

**Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion Tripos.  
Papers, Mode of Examination,  
Special subjects and prescribed texts 2025-2026**

**Part I**

The Faculty Board of Divinity give notice that they have selected the following special subjects and prescribed texts for the Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion Tripos, Part I, in 2026 (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p.424).

***Paper A1. Scriptural languages and texts***

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***A1a. Hebrew I (Elementary Hebrew)***

2 Samuel 13-18.

***A1b. New Testament Greek***

John 1-4

***A1c. Sanskrit***

(1) *Rāmāyaṇa*, 2.18 (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa. A critical edition with the commentary of Sri Govindarāja (Ayodhyākāṇḍa). Ed. T.R. Krishnacharya and T.R. Vyasacharya. Bombay, 1911), pp. 83-87; *Rāmāyaṇa*, 3.45-46 (ibid., pp. 147-155); 2) *Pañcatantra*, Book 1 ("The five discourses on worldly wisdom" by Viṣṇuśarman, with Sanskrit text and Translation by Patrick Olivelle, Clay Sanskrit Library, New York University Press, 2006); (3) *Bhagavadgītā*, chapters 3, 4, and 11 (edited by S.K. Belvalkar, BORI, Poona, 1968).

***A1d. Qur'anic Arabic***

The Qur'an, I: 1-7, II: 1-18, V: 44-50, LIII: 1-25; al-Bukhari, *al-Jami' al-Sahih* (Cairo, 1313 AH), Vol. I, pp. 1-10; al-Isfara'ini, *al-Tabsir fi'l-din* (Beirut, 1983 CE), pp. 45-46, and 97-99.

***Paper A2. David: Israel's Greatest Hero?***

1 Samuel 16-19; 21-23; 28; 2 Samuel 1-2; 5-7; 9; 11-12; 21-24.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination

***Paper A3. Jesus and the origins of the Gospel***

Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 18.63-64, in *Josephus*, with translation and notes by L. H. Feldman (Loeb Classical Library: Harvard, 1981: Vol. IX), 48-51.

Mark 1.7-11; Matthew. 3.11-17; Luke 3.15-22 (excluding vv. 19-20); and Matthew 11.2-6 and Luke 7.18-23

Mark 2.1-12; Matthew 9.1-8; Luke 5.17-26.

Mark 8.27-30; Matthew 16.13-20; Luke 9.18-21.

Mark 12.1-12; Matthew 21.33-46; Luke 20.9-19 and Gospel of Thomas 65 and 66.

Mark 14.53-72; Matthew 26.57-75; Luke 22.54-71.

Mark 15.33-39; Matthew 27.45-54; Luke 23.44-49.

John 1.1-18.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination

***Paper A4. Christianity and the transformation of culture***

Prescribed topic Making Christians: Conversion and Christianization in the Late Roman Empire. There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper A5. The Question of God***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper A6. Understanding contemporary religion***

Prescribed topic: the anthropology of religion.

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper A7. Studying World Religions: History, Comparison, Dialogue***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

The examination will consist of the submission of two essays, each focused on one religious tradition and not more than 3,000 words in length.

***Paper A8. Philosophy of religion***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper A9. Ethics***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**Part IIA**

The Faculty Board of Divinity give notice that they have selected the following special subjects and prescribed texts for the Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion Tripos, Part IIA, in 2026 (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p.424).

***Paper A1. Scriptural languages and texts***

See special subject for Part I.

***Paper B1. Intermediate language and texts***

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**B1a. Hebrew II (Intermediate Hebrew)**

Jonah; Judges 13–16; Deuteronomy 5–11

**B1b. New Testament Greek**

Mark 1-5 and Galatians.

