

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Papers available for the Honour School of Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, specialising in Islam

For students commencing in MT25 for examination in 2027.

Examination Regulations require candidates “to offer eight papers. Three papers must be in Religion and three in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES); 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 AMES).”

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

Islam

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

All candidates must offer the following TWO papers:

Translation from Classical Arabic

Islamic Texts

and AT LEAST ONE paper from the lists below, with no more than one of each type,

Further Subject: Art and Architecture in the Early Modern Empires of Islam

Further Subject: Mountains, Religion, and Revolution in the Islamic World

Further Subject: Qur'an

Further Subject: Sufism

Special Subject: Islamic Law

Special Subject: Islam and the Study of Religion

Any other Special Subject paper which is deemed suitable and approved by the Joint Committee of the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Theology and Religion in Trinity Term 2026, when this statement may be reissued.

‘Further Subject’ papers are normally taught in Trinity Term of the first year of the Honour School. Delivery combines weekly classes or seminars with 4 essay-based tutorials (in alternate weeks). Assessment is by one three-hour written examination in Trinity term of the final year of the Honour School. It is normally possible to offer only ONE Further Subject option. Students will confirm to the Faculty their choice of Further Subject papers in Michaelmas term of the first year of the Honour School.

'Special Subject' papers are normally taught in Michaelmas Term, and will be available only to students in the final year of the Honour School. Delivery combines weekly lectures and 6 essay-based tutorials. For Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies students, assessment is by a three-hour written examination in Trinity term of the final year of the Honour School. It is normally possible to offer only ONE Special Subject option. Students will confirm their choice of Special Subject papers in Trinity term of the first year of the Honour School.

This document confirms the availability of Further Subject papers. The availability of Special Subject papers will be confirmed in Trinity of the year before they will be taught. Not all papers may be available in all years.

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. That is, students wishing to write a dissertation in AMES **must** offer at least one other paper (a Further Subject or a Special Subject) in addition to the two compulsory papers.

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

Prerequisites and restrictions

Candidates may take ONE of each of Further Subject or Special Subject papers.

There are no precluded combinations for Further Subject or Special Subject papers, and students may take any one paper regardless of which other papers they may be offering in Theology and Religion. 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 Arabic course coordinator for advice.

Weighting in Assessment

For the Honour School of Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, all papers, including the AMES dissertation and Special Subject, are equally weighted as one of eight Honour School papers. The delivery and assessment of each option is outlined in the individual paper descriptions.