

PART IIB - 2024-2025

Paper C1a	Advanced Hebrew
Paper C1b	Advanced New Testament Greek
Paper C1c	Advanced Sanskrit
Paper C1d	Advanced Qur'anic Arabic
Paper C2	The Five Scrolls
Paper C3	New Testament Christology
Paper C4	Topic in the History of Christianity: The British Reformations and their Discontents
Paper C5	Topic in Christian Theology (Subject: Charity)
Paper C8	The Jewish Tradition and Christianity: from Antiquity to Modernity
Paper C9	Islam II
Paper C10	Hinduism and Buddhism II
Paper C11	Truth, God and Metaphysics
Paper C12	Theology and the Natural Sciences
Paper C13	Empire, Religion and Identity: Judaism in the Persian Period
Paper C14	Christianity, Hellenism, and Empire
Paper C15	Contemporary Christian Theology
Paper C16	The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience
Paper C17	Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages [Philosophy Faculty]
Paper C19	Self and Salvation in Indian and Western Thought
Paper C20	A Topic in The History of Christianity: Councils in Context
Paper C21	The End of the World: Anthropological Case Studies
Paper C22	Philosophy, Ethics and the Other
Paper C24	World Christianities - Decolonising Christendom. The Complex Legacies of Global Christianity
Paper C26	The Play of Imagination

Paper Choices

Candidates for Part IIB must offer:

either (a) four papers chosen from Group C;
or (b) three papers chosen from Group C and a dissertation.

- **Candidates offering four papers** may not offer more than two papers examined by an alternative means of assessment (as defined in Regulation 17 for the Tripos).
- **Candidates who offer a dissertation** may not offer more than one paper examined by an alternative means of assessment.
- **A candidate may choose to offer an additional language paper**, subject to the provisions of Regulations 24b or 25b.

Paper C1a - Advanced Hebrew

Paper Coordinator: Professor Nathan MacDonald

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper is intended for students ordinarily in their third year of Hebrew, with a focus on linguistic and textual exegesis of prescribed texts in Hebrew. The choice of set texts is designed (apart from their intrinsic interest) to introduce students to the special features of poetic Hebrew (parallelism, grammatical features, imagery) and to nonbiblical sources. Advanced text-critical and lexicographical problems of Hebrew will also be introduced, and students will be expected to comment on the various witnesses (manuscripts and versions) to the texts and the textual evidence for the history of the Hebrew language. Throughout the course lectures and private study are expected to be supplemented by fortnightly supervision practising translation into Hebrew and commenting on Hebrew texts. The lectures will focus mainly on linguistic aspects of the texts, but their theological and literary aspects should also be explored.

Paper C1b - Advanced New Testament Greek

Paper Coordinator: Dr Annalisa Wilson

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper will allow students to extend their understanding of Hellenistic Greek and also to study in detail particular texts that extend students' familiarity with the New Testament. Students will develop skills in questions of textual criticism, language, historical background, exegesis, and theology, particularly as these are encountered through the exercise of translation. In addition to working with prescribed texts students will also develop skills in translating unseen passages which may be taken from the New Testament, other early Christian literature of similar date, or the Greek Bible.

In addition to the translation lectures, four classes on New Testament Textual Criticism will normally be offered.

Paper C1c - Advanced Sanskrit

Paper Coordinator: Professor Vincenzo Vergiani

Assessment method: Three-hour examination

Candidates will be required to translate passages from the prescribed texts from Sanskrit into English, to answer questions on their language, style, and content, and to translate one unseen passage from Sanskrit to English.

Paper C1d - Advanced Qur'anic Arabic

Paper Coordinator: Mrs Nadira Auty

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper aims to build on the knowledge acquired by students who have taken Paper B1d. In addition to a representative selection of Qur'anic texts, candidates will study portions from two Qur'anic commentaries, and from several advanced texts of Islamic theology, philosophy and Sufism.

