Format of papers for the MPhil Written Exercises (2014–15)

The papers set for the MPhil Written Exercises are based on the equivalent ASNC Tripos papers, adapted for the different circumstances. Specimen papers are available on the ASNC intranet. It should be understood that the MPhil Written Exercises will differ in certain respects from the Tripos papers (sat by the undergraduates); and that different subjects, as taught, cover different matters and thus give rise to different forms of question.

All papers are for completion in three hours.

History papers
Part I and Part II, Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4
All papers include a requirement to discuss points of interest in four ‘gobbets’ (short passages selected from primary source materials, or images of significant sites, objects or manuscripts). Passages from texts will be given in the original language, accompanied by an English translation. In the case of the Beginners- and Intermediate-level papers, the exercise will be directed towards the aspect of the subject which has been covered during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms of the current year of the 2-year teaching cycle.

Beginners (Prelim level), Papers 1–4
There will be three questions, carrying equal weight. In Question 1 (gobbets), candidates will be required to discuss points of interest raised by four gobbets (from a choice of 6). Candidates will also be required to answer two essay questions (out of a choice of 8).

Intermediate (Part I level), Papers 1–4
As above (Prelim level).

Advanced (Part II level), Papers 1–3 (Special Subjects)
There will be three questions, carrying equal weight. In Question 1 (gobbets), candidates will be required to discuss points of interest raised by four gobbets (from a choice of 6). Candidates will also be required to answer two essay questions (out of a choice of 8).

Advanced (Part II level), Papers 4 (Law & Lawlessness)
There will be three questions, carrying equal weight. In Question 1 (gobbets), candidates will be required to discuss points of interest raised by four gobbets (from a choice of 6). Candidates will also be required to answer two essay questions (out of a choice of 8). The questions will be of the more specific kind (as set in Section 2 of the Tripos paper).
Language and Literature papers
Part I, Papers 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Part II, Papers 5–9

Beginners (Prelim level)
There will be four questions, carrying equal weight. Questions 1 and 2 will be passages from the set texts for which the candidate will be required to provide a translation and short commentary. Questions 3 and 4 will be partially-glossed unseens, for translation. In Questions 1 and 2, the translation is worth 15%, and the commentary 10%.

Intermediate (Part I level)
There will be four questions, carrying equal weight. Questions 1 and 2 will be passages from the set texts for which the candidate will be required to provide a translation and short commentary. Questions 3 and 4 will be partially-glossed unseens, for translation. In Questions 1 and 2, the translation is worth 15%, and the commentary 10%.

Advanced (Part II level), Paper 5: Beowulf
The candidate will be required to write detailed commentaries on two passages from Beowulf, from a choice of three.

Advanced (Part II level), Paper 6: Medieval Scandinavian
There will be three questions; Question 1 will be worth 40%, and Questions 2 and 3 will be worth 30% each. Question 1 will be an unseen passage (partially glossed) for translation. Questions 2 and 3 will be passages from the set texts. For Question 2, candidates will be required to translate parts of the passage, and to comment on specified grammatical features; for Question 3, candidates will be required to discuss points of literary interest.

Advanced (Part II level), Paper 7: Medieval Welsh
There will be five questions, carrying equal weight. Questions 1 (Welsh), 2 (Cornish) and 3 (Breton) will be passages from the set texts; the candidate will be required to answer two out of these three questions and to provide a translation and short linguistic and literary commentary. Questions 4 and 5 will be partially-glossed unseens; the candidate will be required to attempt both. In Questions 1, 2 and 3, the translation is worth 10%, and the commentary 15%.

Advanced (Part II level), Paper 8: Medieval Irish
There will be five questions, carrying equal weight. Questions 1, 2 and 3 will be passages from the set texts; the candidate will be required to answer two of these questions; both linguistic and literary aspects of the texts will be addressed. Questions 4 and 5 will be partially-glossed unseens; the candidate will be required to attempt both.

Advanced (Part II level), Paper 9: Writing Women
The candidate will be required to translate two passages from the set texts, chosen from three passages, and to answer two commentary questions on each passage. The translations will be worth 60% of the total mark.
Palaeography and Codicology / Textual Criticism
Part 1, Paper 10; Part II, Paper 10

Beginners (Part I level), Paper 10 (Palaeography & Codicology)
There will be two questions, carrying equal weight. In Question 1, candidates will be required to transcribe and comment upon two short passages from a choice of 4 facsimiles provided. In Question 2, candidates will be required to discuss points of interest raised by facsimiles of pages from 4 manuscripts (from a choice of 6).

Advanced (Part II level), Paper 10 (Textual Criticism)
There will be one practical exercise in textual criticism in the candidate’s chosen language. The candidate will answer one other question, requiring definition of four technical terms in textual criticism (using examples where possible), chosen from a list of six terms.

Germanic Philology / Celtic Philology
Part II, Papers 11 and 12

Part II, Paper 11 (Germanic Philology)
Five passages will be set from the specified texts in the languages studied by the candidate(s), from which the candidate(s) will be required to choose three for detailed commentary (including at least one from each different language).

Part II, Paper 12 (Celtic Philology)
Seven passages will be set from the specified texts in the languages studied by the candidate(s), from which the candidate(s) will be required to choose five for detailed commentary (including at least one from each different language).