

HDB(25)27

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved by [Associate Head (Education) on 8 July 2025

Title of Programme

Preliminary Examination in History of Art

Brief note about nature of change:

Removal of superfluous information

Effective date

For students starting from **MT25**

and

For first examination from **2025-26**

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2024-25

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=peihistofart&srchYear=2024&srchTerm=1&year=2024&term=1>

Detail of change

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^{1.1}The Preliminary Examination in History of Art shall be under the supervision of the Board of the Faculty of History. The subjects of the examination, the syllabus, and the number of papers shall be as prescribed by regulation from time to time by the Board of the Faculty of History.

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~~1.2 The History Faculty Board shall issue annually the Handbook for the Preliminary Examination in History of Art by Monday of eighth week of Michaelmas Term for the academic year ahead.~~

1.3 Each candidate shall offer four papers as follows:

- 1.4 I. *Introduction to the History of Art*

1.5 Candidates will be examined by ~~three-hour~~ unseen written examination.

- 1.6 II. *Challenging Antiquities*

1.7 Candidates will be examined by ~~three-hour~~ unseen written examination.

- 1.8 III. *Art, Design, Architecture: Meaning and Interpretation*

- 1.9 Candidates will be examined by ~~three-hour~~ unseen written examination.

- 1.10 IV. *Objects, Images and Buildings in Oxford*

1.11 Candidates will be examined by a 5,000 word ~~extended~~ essay, including footnotes but excluding bibliography. A candidate may propose to study any object, but this object must be approved by the appointed extended essay adviser, and the Preliminary Extended Essay Co-ordinator. ~~Approval will depend on the object's accessibility and the availability of source material and curatorial expertise. Candidates will have no more than the equivalent of five one-hour meetings with their assigned extended essay advisor. A first draft of the extended essay may be commented on by the extended essay adviser during one of these meetings. Candidates must submit the title of the extended essay to the Chair of Examiners, Preliminary Examination in History of Art, Department of History of Art, Littlegate House, St. Ebbes, Oxford, by midday on Monday of the fifth week of the Hilary Term preceding the examination. Any subsequent changes to subject require formal application to the Chair of Examiners not later than noon on Monday of second week of the Trinity term preceding the examination and subsequent approval. Minor changes to title or subtitle do not need to be submitted. Essays should conform to the standards of academic presentation prescribed in the course handbook. Essays must be submitted using the University approved assessment platform not later than by noon on Monday of sixth week of the Trinity Term of the candidate's first year in the academic year in which the candidate is presenting himself or herself for examination. Each essay must be accompanied by a formal declaration from the candidate that the essay is his or her own work. The University's regulations on *Late Entries* will apply.~~

1.12 The Examiners may award a distinction in the examination to any candidate, according to the published classification conventions.

1.13 Candidates who fail one or two of papers I, II, III, or IV above may resit only that paper or papers at a subsequent examination. Candidates who fail three of papers I, II, III, or IV above will be asked to resit all papers, including the one they passed, unless the paper they passed is the essay, in which case they will resit only the three written examination papers. Candidates who fail all four of papers I, II, III, and IV will be required to resit all four at a subsequent examination. In the case of failure to reach the required standard in the Preliminary Extended Essay, candidates must resubmit the essay by Monday of

noughth week of Michaelmas Term of the second year. ~~Candidates are entitled to one further meeting with their extended essay adviser.~~

Explanatory Notes

Tidying up text by removing superfluous information that belongs in course information, and adjusting language, as per EPS' guidelines.