Paper C2 - The Five Scrolls

Paper Coordinator: Professor Katharine Dell

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper seeks to explore the five books that make up 'the five scrolls' or 'Megilloth' from within the wider group of the Writings section of the canon. These are Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and Esther. This is a Jewish liturgical alignment, which is of interest in itself, but which also provides an opportunity to study five very different books, ranging across different genres and containing differing theological themes. This paper raises issues of canon and canon-placement, of Jewish and Christian context, of genre, with some poetry, some narrative, some women's stories, some wisdom material, some historical material and some key theological themes too. The history of interpretation is also of relevance from allegorical interpretations to feminist readings, from questions of ethnicity and identity to readings from all kinds of contexts.

Paper C3 - New Testament Christology

Paper Coordinator: Dr Simon Gathercole

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

The paper will involve detailed investigation of main themes and issues involved in the study of Christology within the New Testament. The main topics that will be dealt with are: Problems and Issues involved in New Testament Christology; Questions concerning Jesus as Prophet, Son of Man, and Messiah; Messianic Hope in relation to Christology; Resurrection and the Beginnings of Christology; The Scope and Significance of Christological Titles; Wisdom, Logos and Pre-existence; Angelology and Angelomorphic Christology; Visionary Traditions and Christology; The Use of Scripture in relation to Christ; The Worship of Christ; Christology and Jewish Monotheism; Christology in John, Hebrews and Revelation; Political Significance of Christology.

Paper C4 - Topic in the History of Christianity [History Tripos, Part IB Paper T8]

Paper Coordinator: Professor Richard Rex

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

Topic: 'Faith, Fire, and Fury: The British Reformations and their Discontents'

The religious reformations that convulsed the British Isles in the sixteenth century entailed a profound rupture with the medieval Christian past. This paper examines these events and their divisive political, ecclesiastical, social and cultural consequences and repercussions up to 1700 – a period which saw the outbreak of a bitter and violent civil war, the execution of King Charles I, and a constitutional revolution which was accompanied by the granting of partial toleration to Protestant dissenters. Against the backdrop of the equally tumultuous developments in other parts of Europe and the global missionary movement for religious renewal, it will explore the different approaches to and trajectories of religious reform in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. The paper will show how religion and politics were closely intertwined and explore how the Reformations - Protestant, Catholic and radical - created problems of pluralism, sectarianism, authority and conscience that continued to complicate the stability of the church and state. The multiple religious groups it brought into being presented a challenge to a society that believed uniformity was the foundation of order and that regarded toleration with unease, if not with horror. It will consider the experiences of those who witnessed and participated in the unprecedented disruption which these movements wrought and the new forms of piety that it served to generate and nurture. It will introduce students to the rich and fertile scholarship that surrounds this field and expose them to source material that opens a window into the centrality of religion in the early modern world. It also raises larger questions about the power of religious ideas as an agent of violence, conversion, resistance and change and their ramifications in personal piety and everyday life.

Paper C5 - Topic in Christian Theology (Subject: Charity)

Paper Coordinator: Dr Stephen Plant

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

'And now faith, hope, and love abide', wrote the Apostle Paul, 'these three: and the greatest of these is love'. This paper explores the central role of love in the Christian tradition. In particular, love is considered in relation to its practice in response to need and poverty. The paper moves from the historical development of theologies of love (charity) to their contemporary expression in institutional Charities/Faith-Based Non Governmental Organisations. In the second half of the course a range of issues facing Charities/NGOs are explored. This course may be of particular interest to students considering careers in the Charity sector.

Learning Outcomes:

- To develop an understanding of the doctrinal and historical roots of contemporary charitable institutions and practices.

- To explore a Christian understanding of love and of its consequences.
- To explore ethical challenges facing UK charities and international development NGOs.
- To enable students to make connections between theology and work in the charity sector.

