions, and to show substantial knowledge of the work of at least three authors. Do not repeat material. You should NOT write more than one essay substantially on the same author

2.6.2.3 c) Literature in English 1910 – present day

This paper examines 20th and 21st century Literature. The essay questions in the examination tend to be based on topics, rather than authors. This gives you the opportunity to write across a range of authors, focusing on some of the major thematic and stylistic preoccupations of the period. Alternatively you may choose to focus each of your examination answers on the work of only one or two authors.

Issues that you might choose to cover would include (for example) modernism, post-modernism, ideas of literary language, postcolonialism, literary experimentalism, primitivism, national (and other) identities, popular culture, concepts of literary value, journalism, gender, intertextuality, literature and other art forms, technology, innovations in modern theatre, war literature, and representations of the city.

Among the authors you might consider studying are Achebe, Atwood, Auden, James Baldwin, Djuna Barnes, Beckett, Bishop, Bowen, Kamau Brathwaite, Caryl Churchill, Coetzee, Conrad, DeLillo, Duffy, T. S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Forster, Friel, Greene, Heaney, Hemingway, Hill, Langston Hughes, Ted Hughes, Joyce, Larkin, Lawrence, Lessing, Mamet, Mansfield, Miller, Toni Morrison, Muldoon, Nabokov, Naipaul, Ondaatje, Orwell, Osborne, Pinter, Plath, the poets of the two World Wars, Pound, Roth, Rushdie, Shaw, Soyinka, Stein, Stoppard, Dylan Thomas, Walcott, Waugh, Tennessee Williams, Woolf, and Yeats.

Candidates are encouraged to read widely within the period. You may discuss any literature written in the English language: there are no exclusions based on the author's citizenship, country of origin, or residence

Structure of the examination

This paper is examined by a 3-hour written exam. Students will be expected to answer three essay questions, and to show substantial knowledge of the work of at least three authors. Do not repeat material. You should NOT write more than one essay substantially on the same author.

2.7 Preliminary Examination Paper Information: Modern Languages

2.7.1 Language Papers

(As specified for papers I, IIA, and IIB in the regulations for the Preliminary Examination for Modern Languages, including certification of attendance and participation in oral classes.)

Translation from and into the target language, comprehension or other language exercises. There is some variation between languages.

These exercises test your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary and your ability to comprehend and use the language accurately. But you should see them also as tests of translation ability. To translate well requires sensitivity to nuance and register and draws on some of the skills of textual appreciation that you will develop in your preparation of the literature papers.

Regular classes will give you practice in all aspects of the work on which you will be examined. Tutors will offer advice about the use of dictionaries and grammars. In those languages where students are accepted without the A-level (or equivalent), separate additional intensive instruction is

normally provided to help get your language up to the necessary level. As a rule at least one piece of written work per week will be required during term, and you will be encouraged to develop learning strategies enabling you to expand your knowledge of the language effectively and independently. Considerable emphasis throughout all parts of the course will be placed on developing your reading skills in various registers, so that you learn to read texts closely, while also gaining the confidence to tackle long articles and substantial works.

2.7.2 Literature Papers

(As specified for papers III and IV in the regulations for the Preliminary Examination for Modern Languages.)

Many students begin the course without having had the opportunity to undertake much formal study of foreign literature. Both literature papers require you to undertake close reading in the original of a range of texts selected from different periods and different genres so that you will gradually build up your reading speed, become familiar with the various possible ways of studying texts, and learn how to write critical commentaries and essays. This will provide a sure grounding for the literary study you will do from the second year onwards.

You will gain an understanding of different periods of literature and developments in the language, setting them in context and showing how passages from them might be commented on in detail. You will be encouraged to develop your own ideas and construct a coherent argument in essays, and analyse a text with close attention to detail in commentaries. Your work on prose, drama and poetry will help you gain an appreciation of literary genres and will interact with your work on journalistic texts, videos etc. to give a broad sense of different registers, modes of expression and media. Throughout the year you will be required to read and write about the prescribed texts for your tutor in college who will discuss your work with you in a series of tutorials or seminars. Lecturers will offer bibliographical advice, as will your tutors.

2.8 Creating a Balanced Course

The richness of the EML course is in the range of options from which you can choose: in effect, every EML undergraduate constructs their own course. This means that, together with your College tutors, you need to think carefully about how to arrange your work across the year so as to make it both coherent and manageable.

In the first year, the work in your Modern Language will be spread evenly across the three terms. You will have half the workload of students reading single honours Modern Languages.

On the English side, the compulsory lectures for the Introduction to English Language and Literature paper run regularly through Michaelmas and Hilary; colleges will also offer tutorials and classes in these terms. You will readily be able to fit in with these arrangements. The Paper that may need some special attention is your English period paper. In most Colleges, English students study a paper a term: your College tutors will discuss arrangements, and may allow you to study your chosen paper over two terms so as to make the workload manageable.

3 STUDYING

You can find further study skills advice, including information on the role of tutorials, lectures, classes and seminars at Oxford; essay formatting; revision; exams; plagiarism; and what happens next, in the appendices to the electronic handbooks accessible via:

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/30422> and <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/20010>.

3.1 Marking and Classification Criteria

The English and Modern Languages elements of Prelims are considered separately. In order to pass, candidates need to pass separately in English, in Modern Language subject (a) language papers, and in Modern Language subject (b) literature papers. The marking conventions applied are those used in the parent schools. For Modern Languages, please see the Marking Descriptors for the Preliminary Examination in Modern Languages on [Canvas](#).