**B1c. Sanskrit**

1) *Rgvedasamhitā* 1.1, 7.86, 10.14, 10.90, 10.129 (in A.A. Macdonell, *A Vedic Reader for Students*); 2) *Mānavadharmasāstra*, chs. 3, 4, 5 (P. Olivelle, *Manu's code of law: a critical edition and translation of the Mānava-Dharmaśāstra*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005); 3) *Sāmkhyakārikā*, vv.1-21, 53-69 (G.J. Larson, *Classical Sāmkhya*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1983); *Mīmāṃsāsūtras* 1.1.1-4 with Śabara's commentary (Frauwallner, Erich. *Materialien zur ältesten Erkenntnislehre der Karma-mīmāṃsā*. Wien: Hermann Böhlau Nachf./Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1968, pp. 10-22.) 4) *Kumārasambhava*, Cantos 3 and 5 (*Kālidāsa's Kumārasambhava*, edited with Mallinātha's commentary. Ed. M. R. Kale. Bombay: The Standard Publishing, 1917, pp. 44-68 and pp. 80-113.); *Buddhacarita* of Aśvaghosha, ch. 3, 4, 14 (ed. by E.H. Johnston, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1972).

**B1d. Arabic**

Prescribed Texts:

The Qur'an, Sura XIX; al-Waqidi, *Kitab al-Maghazi*, ed. Marsden Jones (Oxford, 1966), Vol. II, pp. 731-8; Abd al-Rahman ibn al-Jawzi, *Sifat al-safwa* (Hyderabad, 1355AH), Vol. IV, pp. 155-9. Abu Sa'id al-Baydawi, *Anwar al-tanzil wa asrar al-ta'wil* (Istanbul, 1329AH), 404-5; Yahya ibn Sharaf al-Nawawi, *al-Minhaj fi sharh Sahih Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj* (Cairo, 1347AH), Vol. II, pp. 79-98.

**Paper B2. Israel in Exile: Literature, History and Theology**

Jeremiah 1-25

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**Paper B3. The shaping of Jewish identity (332 BCE -70CE)**

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 44–50 (NRSV); 1 Maccabees 1–2 (NRSV); Judith 8–16 (NRSV); Damascus Document 1.1–4.12 (G. Vermes, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, 5th edition; London, 1997); Josephus, *Antiquities* 15, viii, ix and xi.1-2 (R. Marcus and Allen Wikgren, *Josephus: Jewish Antiquities: Books 14-15*. Loeb Classical Library 489; Harvard, 1943, pp. 382-421; 441-445) [Online: <https://www.loebclassics.com/>]; A selection of coins (Y. Meshorer, *A Treasury of Jewish Coins from the Persian Period to Bar Kokhba* [Jerusalem: Yad Ben-Zvi Press, 2001], nos. 31; A1; B1; C1; K1; L1; 44, 45, 46; 59; 87; 91; 127; 183; 193).

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**Paper B4. Paul and John: the First Christian Thinkers in Comparative Perspective**

There are no prescribed texts for this paper .

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**Paper B5.**

(This paper will not be available in 2025-26)

***Paper B6. Christianity in Late Antiquity (to circa 600)***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper B7. Themes in world Christianities: context, theology and power***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

The assessment will consist of the submission of two essays, each of no more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper B8. Christ, Salvation, and the Trinity***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper B9. Religious Encounters and Nature***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper B10. Philosophy of religion: God, freedom, and the soul***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper B11. Ethics and faith***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper B12. Themes in the anthropology of Islam***

(MES20 of the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos)

***Paper B13 Theology and literature***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

The paper will be assessed by two long essays, each not more than 5,000 words.

***Paper B14. Modern Judaism: thought, culture and history***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper B15. Introduction to Islam***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**Paper B16. Life and thought of religious Hinduism and of Buddhism**

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**Paper B17. Meaning (from of Part IA of the Philosophy Tripos)**

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

**Part IIB**

The Faculty Board of Divinity give notice that they have selected the following special subjects and prescribed texts for the Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion Tripos, Part IIB, in 2026 (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p.424).

**Paper A1. Scriptural languages and texts**

See special subject for Part I.

**Paper B1. Intermediate language and texts**

See special subject for Part IIa.

**Paper C1. Advanced languages and texts**

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

**C1a. Hebrew III (Advanced texts)**

Jonah; Judges 13–16; Psalms 1-2, 8, 23-25, 46, 51; 11Q5 22:1–15; 1QHa 10:22–32; 11:20–37

**C1b. Greek**

James, 1 Peter and Jude.

