

## Notice of Mitigations for MML, HML and Linguistics Triposes

At its meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics agreed the package of mitigations outlined below with respect to the disruptions caused to undergraduate students in the Faculty as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The mitigations were informed by an extensive student survey of all undergraduates in the Faculty, which attracted 475 responses, and consultation with student representatives. Recommendations had been considered by the Chairs of Examiners of MML and HML, and by a separate meeting of the Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Section for the Linguistics Tripos. This Notice has subsequently been approved by Chair's Action of the MMLL Faculty Board.

The information below is a summary. Detailed information on alteration to rubrics, together with a schedule for examinations, will be provided by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**.

***The mitigations listed below apply only to those elements of the respective Triposes where the examinations are set and examined within the MMLL Faculty. Papers set and examined by other Faculties, or borrowed from other Triposes, that are taken by students in the MMLL Faculty will be subject to the respective regulations and mitigations of the Faculty where those papers are examined. For AMES candidates taking MMLL papers and all other non-MMLL students borrowing MMLL papers, only the alterations to the form and conduct of examinations in Section A below will apply. In such cases, your home Faculty is responsible for any post-examination mitigations and for classing.***

### A. Alterations to the Form and Conduct of Examinations

1. **Language papers (MML/HML):** All remaining in-person examinations, including Oral examinations and AV in all Parts of the Triposes will be moved to an online format (written papers will become Take-Home papers). Questions on introductory language examinations (A1, A2, B1, and language exercises for "Introduction to Language and Culture"-type scheduled papers) will be adapted to a format suitable for online delivery and assessment. The approximate number of exercises to be attempted and overall weighting of language papers remain unchanged.
2. **MML/HML and Linguistics Scheduled (content) Papers set within MMLL (Take-Home Examinations):**
  - a. The number of questions or exercises to be attempted for scheduled papers will be **reduced by a third**, from a norm of three answers on all essay-based examinations to a norm of two answers in all Parts of all MMLL Triposes. Papers that do not fit the model of three answers or three discrete parts, will reduce the scope of the examination structure in the same proportion, as per examinations set for Tripos 2020.
  - b. The standard word count for essay-based answers on examinations in **Parts IA and IB MML/HML** will be "1,200-1,500 words" per essay or commentary, with candidates encouraged to aim for the lower end of the word count if this is helpful.
  - c. For **Linguistics Part I**, the standard essay-based word count will be "no more than 1,500 words".
  - d. The standard word count for essay-based answers on examinations in **Parts II/IIA/IIb** (all Triposes) will be "no more than 1,500 words" per essay or commentary.
  - e. For those **Part II MML/HML** papers which have opted to set or asterisk questions suitable for a Single-Essay answer, the permitted word count will be no more than 3,000 words in total. Please note that the single-essay option is **only** applicable to those Part II papers that explicitly provide for this option. The single-essay option is **not** available in other Parts of the MML/HML Triposes.
  - f. **For all Take-Home examinations, bibliographical referencing is not necessary**, but will not be tallied as part of the word count if included. Candidates may use simple parenthetical names and/or abbreviated titles in order to acknowledge a source, just like in a timed examination essay.
  - g. As previously announced, translation exercises will include a short commentary in English on up to five words or phrases chosen by the candidate (in proportion with the length of the translation).

3. **Part Ib Long Essay (MML/HML):** only the **higher** of the two Long Essay marks will be used in calculating the overall class. Both essays will be marked and recorded on the transcript. If candidates believe their work has been impeded by the pandemic, they should include a brief COVID statement in explanation as a footnote to the first page of their second essay. This will not be included in the word count.
4. **Dissertations (MML/HML/Linguistics):** The Faculty will exercise flexibility regarding titles and topics for dissertations. Students are encouraged to aim for the lower end of the word count if this is helpful (8,000 in MML and Linguistics / 10,000 in HML). Candidates are reminded that there should not be significant overlap between content on YAPs and ODs. If candidates believe their work has been impeded by the pandemic, they should include a brief COVID statement in explanation at the bottom of the contents page. This will not be included in the word count. **Part II/Ib students in Linguistics and MML** have received a two-week extension (until 29<sup>th</sup> March) to submit dissertations, as approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> February.
5. **HML papers set as part of the Historical Tripos** will be subject to the separate mitigations decided by the History Faculty.
6. **Schedule of examinations:** As previously announced, and as last year, examinations will be sat as Take-Home examinations with staggered deadlines that allow for three working days to complete each scheduled paper (except that all **language** papers will be completed in one tranche). All examinations will be released at the start of the examining period, at 10 a.m. on the day of release, and candidates will be free to choose the order in which they submit their work for each staggered deadline. For **MML and HML**, language papers will be released first, and scheduled papers will only be released (all at once) after the submission deadline for language papers. There will be appropriate rest days. The submission deadline for each tranche will be 4 p.m. on the third working day of each tranche, with suitable arrangements for those working in different time zones. The precise schedule will be notified by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**.

#### B. Post-examination mitigations:

The following post-examination mitigations will be implemented:

1. The previously announced **MML/HML** Safety Net at Part II remains in place: examiners will award an overall average and class based on each candidate's examination results, and then if a candidate has achieved a class lower than that awarded to the candidate at Part Ib in 2019, the Part II class (but not the overall average) will be adjusted to match the Part Ib class.
2. The University's mandatory Cohort Equity provisions will be applied to all Triposes and Parts **except** HML Parts Ib and II (for which insufficient data are available). Examiners will ensure that the distribution of classes for this year is **no less favourable** than the average class distribution for the last three years before the pandemic (2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019). **On no account will Cohort Equity provisions be used to adjust any student's awarded class downwards.**
3. There will be automatic progression between Tripos Parts for students who have taken all the required assessments (unless academic misconduct is found).

Issued by the Undergraduate Studies Committee  
 Approved by the Faculty Board (Chair's Action)  
 Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics  
 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021