The Preliminary Examination in English and Modern Languages is not classified. It is designed to ensure that students are sufficiently prepared to proceed to the Honours degree in the second and third years. To this end, all papers must gain a pass mark of 40 or above. If you do not achieve the pass mark, you will re-take the paper at the discretion of the examiners. Short weight (incomplete) work will be penalised by a proportionate reduction of the mark(s). The maximum deduction that can be made for short weight will be equivalent to the proportion of the answer that is missing.

The marks profiles for English and Modern Languages Prelims are:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Distinction | English: One mark of 70 and above; no mark below 60; an average of 67 Modern Languages: An average of 70 |
| Pass | Agreed marks of 40 and above on all papers |

Please also find below the Humanities Division marking criteria and mark descriptors for assessed work.

3.1.1 Criteria for Examination Questions in English

These criteria will be used in marking all timed question papers in both public examinations and in the marking of College Collections.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- incisiveness of engagement with the question;- depth and sophistication of comprehension of issues and implications of the question;- relevant awareness of literary history and theory and critical traditions; |
|-------------------|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directness of answer to the question; - grasp and handling of critical materials. |
| Argument | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coherence of argument; - analytical clarity and power; - intellectually incisive argument and sophistication of conceptualization; - independence of argument; - quality of critical analysis of text in the service of argument. |
| Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relevance of deployment of information; - depth, precision and detail of evidence cited; - accuracy of facts; - relevant knowledge of primary texts. |
| Organisation & Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity and coherence of structure; - clarity, fluency and elegance of prose; - correctness of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. |

3.1.2 Criteria for Portfolio Essays in English

These criteria will be used in marking portfolio essays in English Preliminary public examinations.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identification and clear delineation of a subject, appropriate to a 1,500-2,000 word essay; - close attention to the terms of the set theme or question; - for the commentary essay, appropriateness of choice of passages for commentary and the imagination and initiative shown in that choice; - awareness of relevant linguistic, theoretical and critical methods and traditions; - precise and appropriate deployment of linguistic terminology as appropriate; - depth and sophistication of comprehension of and engagement with issues; - grasp and handling of linguistic, theoretical and critical materials. |
|-------------------|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| Argument | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coherence of argument; - analytical clarity and power; - intellectually incisive argument and sophistication of conceptualization; - independence of argument; - quality of linguistic, theoretical or critical analysis (as appropriate) of text in the service of argument. |
| Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use of primary texts; - relevance of information deployed; - depth, precision, detail and accuracy of evidence cited; - relevant knowledge of primary texts. |
| Organisation & Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity and coherence of structure; - clarity, fluency and elegance of prose; - correctness of grammar, spelling, and punctuation; - correctness of apparatus and form of footnotes and bibliography. |

3.1.3 Mark descriptors for English

| Numerical Marks | Category | Criteria: Examination scripts | Criteria: Portfolio Essays |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| 86+ | Distinction | Outstanding work of marked independence and sophistication. | Work of a very high standard, excellent handling of scholarly apparatus, wide-ranging research, command of a wide range of primary and secondary material. Excellent choice of subject and handling of arguments to suit the limits of a 1,500-2,000-word essay. |
| 80-85 | Distinction | Scripts will excel across the range of criteria. | Essays will excel across the range of the criteria. |
| 75-79 | Distinction | Scripts will excel in more than one area, and be at least highly competent in other respects. That is, they must | Essays will excel in more than one area, and be at least highly competent in other respects. That is, they must |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|---|
| | | be excellent for some combination of sophisticated engagement with the issues, incisiveness of argument and critical analysis, and quality of knowledge, as well as being presented clearly and coherently. Truly outstanding features may compensate for mere high-competence elsewhere. | be excellent for some combination of the quality of choice and delineation of an appropriate subject, incisiveness of argument and critical analysis, quality of primary evidence, textual and otherwise, on display, as well as being presented clearly and coherently. Truly outstanding features may compensate for mere high-competence elsewhere. |
| 70-74 | Distinction | Scripts will be at least very highly competent across the board, and probably excel in at least one group of criteria. Relative weaknesses in some areas may be compensated by conspicuous strengths in others. | Essays will be at least very highly competent across the board, and probably excel in at least one group of criteria. Relative weaknesses in some areas may be compensated by conspicuous strengths in others. |
| 65-69 | Pass | Scripts will demonstrate considerable competence across the range of the criteria. They must exhibit some essential features, addressing the question directly and relevantly, and offering a coherent argument substantiated with accurate and relevant evidence, the whole being clearly-presented. Nevertheless, additional strengths (for instance, the sophistication of the arguments, or the quality of literary analysis) may compensate for other weaknesses. | Essays will demonstrate considerable competence across the range of the criteria. They must exhibit some essential features, identifying a clear subject and offering a coherent argument based on accurate primary evidence and textual analysis, the whole being clearly-presented. Nevertheless, additional strengths (for instance, the sophistication of the arguments, or the quality of literary, linguistic or other analysis) may compensate for other weaknesses. |
| 60-64 | Pass | Scripts will be competent and should manifest the essential features described above, in that they must offer relevant, substantiated and clear arguments; but they will do so with less range, depth, precision and perhaps clarity. Again, qualities of a higher order may compensate for some weaknesses. | Essays will be competent and should manifest the essential features described above, but they will do so with less range, depth, precision and perhaps clarity. Again, qualities of a higher order may compensate for some weaknesses. |
| 50-59 | Pass | Scripts must show evidence of some solid competence in expounding information and analysis. But they will be marred by a failure on one criterion or another: failure to discuss the | Essays must show evidence of some solid competence in research and analysis, but they will be marred by a failure on one criterion or another: failure to offer a clear argument, lack |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--|---|
| | | question directly, irrelevant citing of information, factual error, lack of detail, or poor organization and presentation, including incorrect prose. | of research and primary evidence or irrelevance in its deployment, or poor organization and presentation, including incorrect prose and inadequate apparatus. |
| 40-49 | Pass | Scripts will fall down on a number of criteria, but will exhibit some vestiges of the qualities required, such as the ability to see the point of the question, to deploy information, or to offer some coherent analysis towards an argument. Such qualities will not be displayed at a high level or consistently, and will be marred by irrelevance, incoherence, error and poor organization and presentation. | Essays will fall down on a number of criteria, but will exhibit some vestiges of the qualities required, such as the ability to identify a subject, to deploy evidence found in research, or to offer some coherent analysis towards an argument. But such qualities will not be displayed at a high level or consistently, and will be marred by irrelevance, incoherence, error and poor organization and presentation. |
| 30-39 | Fail | Scripts will display a modicum of knowledge or understanding of some points, but will display almost none of the higher qualities described in the criteria. They will be marred by high levels of factual error and irrelevance, generalization and lack of information, and poor organization and presentation. | Essays will display a modicum of knowledge or understanding of some points, but will display almost none of the higher qualities described in the criteria, and will not be based on any meaningful research. They will be marred by high levels of factual error and irrelevance, generalization and lack of information, and poor organization and presentation; and they may be very brief. |
| Less than or equal to 29 | Fail | Scripts will fail to exhibit any of the required qualities. Candidates who fail to observe rubrics and rules beyond what the marking-schemes allow for may also be failed. | Essays will fail to exhibit any of the required qualities. |