Paper C8 – The Jewish Tradition and Christianity: From Antiquity to Modernity

Paper Coordinator: Dr Daniel Weiss

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper will consider the relationship of the Jewish tradition to Christianity from antiquity to modernity. It is well known that Christianity evolved in intimate discussion with Judaism, yet how far does this apply vice-versa? The paper will consider ways in which the mainstream of the Jewish tradition, from antiquity to the modern period, incorporated and was formed by responses to the theological, social and political challenges generated by interactions with Christianity.

Paper C9 - Islam II

Paper Coordinator: Dr Tony Street

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper will deal with two advanced topics in Islamic Studies.

Prescribed Topics:

- A. Islamic Philosophy and Philosophical Theology: We consider notions of canon, authority and unbelief in the Islamic world prior to 1300 with special reference to the intellectual traditions of falsafa and kalam. We go on to explore disputes about the corpus of works translated from Greek, and whether the methods in these works led to conflict with Islamic texts of authority and their implicit conceptions of God's nature, the created world and the human agent.
- B. Aspects of Medieval Sufism: A series of reflections on themes in medieval Sufism, from theories of knowledge, renunciation and metaphysical systems, working especially from the texts of al-Ghazali and Ibn Arabi.

Paper C10 - Hinduism and Buddhism II

Paper Coordinator: Dr Ankur Barua

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This course inquires with some detail into specified topics in Hinduism and Buddhism. It is not necessary to have done the introductory course (B16), but, of course, this would be of help. As religio-cultural traditions of great antiquity and richness (over two and a half millennia in each case) which, on the one hand, have interacted with each other in important ways, but on the other, have developed more or less independently of the Abrahamic traditions, Hinduism and Buddhism have a great deal to offer in the exploration of what it is to be human. They have basic religious, philosophical and ethical insights which are not only mutually challenging but also interrogate many of the basic presuppositions of the Abrahamic faiths. As such, they are richly rewarding of careful study, especially on topics such as the use of language in constructing and understanding our systems of reality, the nature of suffering, and the ethics of the individual and community.

A subsidiary aim of this course would be to consider comparative methodologies, with special reference to the Abrahamic faiths (another chief focus of the Faculty).

Paper C11 – Truth, God and Metaphysics

Paper Coordinator: Dr Blake Allen

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

This paper is designed to provide third year undergraduates with an in-depth understanding of the contemporary problems of theological metaphysics, especially insofar as they relate to developments within contemporary philosophy and theory; and to enable them to distinguish, and argue rationally and convincingly between alternative positions, whether religious, non - or anti-religious, and to evaluate key sources from different historical periods and philosophico-theological idioms.

Paper C12 - Theology and the Natural Sciences

Paper Coordinator: Professor Andrew Davison

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper covers a focused range of topics in the overlap of theology and natural sciences, with an emphasis on the nature of creaturely existence. It will consider accounts of 'creaturehood' from the perspectives of the biological sciences and from theological traditions, with attention to areas of agreement and disagreement, and the shape of potential dialogue. The emphasis will be on Christian theology, although consideration will also be given to the debate between theology and natural sciences in other theological traditions.

Paper C13 - Empire, Religion and Identity: Judaism in the Persian Period

Paper Coordinator: Professor Nathan MacDonald

Assessment Method: Three-hour examination

This paper will be concerned with the literature, history and religious life of Judeans and related communities outside Judah in the Persian period (539–333 BCE). The Persian period is a formative period for the development of Jewish identity and has been the focus of significant scholarly investigation in recent decades. Despite its importance, the period poses numerous challenges for those reconstructing the history and religious life of the Judeans and those with whom they had close relations. This paper will introduce students to this dynamic area of research, providing a close engagement with some of the key written texts and some of the major thematic concerns of current scholarship, such as the law, the temple(s), the priesthood and ethnic identity. The paper fills a lacuna in the offerings within the faculty by examining the period between the neo-Babylonian period (covered in B2) and the Hellenistic period (covered in B3). The set text will be Ezra-Nehemiah. (Future set texts could include Isaiah 56–66; Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi).

