# Philosophy Tripos 2021: proposed arrangements as of 27 January 2021

The following sets out our **current plans** for Tripos examinations for this academic year. This statement concerns sat exams, not extended essays or dissertations. (I will write about these separately in due course.) Some details are still to be determined but we want to keep students up to date with the situation.

1.      Most exams will be conducted **remotely** and will be **open-book**. Exams will be supported by University Information Services (UIS) and run through Moodle. I plan to circulate more details about the logistics (including the dates of the exams) when these are available, I expect by the end of term.

2.      For most papers the candidate will (as usual) be asked to answer three out of ten or more questions, some papers being divided into sections as described in the syllabus. In most cases candidates **may consult books and articles** and in most cases there will be a time window (duration TBC) in which candidates may upload the essays, although we do not expect anyone to be writing for more than three hours. There will be word limits on the essays – for most subject papers candidates must write no more than **2000 words per submitted essay**.

3.      There will be variations on this pattern for certain papers, including the General Papers (Part IB Paper 9 and Part II Paper 12 will be **4000 words total**: please see the table in the appendix) and possibly papers borrowed from other Faculties, where students can expect to have the alternative assessment method adopted by the paper-owning Faculty. The papers borrowed from other Faculties are as follows.

Part IB Paper 4 (Greek and Roman Philosophy) is borrowed from Classics
Part IB Paper 5 (Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science) is borrowed from HPS
Part II Paper B1 (Plato) is borrowed from Classics
Part II Paper B2 (Aristotle's World from Turtles to Tragedies) is borrowed from Classics
Part II Paper B3 (Philosophy, Politics and the Polis) is borrowed from Classics

We will update you on the details for the borrowed papers once these have been finalized.

4.      We currently have permission to hold **Part IA Paper 5 (Formal Methods)** and **Part II Paper 7 (Mathematical Logic)** in person, but if (as we currently expect) the central University administration decides that no in-person exams will be possible, we will put alternatives in place. These are TBC but we will write with confirmation as soon as we are able. In the meantime you should continue to prepare for these papers as normal.

5.      **Part II Paper 5 (Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages)** normally includes a section in which candidates would be expected to comment on short texts. Since the exam will be held as an open book exam, this year we are setting a paper in which candidates simply choose three essay-style questions as per the usual pattern for most other papers.

6.      Examiners will use Turnitin to review scripts for plagiarism. Students should review the University's plagiarism and academic misconduct policy to ensure they understand the rules (https://www.plagiarism.admin.cam.ac.uk/).

7.      I will write again later this term with an update on the position and to give you more details. In the meantime you can write to me with any questions (ama24@cam.ac.uk); any questions about coursework should go in the first instance to Clare Dickinson at cll30@cam.ac.uk, who will forward an anonymized version of your message.

Arif Ahmed, Chair of Examiners
27 January 2021

[SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SUMMARY TABLE]

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**Appendix: summary of arrangements for all papers as currently envisaged**

| Paper | In person/ remote | Open/closed book | Timing | Word limit? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IA 1:Metaphysics 2:Ethics+Pol 3:Meaning 4: Set Texts | Remote | Open | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| IA 5:Formal methods** | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| IB 1:KLW 2:Hist. An. Phil. 3:Ethics | Remote | Open | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| IB 4:Greek/Roman* [FROM CLASSICS] | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| IB 5:Early Modern | Remote | Open | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| IB 6:Ep. / Met. of Science* [FROM HPS] | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| IB 7:Political | Remote | Open | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| IB 8:Exp. Psychology* [FROM NST] | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| IB 9:General* | Remote | Open | TBC | 4000 words total |
| II:1:Metaphysics 2:Mind 3:Ethics 4:Euro Phil. Kant 5:Long Middle Ages*** 6:Phil. Sci. | Remote | Open | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| II 7:Math. Log.** | TBC | TBC | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| II 8:Phil. Log. 9:Wittgenstein + co. 10:Political 11:Aesthetics | Remote | Open | TBC | Max 2000 words per essay |
| II 12:General* | Remote | Open | TBC | 4000 words total |
| B1:Plato* B2:Aristotle's World* B3:Phil., Pol., Polis* [FROM CLASSICS] | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |

* For IB/4, IB/6, IB/8, IB/9, II/12, II/B1, II/B2, II/B3, see point 3 above
** For IA/5, II/7, see point 4 above
*** For II/5, see point 5 above