Mark descriptors for individual Modern Languages can be found on Canvas:

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/20010/files/1967133/download?wrap=1>

3.2 Examinations

Exam conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, penalties for late submission and penalties for over-length work. Examination conventions can

be found in the [English Handbook](#) and the Modern Languages faculty's Canvas pages: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/20010/modules/items/185651>

3.2.1 Examiners

Candidates should not under any circumstances seek to make direct contact with individual internal or external examiners regarding the content, conduct, or outcome of an examination. Any queries should be addressed to the Chair of Examiners via the Examinations Secretary/Administrator. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment you may make a complaint or appeal (see Section 4.6).

Examiners' reports for past years can be found on the faculties' Canvas pages.

3.2.2 Old English and Early Middle English character protocol for timed exams

Where students are using a word processor in a timed exam, it is recommended to represent Old English and Early Middle English characters as follows:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Ð or ð (eth) | dh |
| Þ or þ (thorn) | th |
| Æ or æ (ash) | ae |
| ȝ (yogh) | 3 |

For portfolios and dissertations (as opposed to timed exams) the Faculty expects the correct characters to be used rather than the exam protocol, which is intended to aid rapid typing. Students choosing to use the Old English or Early Middle English characters rather than the conventions in an exam will not be penalised.

3.3 Good academic practice

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.

Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence. Further guidance on plagiarism can be found at <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/28028>

The University has also produced an extensive set of resources to help you maintain good academic practice; this can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills. Further to this we would recommend all students use the online learning opportunities to develop their skills further; <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/skills/plag> and more guidance on good referencing practice can be found in section 3.5 of this handbook.

3.4 Presentation of portfolio essays

Portfolio essays will be submitted online. The body of your essays should be one and a half or double-spaced. Short quotations of a sentence or less should not be set in a paragraph by themselves. Longer quotations should be set in a separate paragraph, indented and single-spaced. Do not indent the first line of the first paragraph, or the first paragraph of a new section of the essays. Indent all subsequent paragraphs. Please remember to number the pages of your essays.

Copies of the texts or passages used must be included as an appendix to the portfolio, and the combined length of all texts you have chosen must not exceed 70 lines in total.

3.5 References and Bibliography

Neither the English Faculty nor the Modern Languages Faculty imposes a mandatory referencing system, though your tutors may communicate their own preferences to you in the matter of style. It is compulsory, however, to present your work in a form that complies with academic standards of precision, clarity, and fullness of reference. Whatever system you employ, please remember these three essentials:

i) **Consistency**

Ensure that you are using the same style and format for your references throughout your work.

ii) **Clarity**

Remember that references are included primarily as a guide for the reader. The more explicit you make your citations, the easier it is for anyone reading your work to find your sources.

iii) **Common sense**

You will at some stage have to deal with a citation or a reference from a source which does not easily fit into a prescribed system. On these occasions, employing your own judgement will probably enable you to generate a reference in line with the others in your document.

An introduction to a common referencing system, MHRA (Modern Humanities Research Association), is included below. This is intended for guidance only, and you are free to adopt other scholarly systems if you prefer. Paying close attention to the referencing systems used in the academic publications you read is another good way to familiarise yourself with habits of scholarly presentation.

A small sample bibliography of style handbooks is also given here, and you will find copies of these in the Bodleian and the EFL, as well as many other Oxford libraries. Style handbooks will go into much greater detail about formatting and writing habits than this Faculty handbook, which only covers methods of referencing.

3.5.1 Sample bibliography of style handbooks

- * Details given here are of first editions except where noted; many of these guides have since been republished in new incarnations and you may like to seek out the most recent edition.

