What are we talking about?
(An informal guide to some commonly used terms)

Tripos – Refers to undergraduate degree courses at Cambridge e.g. you would say you are studying the ASNC Tripos*.

*It is useful to note that the three year ASNC Tripos is divided into two main academic phases - Part I and Part II. Part I spans two years and consists of the ‘Prelim to Part I’ year (first year of study) and the ‘Part I’ year (second year of study). Students then move onto Part II (the third and final year).

Prelim (to Part I) – Describes the ‘stage’ of the Tripos you are studying for. Prelim students are usually in their first year of study. Confusion often arises because technically your ‘Prelim year’ is actually your ‘first year of Part I’ and therefore Prelim Students will see information relating to ‘Part I’, which relates to them also (depending on the context in which it is used).

Part I – Describes the ‘stage’ of the Tripos you are studying for. Part I students are usually in their second year of study.

Part II – Describes the ‘stage’ of the Tripos you are studying for. Part II students are usually in their third year of study.

Michaelmas Term – The term running from October – December

Lent Term – The term running from January – March

Easter Term – The term running from April – June

Teaching Weeks – Cambridge Teaching weeks run from Thursday – Wednesday. A guide to the days/dates of this year’s ‘weeks’ can be found here

Papers – This is the Cambridge term for what other Universities may call ‘modules’ that you study during each year of the Tripos. In each year you study a different number of papers from the selection available. There are different courses that run to make up the teaching for each paper which will consist of a series of lectures/seminars/classes that students attend. The Lecture list clearly shows all teaching that takes place for each paper. The Timetable shows the teaching in a week-view format for ease of planning.

- Click here for information on Part I (and Prelim) Papers
- Click here for information on Part II Papers

Tutor - In general, your Tutor will be a Fellow of your college, appointed to protect your interests, and to help you in all domestic (i.e. college) matters (college rooms, complaints about the food, book grants, travel grants, etc.).

DoS (Director of Studies) - Your DoS may be a Fellow of your college, or a Fellow of another college, and is appointed to look after your academic welfare. S/he will see you formally at the beginning and at the end of each term, and will assist you in making your choice of papers, in organising your supervisions, in checking your examination entries, and in planning your work during the course of the year. S/he will also discuss the reports submitted by a supervisor or supervisors towards the end of each term. Note, however, that the duties assigned to each officer may vary from one college to
another, and that your Tutor also receives and will certainly wish to discuss your supervision reports. Click here for [this year’s DoS list](#).

**Raven** – the security log-in you must go through to access to restricted materials. You will be given a username and password for this.

**ASNC Student Intranet** – pages on the ASNC Website that has restricted content (you will need to log in via Raven to access these pages). [Click here to see the intranet page](#).

**CamTools** – an online system (accessed via Raven) used to share materials and resources etc. There are different CamTools ‘sites’ for different courses/purposes but you will only be able to see those you are subscribed to. [Click here to go to the CamTools site](#).

**CamSIS** - Cambridge's system for handling student information, records and transactions, from initial contact and application, all the way through to graduation. [Click here to go to the CamSIS site](#).

**JAC (Joint Academic Committee)** - is a meeting that takes at the end of each term between Undergraduate students and Senior Members of the Department. [Click here](#) for more information.

**GJAC (Graduate Joint Academic Committee)** - is a meeting that takes at the end of each term between Graduate students and Senior Members of the Department. [Click here](#) for more information.

Created by Charlotte (2013)