Paper C14 - Christianity, Hellenism, and Empire (Joint paper between Divinity and Classics - Classics, X3)

Paper Coordinator (Divinity): Dr Annalisa Phillips Wilson

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

This paper focuses on the 'manifestation' of early Christianity in the Roman empire. The earliest Christian texts, the so-called 'New Testament' writings, are entirely written in Greek. Indeed, the body of Christian literature surviving from the Roman empire vastly surpasses the size of the classical canon. Yet somehow this body of texts and the culture that generated them is perceived as if belonged to a different world than that was inhabited by their non-Christian contemporaries. This paper examines the place of Christianity in the Graeco-Roman world in all its historical, religious, and philosophical complexities. How did it fit into a Greek world under Rome? How did Christianity relate to the Roman Empire in which it became more and more disseminated, also adopting the use of Latin? What are the historical connections, and which (joint) discourses and narratives did they engage? Was it, did it remain, or did it become, something alien to the classical world? Or was it always an 'integral' part of the Empire? Do we think of the constellation of practices that we call 'Christianity' as something separate from the society in which it originated, or as a Roman religion? In what ways and to what effects did the complex, multifaceted Roman Empire set and determine the context for Christianity?

Paper C15 - Contemporary Christian Theology

Paper Coordinator: Professor David Fergusson

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

This course enables students to engage in close study of recent work in systematic theology. Covering a broad range of doctrines, it will explore the output of some of the most influential thinkers over the last twenty years. Consideration will be given to different methodologies, perspectives and styles and also to the agenda of problems with which recent theologians have worked. The ecumenical, religious, academic and socio-political contexts that shape recent systematic theologies will be registered, while the usefulness of the discipline for church and society will also be considered.

Paper C16 – The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience

Paper Coordinator: Professor Simeon Zahl

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

This seminar-based paper is concerned with the Christian doctrine of the Holy Spirit. It pays particular attention to the relation between the Holy Spirit and the experiences and practices of Christians. Through discussions of classic theological texts from a variety of periods and traditions, the paper will examine a series of major topics in pneumatology, including: the trinitarian identity of the Spirit; the work of the Spirit in relation to baptism, grace, sanctification, and Christian practices; problems of self-deception and authority in discernment of the Spirit; the nature and significance of pentecostal theology; and the role of spirituality and experience in theological method. An important theme of the paper will be the work of the Spirit in relationship to affect, embodiment, and materiality, and students will have freedom to draw on theoretical work from outside of the discipline of Christian theology in their examinations of these themes, in conversation with classic theological texts.

Paper C17 - Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages

Paper Coordinator: Professor John Marenbon

This paper is borrowed from the Philosophy Tripos (Part II, Paper 5). Please contact the Faculty of Philosophy for the full paper description and assessment details.

Paper C19 – Self and Salvation in Indian and Western Thought

Paper coordinators: Dr Ankur Barau (*primary coordinator*) and Professor Douglas Hedley

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

This is a broad-brush paper, which treats the themes of “selfhood” and “salvation”. These are western terms, of course, aligned for alliterative effect, but the aim is to focus on the condition of self-consciousness and its fulfilment in a comparative context. “Self-consciousness” need not refer only to human personhood, nor “salvation” to communion with a personal God. This motif will be highlighted in the course’s comparative context of Indian (viz. Hindu and Buddhist) thought and western (i.e. western Christian and secular) thought. Thus “self” and “salvation” in varied senses, e.g. those of Plato, Plotinus, Hegel, the Buddhists and the Samkhyas, will be considered.

It is a defining mark of human beings that they are self-aware, and capable of reflecting on existence, the world, and human fulfilment, particularly in a religious context. This course is meant to offer insights, from the point of view of philosophy and the history of ideas, into the human exploration of selfhood and salvation, in western and Indian contexts. The comparative method of the course is meant to be a particularly advantageous pedagogic component in the increasingly global framework of our lives.