Gibaldi, Joseph *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1998)

Gibaldi, Joseph, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1984)

Price, Glanville and Brian Richardson, *MHRA Style Guide: a Handbook for Authors, Editors and Writers of Theses* (London: Modern Humanities Research Association, 2002)

- * This handbook is also available for free download from the MHRA website at <http://www.mhra.org.uk/Publications/Books/StyleGuide/index.html>.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edn (Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 2010)

Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, rev. by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph M. Williams, 8th edn (Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 2013)

3.5.2 Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA) referencing

Below is a brief explanation of two MHRA approved referencing systems:

1. MHRA (general)
2. The author-date system

Both of the systems explained below have two points of reference. Firstly, each time you use a quotation, or any other information taken directly from your source, you must place a reference within the text (in parentheses) or in a footnote. Secondly, at the end of your work you will need to include a full bibliography detailing all sources. This is the case even for a system like the first which also provides full bibliographic detail within the text.

A guide to drawing up your bibliography is also provided below; see 3.5.6. Your bibliography will not count towards any word limits for assessed work, but references in the text and in footnotes will count, so you might like to consider a system (like the author-date system) which reduces the number of words contained in the reference.

3.5.2.1 MHRA (general)

The general MHRA system requires that the first reference to every book, article or other publication in your document should be given in full. Thereafter, references to the same publication may take an abbreviated, but easily identifiable, form (see below, Abbreviated references).

Books

In general, a full reference to a book would appear in a footnote and be presented in the following order, with each piece of information separated from the next by a comma. (It may not be necessary to include all of this information for every book you refer to):

1. *Author*: in the form given on the title page, and with first name preceding surname. When referring to an edition of a primary work which contains the author's name in the title, as with *The Sermons of John Donne*, it is not essential to repeat 'John Donne' before the title.
2. *Title*: in full and in italics. The initial letters of all principal words should be capitalised.
3. *Editor / translator, etc.*: in the form 'ed. by', 'trans. by', 'rev. by'.
4. *Series*: if the book belongs in a series, give the series title and volume number.
5. *Edition*: if other than the first edition, specify '2nd edn', 'rev. edn' etc.
6. *Number of volumes*: if the work is in several volumes, state this in the form '4 vols'.
7. *Details of publication*: these should be enclosed in round brackets, and take the form (Place of publication: Publisher, Year).
8. *Volume number*: in roman numerals. Where necessary, include the publication date of the volume in brackets after the volume number.
9. *Page numbers*: preceded by 'p.' or 'pp.', unless you have included a volume number.

Here are some examples of first references to books under the MHRA system:

Edmund Spenser, *The Shorter Poems*, ed. by Richard McCabe (London: Penguin, 1999), p. 221

Patrick Collinson, *The Religion of Protestants: the Church in English Society 1559-1625* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982), pp.7-12

Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*, ed. and with introduction, notes and commentary by Michael Kiernan, *The Oxford Francis Bacon, IV* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000), p. 66

The Book of Margery Kempe, ed. by Barry Windeatt (London: Longman, 2000), pp. 41 – 50

Paul Strohm, *Social Chaucer*, 2nd edn (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1994), pp. 47 - 83

Chapters or articles in books

Information about a chapter or an article published in a book should be presented in the following order:

1. *Author*
2. *Article title*: in single quotation marks and not italicised.
3. *'in'*: preceded by a comma
4. *Title, editor and publication details of the book* as described above
5. *First and last pages of article*: preceded by 'pp.'
6. *Page number of reference*: in parentheses and preceded by 'p.' or 'pp.'

E.g.:

Mark Thornton Burnett, "'We are the makers of manners": The Branagh Phenomenon', in *Shakespeare After Mass Media*, ed. by Richard Burt (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2002), pp. 83–105 (p. 91).

Virginia Woolf, 'A Letter to a Young Poet', in *The Essays of Virginia Woolf: Volume 5, 1929-1932*, ed. by Stuart N. Clarke (London: Hogarth Press, 2009), pp. 306–323.

Journal articles

A reference to a journal article should be composed as follows:

1. *Author*
2. *Article title*: in single quotation marks and not italicised
3. *Journal title*: in italics
3. *Series number*: in Arabic numerals, not Roman
4. *Volume number*: in Arabic numerals, not Roman
5. *Year of publication*: in parentheses
6. *First and last pages of article*: without 'pp.'
7. *Page number of reference*: in parentheses and preceded by 'p.' or 'pp.'

E.g.:

Brean Hammond, 'Joseph Addison's Opera *Rosamond*: Britishness in the Early Eighteenth Century', *ELH*, 73.3 (Fall 2006), 601 – 629 (p. 616).

Sylvia Federico, 'Chaucer and the Matter of Spain', *The Chaucer Review*, 45.3 (2011), 299–320 (pp. 301–307).

Online resources

An increasingly large amount of academic information can be found online. When choosing whether to use an online resource, you should use your judgement in determining the quality of the material. Who has created it, and why? Is it appropriate for academic citation?

When referencing an online source, you should keep as closely as possible to the guidelines given above for printed sources. Information should be supplied in the following order:

1. *Author*
2. *Title*
3. *Title of complete work / resource*: this might be the name of the website or an online database, or might be the bibliographic details for an online journal or text
4. *Publication details*: where known, supply the volume and date
5. *Full web address, URL or DOI*: in angle brackets < >. If you can find a stable URL or the DOI listed, this is better than the sometimes very lengthy web address you will have in your browser window. Avoid using TinyURL or similar for academic citation.
6. *Date of consultation*: in square brackets
7. *Location of reference*: for example, the paragraph number or page number where supplied. Include in parentheses.

E.g.:

Rosemary O'Day, 'Family Galleries: Women and Art in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries', *Huntingdon Library Quarterly*, 71.2 (June 2008),

<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/hlq.2008.71.2.323>>, [accessed 14 March 2011] (p. 332)

Hans J. Hillebrand, 'Reformation', in *Encyclopedia of Religion*,

<<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CCX3424502608&v=2.1&u=oxford&it=r&p=GVRL&sw=w>>, [accessed 6 November 2010] (p. 7657)

Melvyn New, 'Sterne, Lawrence (1713 – 1768)', in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*,

<<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/26412>>, [accessed 22 May 2011] (para. 12 – 16)

As more resources are accessed online, academic sites and databases regularly provide users with detailed bibliographic information about their content (often located at the very end of an article), which can be very useful when composing your footnotes.