**C1c. Sanskrit**

(1) *Īśvarapratyabhijñākārikā* by Utpaladeva, Book 1 (*The Īśvarapratyabhijñākārikā of Utpaladeva with the author's Vṛtti*. Critical edition and translation by Raffaele Torella, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2002); (2) *Kena Upaniṣad*, with Śaṅkara's commentary (*The Early Upaniṣads*, edited and translated by Patrick Olivelle, Oxford University Press 1998); (3) *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, Book 10, chs. 29-33 (ed. by J.L. Shastri, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1983); (4) *Pudgalaviniścaya*, from the *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya* of Vasubandhu (ed. by Swami Dwarikadas Shastri, Bauddha Bharati Series, Benares, pp.1218-1234); (5) *Devīmāhātmya* (*The Devi Mahatmya* by Sri Swami Sivananda, The Divine Life Society, 2011).

**C1d. Arabic**

The Qur'an, Suras LV, LXXV, LXXVI, LXXXI; Rashid Rida, *Tafsir al-Manar* (Cairo, 3rd edn 1367 AH), Vol. III, pp. 254-261; Abu'l-Qasim al-Qushayri, *Lata'if al-isharat*, ed. Ibrahim Basyuni (Cairo, n.d.), Vol. III, pp. 238-50; Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, *al-Risala al-Qudsiya*, ed. Abdul Latif Tibawi, *Islamic Quarterly* 9 (1965), 78-94; Averroes, *Fasl al-*

*Maqal*(Provo, 2001), 1-22.. Ibn al-Farid, 'al-Khamriyya', in *Diwan*, ed. 'Abd al-Khaliq Mahmud (Cairo, 1984), pp. 189-92.

***Paper C2 The Five Scrolls*** (This paper will not be available in 2025-26)

Ruth and Song of Songs.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C3. New Testament Christology***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C4. Topic in the History of Christianity***

Prescribed topic: The British Reformations and their Discontents

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C5. Topic in Christian Theology***

Prescribed topic: Charity

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C6. Disputed Questions from Medieval and early modern Theology***

Prescribed topics:

A. The Doctrine of God

The Doctrine of the Trinity

Christology

Salvation and Sanctification

Faith and Reason

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C7. Topics in the study of religion***

(This paper will not be available in 2025-26)

***Paper C8. The Jewish Tradition and Christianity: from antiquity to modernity***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C9. Islam II***

Prescribed topics:

A. Islamic Philosophy and Philosophical Theology.

B. Aspects of Medieval Sufism.

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C10. Hinduism and Buddhism II***

Prescribed topics:

- A. Traditional Vedanta and Hindu Modernity.
- B. Being and causality in Mahayana.

There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C11. Truth, God and Metaphysics***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings is available on the Faculty website.

This paper will be assessed by two 5000-word essays.

***Paper C12. Theology and Natural Science***

Prescribed topic: God and Creatures.

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination

***Paper C13 Old Testament***

Judaism in the Persian Period: Empire, religion and Identity

Ezra-Nehemiah

This paper will be assessed by means of a three hour examination.

***Paper C14 Christianity, Hellenism, and Empire***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term. This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C15 Contemporary Christian Theology***

Prescribed Topics

- A. Doctrine of God
- B. Creation and Providence
- C. Christology
- D. Ecclesiology and Sacramentology
- E. Eschatology

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C16 The doctrine of God***

Prescribed Topic: The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C17 Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages***

(Philosophy Tripos Part II)

***Paper C18 Paper D1f Conversion and Abrahamic Religions***

(This paper will not be available in 2024-5)

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

***Paper C19 Self and Salvation in Indian and Western Thought.***

(This paper will not be available in 2024-5)

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length. This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C20 A topic in the history of Christianity***

Prescribed Topic: Slavery and Early Christianity

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C21 The End of the World: Anthropological Case Studies***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C22 Philosophy, Ethics and the Other***

There are no prescribed texts for this subject.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C23 Judaism in the Graeco-Roman World***

- - Rule of the Community (1QS columns 8–11)

Philo of Alexandria, On the Decalogue

The paper will be assessed with a three-hour examination.

***Paper C24 Decolonising Christendom? The Complex Heritage of Global Christianity***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.

***Paper C25 Topics in Christian ethics***



(This paper will not be available in 2025-26)

Prescribed topics: Sites of Precarity: Migration, Slavery, Incarceration and Old Age

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

***Paper C26 The Play of Imagination.***

There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

This paper will be examined by the submission of two essays, each of not more than 5,000 words in length.