

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

VERSION LOG

Official descriptions of individual papers offered for the Preliminary Examination, together with a table summarising recommended patterns of teaching, were published to the Faculty website on 18/08/2023. Subsequent changes to these official online descriptions will be recorded in this document (which will be uploaded to the same page of the website) and that record kept online for three years. For information about versions of the syllabus prior to Michaelmas Term 2023 or concerning expired records, please contact the Faculty Office.

In the detailed record below: strike-through indicates deleted text (~~like this~~), underlining indicates added/new text (like this).

On a discretionary basis, this log will exclude very minor changes (e.g. adjustments to formatting and corrections of simple typographical errors), which neither alter the substance of the paper description nor affect interpretation of that description.

The most recent changes will display at the top of this document.

16/04/2026	<p>An urgent correction to the delivery section of Introduction to the Study of the Bible, bringing it into line with the change to set texts made on 11/08/2025.</p> <p>8 text classes: 4 on Genesis 15-17 and 22 in Hilary Term and 4 on Luke 9, 15-16 and 22<u>21-24</u> in Trinity Term.</p>
11/08/2025	<p>The following paper descriptions have been updated as shown below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to the Study of the Bible</p> <p>Under 'Set Texts'</p> <p>[Please note that past examination papers may not reflect the current provision, see the Version Log for details.]</p> <p>The textual focus is on narratives concerning Abraham (Genesis 12–25) and Jesus (the Gospel of Luke). Examination gobbets will come from eight specific chapters, namely Genesis 15–17 and 22, and Luke 9, 15-16 and 22<u>21-24</u>. The English translation of the Bible used in examinations will be the New Revised Standard Version.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Testament Greek</p> <p>Under 'Set Texts'</p> <p><u>[Please note that past examination papers may not reflect the current provision, see the Version Log for details.]</u></p>

	<p>Luke 11; 14-18; <u>14-17; 21-22.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pali</p> <p>Under ‘Set Texts’:</p> <p><u>Examination of language attainment will be based on selected passages and verses from the following texts:</u></p> <p>The Fire Sermon (Ādittapariyāya-sutta), the dDependent Origination (Paṭiccasamuppāda), Setting in Motion the Wheel of Dharma (Dhammacakkapavattana-sutta), and passages from the Dhammapada and from the Jātaka tales <u>Verses on Dhamma (Dhammapada) and Buddhaghosa's Path of Purification (Visuddhimagga).</u></p> <p>Under ‘Aims’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be able to appreciate the interpretative nature of translation as a <u>central discipline to the study of religions</u> <p style="text-align: center;">Sanskrit</p> <p>Under ‘Set Texts’:</p> <p><u>Examination of language attainment will be based on selected passages and verses from the following texts:</u></p> <p>Passages from <u>Twenty-five Tales of the Corpse-Demon (Vetālapañcavimśati), the Chāndogya Upaniṣad, the Song of the Lord (Bhagavadgītā), the Haṭhayogapradīpikā and Nāgārjuna's Pratītyasamutpādaḥrdayakārikā with auto-commentary Buddhist Heart Sūtra (Prajñāpāramitāḥrdayasūtra), Light on Hathayoga (Haṭhpradīpikā) and Patañjali's Yoga Sūtras (Pātāñjalayogaśāstra).</u></p> <p>Under ‘Aims’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be able to appreciate the interpretative nature of translation as a <u>central discipline to the study of religions</u>
07/11/2024	<p>The following paper description has been updated as shown below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Religion and Religions</p> <p>Under Delivery: ‘Thematic focus for the Study of each Religion’</p> <p>Study of the religious tradition, especially for and in tutorials, will focus on a specified theme, as follows:</p> <p>[...]</p>

		Judaism	<u>BOTH</u> <u>(i) Covenant – its meaning and implications</u> <u>AND</u> <u>(ii) Texts, rituals, and beliefs</u>
09/10/2024	<p>The following paper description has been updated as shown (typographical changes and inconsequential corrections are not tracked below).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Qur'ānic Arabic</p> <p>Description</p> <p>Students will be expected to <u>acquire and show</u> elementary knowledge of Qur'ānic Arabic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, <u>as set out</u> (to include only the topics covered in Alan Jones, <i>Arabic Through the Qur'ān</i> (Cambridge: The Islamic Texts Society, 2011) pp. 1-120). <u>Students will also understand the importance of grammar for Qur'ānic exegesis.</u></p> <p>Set Texts</p> <p><u>Q. 12:1–20</u></p> <p><u>Q. 19:1–36</u></p> <p><u>Q. 37:83–113</u></p> <p><u>The text of the Qur'ān will be taken from <i>Mushaf al-Madīnah an-Nabawiyyah</i> (Medina: Majma' al-Malik Fahd li-Tibā'at al-Mushaf ash-Sharīf, 1422 [2001]).</u></p> <p>The following short passages from the Qur'an have been chosen for translation and grammatical comment:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q 1-1-7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q 16-74-76</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q 21-30-35</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q 36-33-36</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q 39-53-58</p> <p>The Arabic text will be taken from M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, <i>The Qur'an: English Translation with Parallel Arabic</i>. Rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.</p> <p>Aims</p>		

	<p><u>The paper aims to equip students with the essentials of Qur’ānic Arabic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. This is to enable them to translate and provide grammatical comments on passages from the Qur’ān, as well as to render sentences from English into Qur’ānic Arabic.</u></p> <p>This paper will test knowledge of the Arabic grammatical features and vocabulary most commonly encountered in the Qur’an. The paper contains passages from portions of the Qur’an for vocalizing, for translation (from Arabic into English), and for linguistic and exegetical comment. The sentences for translation will test knowledge of common grammatical forms.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>Students who have studied for this paper will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have mastered elementary Classical Qur’ānic Arabic as set out in Alan Jones, <i>Arabic Through the Qur’ān</i>. • be able to translate and comment passages from the Qur’ān, the Hadith or other theological texts. • be able to answer questions on elementary Qur’ānic Arabic grammar. • be able to translate simple English sentences into Qur’ānic Arabic.
<p>08/10/2024</p>	<p>RPT table updated to note that lectures for Introduction to the Study of the Bible will be distributed across MT24 and HT25 (instead of both series in MT4)</p>
<p>18/08/2023</p>	<p>Official descriptions of individual papers and table of recommended patterns of teaching published to Faculty website.</p>