Abbreviated references

After your initial, full reference, you can save space in the rest of your document by using abbreviated references to repeated sources. These abbreviated references can either be included as further footnotes, or can be placed in parentheses in the body of your document. In addition, it is permissible to include all abbreviated references to primary sources in parentheses and all abbreviated references to secondary sources as footnotes if you so choose.

Abbreviated references will normally consist of the author's name followed by the page reference (and the volume reference where necessary) as: (Strohm, 91).

Where more than one work by an author has been cited, you may also need to include a short version of the title, in addition to author, volume and page:

MHRA discourages the use of 'op. cit.', 'loc. cit.' and 'ibid.'

If you are writing an essay which consistently refers to a set of primary texts by the same author you may like to adopt a system of abbreviation. Following your first (full) citation of each text, you might say at the end of a footnote "All subsequent references are to this edition and incorporated into the body of the essay". Thereafter, you can place page numbers in parentheses within the text. If there is any ambiguity as to which primary text you are referring to, include a short title.

Alternatively, if you are consistently referring to a set of original primary sources such as manuscripts, or again, you are relying on a particular group of texts which you need to refer to repeatedly in your work, you may include a section in your bibliography that shows the abbreviations you will use for each source. For example, if you were writing an essay about Bacon's *Advancement of Learning* and you were using the Michael Kiernan edition cited above as your primary text, you might enter it into your list of abbreviations as follows:

AL

Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*, ed. and with introduction, notes and commentary by Michael

Kiernan, *The Oxford Francis Bacon, IV*
(Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000)

You would then label all references to the text with *AL* and the page number (again, you can do this in parentheses or in footnotes).

3.5.2.2 MHRA (author – date system)

This system can save you space when you are working to a word limit. Instead of including full references in the document, all source information is contained in a comprehensive bibliography at the end of your document. Such a bibliography would not be included in any word counts.

Your bibliography should be arranged in alphabetical order by author surname, and multiple works by one author should be arranged by date of publication. If two or more works by the same author share a publication date, you should distinguish between them by marking them e.g. '1995a' and '1995b'. The form of each entry should follow the guidelines below in the section on Bibliographies.

When you need to make a reference in your document, you should include it in the body of the text in parentheses. It should give the author's surname, the date of publication and the page reference, in the following form: (Colclough, 2001: 105). If your text already mentions the author's name, as in "Colclough suggests that...", you may omit the name from the reference in parentheses.

3.5.3 Citing the OED

OED Online (www.oed.com) is an online resource whose content changes every three months, when new and revised entries (along with other editorial and discursive material) are uploaded to the website. When you cite *OED Online* as your authority for a definition, or for any other information in an entry (etymology, pronunciation, range and date of illustrative quotations, etc), you need to specify two things:

(1) The date at which you accessed the website - simply attach the words 'accessed MONTH DAY YEAR' as appropriate to whatever information you cite from the dictionary (2) The date at which the content you cite was published.

Currently, every entry on the website is displayed with an additional central bar, bearing either red or blue rubric, which specifies the first date and origin of the entry. Blue rubric indicates the entry has been revised since 2000 and is up-to-date. Red rubric warns you that the entry was first inserted in the dictionary many years ago and may not have been fully updated.

The noun *relic*, for example, is accompanied by blue rubric stating 'This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, December 2009)'. So it is a reliable up-to-date entry, and when citing it you should specify the word itself, its grammatical form, the date at which the entry was updated, and your date of access, along with (if relevant) the sense number of the definition you're referring to:

e.g. *relic*, n., sense 3d: 'An old, outmoded, or outdated person or thing; someone or something left over from an earlier era, or having the characteristics of a former time', *OED Online* (revised entry Sept 2009, accessed MONTH DAY YEAR).

You may also find it relevant to quote or otherwise take note of the accompanying label, in this case 'colloq. (humorous or derogatory)'. Note that there is no need to cite the URL.

By contrast, *slang* n³ is marked with red rubric stating 'This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1911)'. This alerts you that the entry may be significantly out of date. The definition of sense 1 reads 'The special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or disreputable character; language of a low and vulgar type'. No dictionary of English published today would intentionally incorporate value judgements in its definitions, and this definition (and its vocabulary) is significantly out of line with current linguistic thinking about slang and its users. For an up-to-date definition of *slang* you need to use either a good quality recently published print dictionary or a reliable online equivalent (to find this via *OED Online* itself, see the link below the red rubric to *Oxford Dictionaries Online* (<http://oxforddictionaries.com>), which defines the word as follows: 'a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people'.

When citing red rubric entries you should be sure to specify the date of first publication, e.g.

slang n³, sense 1a: 'The special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or disreputable character; language of a low and vulgar type', *OED Online* (entry first published 1911, accessed MONTH DAY YEAR)

As before, there is no need to cite the URL.

3.5.4 Guidelines for Citation of Objects in Written Work

Illustrations may be gathered in one place at the end of the work, or, if you prefer, incorporated with the text. Captions within the text, and 'List of Illustrations' at the end of the essay, should contain the same information but captions should minimally include the following:

1. artist/architect/maker/manufacture (e.g. Meissen)
2. title of work/name of building/object description (e.g. teapot)
3. date of production (date range or century acceptable)
4. present location
5. brief reference for the source of the illustration

The 'List of Illustrations' should include the following information, in the recommended order:

1. artist/architect/maker
2. title of work/name of building/object description
3. size (metric)
4. medium (e.g. engraving; ceramic; textile; mixed media)

5. date of production
6. present location
7. brief reference for the source of the illustration (e.g., your own photograph, a museum photograph, copied from a book or the internet – if the last, give URL as you would for written work).

