

ENGLISH TRIPOS PART I PAPER 10, PART II PAPER 14

Please read this carefully and don't hesitate to ask if anything is unclear.

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General

The paper deals with literature from 1066-1350 written in the British Isles or those parts of Europe controlled at one time or another within this period by the English monarch (what might be called 'The Angevin Empire' - Henry II was from Anjou). Literature covered was originally written in one of the following languages: Medieval Latin, Anglo-Norman (a dialect of French), and Early Middle English.

Texts are read either in the original language or in a modern English translation. On the paper, students need to show they have studied at least ONE of the original languages. It is rare for students to show knowledge of two or three original languages, but this would be allowed on the paper.

The paper is in two sections: Section A and Section B. In the examination, candidates answer one question (comprising 3 parts) in section A, and two questions in section B. Thus Section A commands 33% of the marks and Section B 67%. The whole paper lasts three hours.

There is a reading list for the paper provided by the English Faculty at the following Link.

http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/local/part1/rlists/RLI10_10-11.pdf

Section A

This section tests translation skill and understanding of the language. THERE ARE NO UNSEENS. Candidates must translate three passages from prepared prescribed texts. In each language, there are about 5 or 6 prescribed texts from which these passages will be drawn. It is essential that students prepare **all** of the set sets in **one** language (even if they intend to mix and match among languages) as they have no way of knowing which three will be on the paper.

Teaching for Section A

1. Language Classes (Intercollegiate)

Students should attend the relevant classes. Normally students will attend one set of classes as follows:

Anglo-Norman (Michaelmas and Lent Term)
Middle English (Michaelmas and Lent Term)
Middle English (Lent Term only)
Latin (Michaelmas and Lent Term)

You will need to decide which you would prefer. You may, if you wish, attend classes in two or three languages. Most students attend one, however.

2. SUPERVISIONS

Some supervisors will offer help with the translations if you have particular difficulty, and will be pleased if you approach them with specific questions after you have attended the classes. Some supervisors may go through the prescribed texts more formally, whether during the main supervision programme or as revision. Whatever the precise arrangements, the cover offered in supervisions for Section A is not a substitute for attendance at the classes.

3. PRACTICE TEST

There is a practice test in the April before the examinations (which is usually in late May or early June) on Section A only. Directors of Studies can decide whether or not a student sits the test, but it is anticipated that most students will take this chance to assess their familiarity with the prescribed passages.

Section B

This section tests candidates' knowledge of literary texts in the period, and of the philosophical, cultural and historical backgrounds, as they help us to understand the literature. Students are not necessarily expected to write on the texts from which the set passages for translation are chosen, but they may well wish to do so. They should also go beyond these texts and read more widely.

Questions are set on a range of texts, genres, literary styles and cultural issues. There is quite a lot of choice but it is essential to prepare in depth as well as across a range of topics. Questions on historical and other background will be set and you are encouraged to look beyond the literature of the period. However, questions will always be framed in terms of the literary significance of what you know and it is important that knowledge of background should be deployed in order to elucidate specific texts.

This paper encourages comparative thinking across and between texts originally written in the three languages, Anglo-Norman, Early Middle English and Medieval Latin. Although not an actual requirement of the paper, you are strongly urged to think comparatively.

Teaching for Section B

1. FACULTY-BASED TEACHING

In the **Michaelmas Term**, there are lectures which will be of general interest to people taking this paper, such as 'Medieval Literary Styles', (Dr M E J Hughes).

In the **Lent Term**, there are lectures planned precisely on this paper. These are provisionally scheduled for Monday mornings 'Post Conquest Literature', (Professor Barry Windeatt and Others).

In both terms, there are other lectures which will be useful to students taking this paper. A note of these will be circulated before the start of the year.

2. SUPERVISIONS

You would expect to have four to six hours of supervision for this paper, either individually or in a small group. (This is in addition to the language classes mentioned above)

Some supervisors for this paper offer a programme of teaching across the three terms, while others may suggest a focus on work within a single term, usually Lent, followed by revision in Easter. Whichever pattern is offered to you, the supervisor will make sure you have covered sufficient ground to tackle the paper by the time you sit the exam in late May or early June.