Paper C20 - A Topic in the History of Christianity: Councils in Context

Paper coordinator: Professor Thomas Graumann

Assessment method: Two essays of 5,000 words each.

This paper is concerned with synods and councils in the early church, considering their theological themes and their historical and social contexts. It will focus in particular, but not exclusively, on the oecumenical councils of the fourth and fifth centuries, and the rich documentary evidence for their proceedings. It may be especially attractive to those students who took B6 in their second year, but this is not a requirement for choosing this paper.

Paper C21 The End of the World: Anthropological Case Studies

Paper Coordinator: Professor Joseph Webster

Assessment method: Two essays of 5,000 words each.

In this paper, students will study a wide range of millenarian movements, including the Millerites, the Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Brethren, the Jesus Christians, American Survivalists, Cargo Cults, the Ghost Dance, Xhosa Cattle Killing, UFO worshippers, and Mass Suicide movements. Key themes include: the use of millennial theory as presentist critique; the development of millenarian majorities; the social, cultural and political implications of popular millennialism; the role of violence in millenarian experience, and millennialism's place in dystopian and utopian theory. The paper also considers seemingly 'secular' expressions of millenarianism, including predictions of an AI singularity, and fears about catastrophic global warming. By offering a detailed critique of two canonical theories of millenarian religiosity (cognitive dissonance theory and deprivation theory), the paper concludes by considering the analytical worth of 'taking seriously' the theological and moral claims that millenarian communities make about themselves and the world around them.

Paper C22 – Philosophy, Ethics and the Other

Paper Coordinator: Dr Daniel Weiss

Assessment Method: Two 5,000-word essays

This paper will introduce students to perennial questions concerning how one should live; the relationship between affect and religious outlook and truth; the relation of scripture and revelation to philosophy; and the significance of 'the other' for understanding one's own moral and intellectual life. It will address these questions with reference to a range of sources, for example, Maimonides, Spinoza, Mendelssohn, Kant, Cohen, Buber, Weil and Levinas; a philosophical lineage which has been influential on a range of disciplines.

Paper C24 – World Christianities: Decolonising Christendom. The Complex Legacies of Global Christianity

Paper Coordinator: Dr Jörg Haustein

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

Of all the world's religions, Christianity was most closely entangled with European colonialism, albeit in many contradictory ways. This has left a complicated legacy all over the world, as Christianity became the largest and most diverse global religion in the era of colonial rule and beyond. World Christianity therefore embodies and wrestles with global inequalities and power structures like no other religion, from racial injustices and economic deprivation to the negotiation of cultural traditions, political norms, development goals, gender identities, sexual ethics, and more. In addition, the ongoing pluralisation and fragmentation of global Christianity, most notably through Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, reflect the diversity, vibrancy, and contested nature of Christian theology and spirituality in the present era of globalization.

This paper provides an opportunity to study in depth a set of controversial themes in contemporary World Christianity, all of which centre on how Christians in various parts of the world engage with the power structures, inequalities and inherited legacies of the post-colonial world. Each theme will be unpacked by connecting historical genealogies with contemporary debates about Christian institutions, practices, and ideas. Lectures will serve to draw out the historical background and main contours of debate for each theme, which will then be studied further in seminar discussions of primary and secondary sources.

Paper C26 - The Play of Imagination

Paper Coordinator: Professor Douglas Hedley.

Assessment Method: Two essays of 5,000 words each

The aim of this paper is to explore the links between aesthetics, imagination and religion. The term 'play' in English is richly polyvalent: make believe, sport, dalliance, theatre, etc. The concept can be most fertile when considering the phenomenon of religion philosophically. Wittgenstein employs the language of 'games' to explain meaning. Robert Bellah has used 'play' to explain the emergence of religion.