You should illustrate your work carefully since good illustrations can be vital to supporting your arguments. Wherever possible, you should use good quality, high-resolution illustrations of images, objects or buildings discussed at any length in the text. Illustrations can be in black and white; colour illustrations are only necessary if used to support a specifically ‘colour-related’ point in your argument or discussion. Captions can simply be numbered sequentially as Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc., since the reader will be able to refer to the ‘List of Illustrations’ for the full information. Make sure you refer to your illustrations at appropriate points in your text and argument, with the relevant figure number in brackets, thus: (Fig. 10).”

Captions and lists of illustrations do not count as part of the overall word limit; neither do illustrations themselves.

3.5.5 Text Analysis Tools

When citing text analysis tools it is sufficient to simply state the tool which has been used, in the body of the text in parentheses.

For example:this passage has a Gunning Fog Index of 18.2 (LexTutor)

3.5.6 Bibliographies

As with referencing, the format of your bibliography may vary according to the system you employ. Again, the most important thing is to maintain consistency in the way you present your sources in your bibliography.

If you have been using the MHRA referencing system outlined above, each item in your bibliography can be presented in much the same way as for the first full reference. The principal difference is that it is general practice to reverse the author’s surname and first name, as in the example below. When a work has more than one author or editor, you need only invert the first named author.

E.g.:

Berg, Christian, Frank Durieux, and Geert Lernout, eds., *The Turn of the Century: Modernism and Modernity in Literature and the Arts*, (Antwerp: DeGruyter, 1995)

Caws, Mary Ann, ed., *Mallarmé in Prose*, trans. by Rosemary Lloyd and Mary Ann Caws, (New York: New Directions, 2001)

Page numbers are not required in a bibliography unless you are listing an article or chapter that appears within another publication.

Your bibliography should be ordered alphabetically and thereafter by date of publication. Do not include full stops after each item in the list.

It is common, but not required, to divide your sources into primary and secondary works.

3.5.7 Online Resources

The English Faculty Library (EFL) has produced an online guide covering referencing and bibliography. It should be used as a supplement to the information given in this handbook.

<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/english/referencing>

The EFL also runs training sessions on referencing, which will be advertised.

4 ABOUT THE FACULTIES

4.1 The Faculty Offices and Key Contacts

These notes of guidance will provide you with information about the English and Modern Languages Prelims course, but if you do have any enquiries, a good first point of contact is the Undergraduate Office at both the English and the Modern Languages Faculties.

If your query or concern relates to the Joint School of English and Modern Languages itself, rather than one of the parent faculties, contact the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee (Professor Matthew Reynolds, matthew.reynolds@ell.ox.ac.uk)

The English Faculty Office is located in the St Cross Building, beneath the Library. During term-time (including week 0 and week 9) the office is open every weekday from 9.00 to 5.30 (4.30 on Fridays). In the vacations, the office is open 9.00 to 5.00 (4.30 on Fridays). You can also call the office on 01865 271 055 or e-mail english.office@ell.ox.ac.uk.

Students with a disability, as well as students who develop any health issues during the course of their studies, are invited to make contact with Andy Davice, the Academic Administrator and Disability Coordinator at the English Faculty, if they have any questions or concerns.

The Modern Languages Faculty Office is located at 41 Wellington Square. It is open every weekday between 8.30 and 5.15. You can call on 01865 270 750 or e-mail: office@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk .

The following people are also on hand to help you with any queries:

- Your college tutors
- Lis Allen, Academic Administration Officer, 01865 (2) 71540, undergrad@ell.ox.ac.uk
- Andy Davice, Academic Administrator and Disability Coordinator - English Faculty, 01865 (2)71930, andy.davice@ell.ox.ac.uk
- Catherine Pillonel, Modern Languages Undergraduates Studies and Examinations Officer, and Disability Coordinator 01865 (2)70736, catherine.pillonel@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk
- Professor Adam Smyth, Director of Undergraduate Studies (English), adam.smyth@ell.ox.ac.uk
- Professor Geraldine Hazbun, Director of Undergraduate Studies (ML), dus@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk
- Dr Nicholas Perkins, Director of Diversity and Equality, nicholas.perkins@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

Other useful contact numbers:

| | |
|---|----------|
| English Faculty Library – efl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk | (2)71050 |
| Modern Languages Faculty Library (Taylor Institution) – tay-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk | (2)78158 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Bodleian Main Desk – reader.services@bodleian.ox.ac.uk | (2)77162 |
| English Faculty Building Porters' Lodge (for lost property) | (2)71481 |
| Modern Languages Faculty Building Porter (for lost property) | (2)78143 |
| Oxford University IT Services – contact@it.ox.ac.uk | (2)73200 |
| Oxford SU (Student Union) – advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk | (2)88452 |
| University Counselling Service – counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk | (2)70300 |
| Nightline (student run service) | (2)70270 |
| Samaritans (external number) | 722122 |

Harassment Advisors

Dr Stefano-Maria Evangelista, stefano-maria.evangelista@trinity.ox.ac.uk

Dr Annie Sutherland, annie.sutherland@ell.ox.ac.uk

Modern Languages Harassment Advisors

Prof Seth Whidden, seth.whidden@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Prof Annette Volfing, annette.volfing@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

The Faculties are committed to creating a happy and healthy working environment, where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We do not tolerate any form of harassment or bullying.