All students should go to **all literary supervisions** arranged for them, regardless of the language they have chosen to study in the original: some of the supervisions will deal with single texts; others may take a comparative approach dealing with a range of texts originally written in two or three of the medieval languages and linked by, for example, genre, theme or readership. Texts will be studied in translation, with individual students encouraged to look at texts within their competency in the original where they can.

Quotation in section B essays should normally be in the original in the case of texts in the language which the student has chosen as his or her 'original' language, but may be in modern English for other texts. Thus, for example, if you choose Early Medieval English for your language preparation, texts studied which were written originally in Latin or Anglo-Norman may be quoted in modern English. However, if you have any language skills (such as GCSE acquaintanceship with modern French, for example) you might wish to look at short passages of texts in the original even where you are not required to do so.

Students will be asked to write several **essays** in the course of their year's or term's supervision. These should be a minimum of 1500 words and can be word-processed or neatly handwritten. Supervisors do not usually set a maximum but 2000 words are probably enough!

GIVING IN WORK. Supervisors will expect essays in advance. A rule of thumb, subject to specific instructions from your supervisor, is that an essay should be submitted by 3.30pm on the day before your supervision. It is usual to submit essays in hard copy, although some supervisors may advise you that they are willing to accept an essay as an email attachment.

ILLNESS If you are ill and unable to attend, please let your supervisor know **BEFORE** the supervision.

PRESCRIBED TEXTS FOR 2012 (for SECTION A)

Please note that the texts for 2013 will be different.

Use only the text and edition specified. Other editions will not necessarily have the same numbering for lines, pages or sections.

By the time of the exam, you will need to be able to translate all the passages from at least ONE group of texts:

Group 1: Middle English

J. A. Burrow and Thorlac Turville-Petre, ed., *A Book of Middle English*, third edition

(Oxford: Blackwell, 2004):

The Peterborough Chronicle 1137, lines 1-82

The Owl and the Nightingale, lines 1-390

La3amon, *Brut*, lines 1-173

Bella Millett and Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, ed., *Medieval English Prose for Women:*

Selections from the Katherine Group and Ancrene Wisse (Oxford: Clarendon

Press, 1990):

Seinte Margaret, p. 50 line 4 to p. 62 line 21

Ancrene Wisse, Part 7, p. 110 line to p. 122 line 20

The Middle English Breton Lays, ed. Anne Laskaya and Eve Salisbury, (Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications, 1995),

Lay le Freine, lines 1 –120, 135 – 310

Group 2: Anglo-Norman

Beroul, *Le Roman de Tristan*, ed. Alfred Ewert 1939; repr. Oxford: Blackwell, 1988), lines 1437 – 1834

‘1. *The Service for Representing Adam*’, in *Mediaeval Drama*, ed. David Bevington (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975), lines 358 – 390

La Chanson de Roland, ed. Frederick Whitehead, rev. T. D. Hemming (1942; Bristol: Bristol Classical Press, 1993), lines 2570-2685 and 3130 -3236

Marie de France, *Lais*, ed. Alfred Ewert (1944; repr. Oxford: Blackwell, 1987; Bristol: Bristol Classical Press, 1995), ‘Le Fresne’, lines 1 – 312

Wace’s Roman de Brut: A History of the British, ed. and trans. Judith Weiss (Exeter: Exeter University Press, 1999), lines 12977 – 13298

Group 3: Latin

Ad interfectionem puerorum (The Slaughter of the Innocents), no. 19. in *Mediaeval Drama*, ed. David Bevington (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975)

Nigel of Longchamps, *Speculum Stultorum*, ed. J. H. Mozley and R. R. Raymo (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1960), lines 2665 – 2872

The Historia Regum Britannie of Geoffrey of Monmouth: I. Bern, Burgerbibliothek, MS. 568, ed. Neil Wright (Cambridge: Brewer, 1984), paragraphs 137 – 142 (pp. 96 – 100)

Walter Map, *De Nugis Curialium*, ed. and trans. M. R. James, rev. C. N. L. Brooke and R. A. B. Mynors (1914; Oxford: Clarendon press, 1983), p.286 line 17 to p.296 line 32

‘The Songs of Peter of Blois’, printed in Fleur Adcock, ed. and trans., *The Virgin and the Nightingale* (Newcastle: Bloodaxe, 1983), nos X – XVII