

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Papers available for the Honour School of Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

For students commencing in MT24 for examination in 2026.

Examination Regulations require candidates “to offer eight papers. Three papers must be in Religion and three in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; the other two may be in either Religion or Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. All candidates will be required to submit as one of their eight papers either a thesis (in Religion) or a dissertation (in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies).”

For Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, candidates specialising in Buddhism (with Pali) must offer papers from the approved lists below.

Buddhism with Pali

The official syllabus descriptions for individual papers are provided in the Bachelor of Arts in Sanskrit Handbook, accessible through [the Faculty's Handbooks page](#).

All candidates must offer the following TWO papers:

Advanced Pali Unprepared Translation

Advanced Pali Prepared Texts

Additionally candidates MUST offer ONE paper and may offer a further ONE or TWO papers selected from the list below, providing that the total number of AMES papers offered does not exceed five, including the AMES dissertation (if offered).

Further Buddhist Texts: Pali

Essay Questions on classical Indian literature, history and culture

Essay Questions on Pali language, literature and culture

Anthropology of Buddhism

Teaching for the two essay papers will take place in either a student's second or third year depending on scheduling restrictions. Students will attend lecture series offered by the AMES faculty throughout the year and supplemented by ca. 10 tutorials with essays. The texts paper will be taught during one term in a student's third year for which weekly reading classes will be provided as well as a bibliography of relevant secondary literature. Tutorials may be offered at the tutor's discretion. The exam paper will contain passages of primary texts in Pali for translation, comment or short-answer questions.

The Asian and Middle Eastern Studies dissertation

Candidates may (and if **not** offering the Theology and Religion Thesis, candidates **must**) offer an AMES dissertation as a fourth or fifth AMES paper.

Candidates choosing an AMES dissertation (rather than a Theology and Religion thesis) will be subject to the same structure and deadlines as other Sanskrit students within the Faculty. More information on the dissertation is available from the [the Faculty's Handbooks page](#).

Prerequisites and restrictions

The offering of individual papers is subject to the restrictions and prerequisites pertaining to those papers in the Bachelor of Arts in Sanskrit Handbook, accessible through [the Faculty's Handbooks page](#).

The offering of individual papers from the Faculty of Theology and Religion is subject to the restrictions and prerequisites pertaining to those papers.

Any students or college tutors concerned about the suitability of a particular paper or paper combination are welcome to approach the Sanskrit course coordinator for advice.

Weighting in Assessment

All papers, including the AMES dissertation, are equally weighted as one of eight Honour School papers. The delivery and assessment of each option is outlined in the individual paper descriptions.