The Harassment Advisors offer confidential support to all members of the Faculty. Seeking support from one of our Advisors is not the same as making a complaint – this is an informal opportunity to seek confidential advice. In some instances, this may be enough to resolve the issue. In other cases, should you decide to make a complaint, the Harassment Advisor can be a valuable source of support and guidance. Alternatively, if you do not feel comfortable talking to someone from within the Faculty, you can access the University's anonymous Harassment Line.

Email: harassment.line@admin.ox.ac.uk

Telephone 01865 (2)70760

4.2 Committees and Decision-making within the Faculties

The Modern Languages and English Faculties follow similar decision making procedures, as outlined below:

Strategic decisions are taken by the Faculty Boards (which meet twice a term), in consultation with the Faculty (in the case of Modern Languages, mainly in consultation with language-based Sub-faculties), and all other committees report to the Faculty Boards. Each Faculty Board is made up of elected representatives of all members of the Faculty, including a graduate and an undergraduate junior member.

There are a number of standing committees that report to the Faculty Boards. In addition to these, there are two joint consultative committees (made up of academics and students) – one for graduates and one for undergraduates. *See section 4.3 below.*

Changes to the English or Modern Languages courses are typically discussed at the Teaching Committee (English) or at Sub-Faculty meetings and Undergraduate Studies Committee (Modern Languages), and then referred to the Faculty Boards for approval. All significant changes to courses must be agreed by the University's Education Committee, published in the *Gazette* and amended in the *Examination Regulations*.

On a day to day basis, the Faculties are managed by the Chairs of the Faculty Boards and the Faculty Heads of Administration and Finance.

Changes to the English and Modern Languages course specifically are primarily dealt with by the English and Modern Languages Joint Schools Standing Committee, which meets once a term. All decisions by this committee are then passed on to the Undergraduate Studies Committee (for MML), to Teaching Committee (for English), and follow the normal procedure from then on.

The English academic officers 2021-22 are:

- Professor Marion Turner (Jesus), Chair of the Faculty Board
- Professor Emma Smith (Hertford), Director of Teaching
- Professor Adam Smyth (Balliol), Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Dr Patrick Hayes (St John's), Director of Taught Graduate Studies
- Dr Lynn Robson (Regent's Park), Director of Undergraduate Admissions
- Professor Lloyd Pratt (St John's), Director of Doctoral Studies

The Modern Languages academic officers 2021-22 are:

- Prof Almut Suerbaum (Somerville), Chair of the Faculty Board
- Prof Geraldine Hazbun (St Anne's), Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Professor Barry Murnane (St John's), Director of Graduate Studies
- Professor Andrew Counter (New), Director of Masters Courses

4.3 The Undergraduate Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)

The Joint Consultative Committee for each Faculty meets once a term. The Committees comprise a number of Faculty post-holders and two undergraduate representatives from each college.

The Committee considers all aspects of Faculty activity that affects Undergraduates, for example: syllabus, teaching and examining arrangements and library facilities (though there is also a committee for library provision which deals in greater detail with the latter). The JCC also provides members for the various other committees and bodies on which students are represented (the relevant Faculty Board and Undergraduate Studies Committee, the joint schools' committees and the Committee for Library Provision). The JCC will have various items of discussion referred to it by Faculty Board and other committees for consideration, but JCC members, and the students whom they represent, can also ask for items to be put on the agenda for consideration. If you wish to serve on the English JCC, you should talk to the senior English tutor in your college – they will usually be able to advise you on how nominations are made in your college. For the Modern Languages JCC, you should contact the Undergraduate Studies and Examinations Officer (catherine.pillonel@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk).

4.4 Evaluation and feedback

Students on full-time and part-time matriculated courses are surveyed once per year on all aspects of their course (learning, living, pastoral support, college) through the Student Barometer. Previous results can be viewed by students, staff and the general public at:

https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityofOxford-StudentBarometer/ReadMe?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:showVizHome=no

Final year undergraduate students are surveyed instead through the National Student Survey. Results from previous NSS can be found at www.unistats.com.

4.5 Building Access

The accessible entrance to the St Cross Building (English Faculty) is via an access ramp at the front of the building, with a lift connecting all floors. For full information, see <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/access/dandt/socialsciences/stcrossbuilding-englishandlaw>. Any students with access queries, or needing assistance from a porter, can contact the Facilities Manager on 01865 271 486.

Information about accessibility for Modern Languages buildings can be found at <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/access/dandt/humanities/medievalandmodernlanguages/>

4.6 Complaints

Complaints and academic appeals within the faculty of English

If you have a complaint, an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below) is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Many sources of advice are available from colleges, faculties/departments and bodies like the Counselling Service or the Oxford SU Student Advice Service, which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of those sources before pursuing your complaint.

General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the faculty/department's committees.

Complaints

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the English faculty, then you should raise it with Director of Undergraduate Studies (Dr Marion Turner). Complaints about departmental facilities should be made to the Departmental administrator (Ms Sadie Slater). If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Head of Faculty (Professor Ros Ballaster). The officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

Please see the Modern Languages Undergraduate course handbook regarding complaints or academic appeals within the Faculty of Modern Languages.

If your issue relates to the course overall, contact the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee (Professor Nicholas Halmi nicholas.halmi@ell.ox.ac.uk)

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the University Student Complaints Procedure (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>).

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by your college, you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers, Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates (as appropriate). Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

Academic appeals

An academic appeal is an appeal against the decision of an academic body (e.g. boards of examiners, transfer and confirmation decisions etc.), on grounds such as procedural error or evidence of bias. There is no right of appeal against academic judgement.

If you have any concerns about your assessment process or outcome it is advisable to discuss these first informally with your subject or college tutor, Senior Tutor, course director, director of studies, supervisor or college or departmental administrator as appropriate. They will be able to explain the assessment process that was undertaken and may be able to address your concerns. Queries must not be raised directly with the examiners.

If you still have concerns you can make a formal appeal to the Proctors who will consider appeals under the University Academic Appeals Procedure (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>).

4.7 Career development

A number of English graduates (about 7 %) choose to undertake research, while many more use the communication and analytical skills they develop at Oxford in a range of careers including

advertising, acting, publishing, teaching, librarianship, public relations, journalism, the legal profession, management consultancy and finance.

Please see the Modern Languages Undergraduate Course handbook for further information on career development for linguists.

Comprehensive careers advice and guidance is available from the Oxford University Careers Service, and not just while you are here: our careers support is for life. We offer tailored individual advice, job fairs and workshops to inform your job search and application process, whether your next steps are within academia or beyond. You will also have access to thousands of UK-based and international internships, work experience and job vacancies available on the Careers Service website (www.careers.ox.ac.uk).

Supplementary talks and events will be advertised as appropriate.

5 APPENDICES

Remember that further helpful information can be found on the Faculty Weblearn and Canvas sites via: weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/humdiv/engfac/undergradu and <https://login.canvas.ox.ac.uk/>.

5.1 Lecture Recording

The provision of online lectures this year is a response to an exceptional situation. Please note that these recordings and all attendant online materials may be used only for your personal and private study, and must not be passed on to any other person (except for transcription purposes, if required due to the nature of a disability, in which case they can only be provided to the transcriber), nor reproduced or published in any form (this includes, but is not limited to, the internet and hard copy publication). Any breach of this agreement or the University's policy on the recording of lectures and other formal teaching sessions will be regarded as a disciplinary offence.

When social distancing measures no longer prevent the delivery of live, in person lectures, the Faculty will return to its former position on lecture recording, which is provided here for your information:

The Faculty supports the primary function of the lecture as a live teaching and learning event, and recognizes that the presence of the lecturer and students together has clear pedagogical benefits.

An important exception to this is where students require lectures to be recorded as part of their Student Support Plan (under the Equality Act). In these cases, lecturers will be informed in advance. The recording is only available to the individual student, who can view it via Canvas on Panopto. The lecture is deleted at the start of the following term.

If Faculty members choose to have their lectures captured and available to all students, then the lectures will be available on Panopto for one week only. They cannot be downloaded. Faculty members are under no obligation to do this.

Students are forbidden to download, share, copy, record, or otherwise re-broadcast a recorded lecture. The lecturer maintains intellectual property rights.

5.1.1 EULA (End User Licencing Agreement)

5.1.1.1 About this licence

*This user licence sets out the terms on which you may use a recorded lecture made available via the lecture capture service on the English Faculty Panopto pages (the **service**). By continuing to view lectures recorded and provided by the English Faculty, you are agreeing to this user licence and its conditions.*

5.1.1.2 Permitted use

All rights in a lecture made available on or through the service are reserved. You may access recorded lectures only for the purposes of your own private study and non-commercial research, provided you

acknowledge any use of the lecture in accordance with academic custom and any rules or guidance issued by the University. You must not download, broadcast or copy any lecture, or make copies or access details available to another person, or make an adaptation of a lecture, unless specifically authorised in writing or permitted under applicable intellectual property laws.

No other personal recording of lectures is permitted except by authorisation of the lecturer, or by recommendation in a Student Support Plan (SSP) from the Disability Advisory Service.

5.1.1.3 Disclaimer

The views expressed in any lecture are those of the people making them, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or the English Faculty. The English Faculty does not guarantee that the service, or any content on it, will always be available or be uninterrupted. Access to the service is permitted on a temporary basis. The English Faculty may suspend, withdraw, discontinue or change all or any part of the service without notice. The English Faculty will not be liable to you if for any reason the site is unavailable at any time or for any period.

If you have any questions or concerns about this licence, please contact undergrad@ell.ox.ac.uk

5.1.2 Notice of Recording

Please be aware that lectures may be recorded in audio format. These recordings may be used by the Faculty of English and accessed via Panopto by students.

At no time will audience members be intentionally recorded, but recordings will generally start and stop automatically on the hour – so conversations held next to the desk, immediately before or after a lecture, may be picked up. Audio pickup is limited by the reach of the microphone at the desk; this may include some questions from the audience.

No other personal recording of lectures is permitted except by authorisation of the lecturer, or by recommendation in a Student Support Plan (SSP) from the Disability Advisory Service.

For more information about lecture recording at the Faculty of English, please contact undergrad@ell.ox.ac.uk.

5.2 EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If the fire alarm sounds in the St Cross building, walk immediately to the front car park on St Cross Street. Do not run, or stop to collect possessions. Do not attempt to re-enter the building until authorised to do so by Faculty staff.

In the unlikely event of an armed incident, leave the area as quickly as possible. The key advice is to:

- RUN - to a place of safety. This is better than trying to surrender or negotiate.
- HIDE - it is better to hide than confront. Barricade yourself in, turn phones to silent and use only when it is safe to do so.
- TELL – the police by calling 999.

5.2.1 Oxford University Security Services

OUSS Website - <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss/>

General Enquiries (24 hours) & non-emergency incident reporting (0)1865 (2) 72944

Emergency (24 hours) (0)1865 (2) 89999

E-Mail: security.control@admin.ox.ac.uk