

Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Tripos, 2025-26

Specified subjects and set texts

Preliminary examination for Part I

The Faculty Board of English gives notice of the following set texts for the Preliminary examination for Part I of the Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Tripos, 2026.

Paper 5. Old English language and literature

A selection from the following:

Ælfric's Translation of *Genesis*: The Fall of Man; *Cynewulf and Cyneheard*; Alfred the Great's Preface to his Translation of Gregory's *Pastoral Care*; Ælfric, *Preface to Genesis*; Ælfric, *Life of St Edmund*; Bede's Account of the Poet Cædmon; *The Battle of Maldon*; *The Dream of the Rood*. All these texts ed. B. Mitchell and F. C. Robinson, *A Guide to Old English*, Eighth Edition (Oxford, 2012).

Paper 6. Old Norse language and literature

A selection from the following:

Excerpts from *Hrólfs saga kraka*, *Snorra Edda*, *Íslendinga saga*, *Þrymskviða* and *Íslendingabók* in Anthony Faulkes, ed., *A New Introduction to Old Norse* (London, 2000).

Paper 7. Medieval Welsh language and literature

A selection from the following:

Pwyll Pendeyuic Dyuet, ed. R. L. Thomson; *Branwen Uerch Lyr*, ed. D. S. Thomson; *Buchedd Beuno: The Middle Welsh Life of St Beuno*, ed. P. Sims-Williams.

Paper 8. Medieval Irish language and literature

R. Thurneysen, *Old Irish Reader*, pp. 22-4 (nos. 1-8), 33-41; *Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó* (ed. R. Thurneysen).

Paper 9. Insular Latin language and literature

A selection from the following:

Adomnán, *Vita S. Columbae* ii. 27; Ælfric, *Colloquium*, cc. 1-6, 11-15; Ælfric Bata, *Colloquia*, cc. 1-3, 6, 9; Alcuin, *Carmina* xiii, xvi-xvii, xxiii; Alcuinian correspondence, Letters x, lxv, lxvi, cxci, ccxxix; Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica* III.5-6; Bonifatian correspondence, Letters xiii, xv, xxvii, xxix, xxx, cxliii; Byrhtferth, *Vita S. Ecgwini* I.13; *De raris fabulis*, cc. 1-6, 8-15, 23; Hygeburc, *Vita Willibaldi*, cc. 12-16, 18-19, 28, 30-1; *Liber monstrorum* i. 1-30; *Nauigatio S. Brendani*, cc. 4-7, 9-10, 12, 16, 23, 26; Stephen of Ripon, *Vita S. Wilfridi*, cc. 25-7, 33. Copies of all these texts will be available when the class meets.

Part I

The Faculty Board of English gives notice of the following set texts for Part I of the Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Tripos, 2026

Paper 5. Old English language and literature (also serves as Paper 8A of Part I and Paper 25 of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

Ælfric's Translation of *Genesis*: The Fall of Man; *Cynewulf and Cyneheard*; Alfred the Great's Preface to his Translation of Gregory's *Pastoral Care*; Ælfric, *Preface to Genesis*; Ælfric, *Life of St Edmund*; Bede's Account of the Poet Cædmon; *The Battle of Maldon*; *The Ruin*; *The Dream of the Rood*; *The Wanderer*; *The Wife's Lament*;

Wulf and Eadwacer; Fifteen Riddles; *Judith*; *Wulfstan, Sermo Lupi ad Anglos*; *Beowulf*, lines 702b–897 (Beowulf's fight with Grendel), lines 1306b–98 (Beowulf consoles Hrothgar for Æschere's death), lines 2247–66 (the Lament of the Last Survivor) and lines 3156–82 (Beowulf's funeral); *Beowulf*, lines 1063–1159 (The Finnsburh Episode) and lines 1492–1590 (Beowulf and Grendel's mother); *The Finnsburh Fragment*. All texts ed. B. Mitchell and F. C. Robinson, *A Guide to Old English*, Eighth Edition (Oxford, 2012), except for *Beowulf* 1063–1159 and 1492–1590 and *The Finnsburh Fragment*, which are ed. G. Jack, *Beowulf: A Student Edition* (Oxford, 1994).

Paper 6. Old Norse language and literature (also serves as Paper 8B of Part I and Paper 26A of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

Excerpts from *Íslendinga saga*, *Kormaks saga*, *Bjarnar saga hítðælakappa*, and *Heimskringla*, in *A New Introduction to Old Norse*, ed. A. Faulkes; *Völuspá*, *Guðrúnarvíða II*, and *Hamðismál*, in *Edda. Die Lieder des Codex regius nebst verwandten Denkmälern*, ed. G. Neckel and H. Kuhn, 5th ed.; *Snorri Sturluson, Edda. Prologue and Gylfaginning*, ed. A. Faulkes.

Paper 7. Medieval Welsh language and literature (also serves as Paper 8C of Part I and Paper 27A of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

'Canu Urien' and 'Claf Abercuawg' (ed. J. Rowland, *Early Welsh Saga Poetry*, pp. 419-28 and 448-52); 'Gwên a Llywarch', 'Marwnad Gwên', 'Cân y Henwr' and 'Canu Heledd' (ed. J. Rowland, *A Selection of Early Welsh Saga Poems*, I–III); 'Preiddeu Annwn' (ed. N. A. Jones, *Arthur in Early Welsh Poetry*, pp. 141-66); 'Trawsganu Kynan Garwyn', 'Gweith Argoet Llwyfein', 'Dadolwch Vryen' and 'Marwnat Owein' (ed. I. Williams, *The Poems of Taliesin*, I, VI, IX and X); *Delw y Byd: A Medieval Welsh Encyclopedia* (ed. N. I. Petrovskaia).

Paper 8. Medieval Irish language and literature (also serves as Paper 8D of Part I and Paper 28A of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

R. Thurneysen, *Old Irish Reader*, pp. 22-4 (nos. 1-8), 33-41; *Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó* (ed. R. Thurneysen); *Fingal Rónáin*, *Esnada Tige Buchet*, and *Orgain Denna Ríg* (ed. D. Greene, *Fingal Rónáin and Other Stories*); *Stories from the Táin* (ed. J. Strachan and O. Bergin, 3rd ed.).

Paper 9. Insular Latin language and literature (also serves as Paper 8E of Part I and Paper 29 of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

Adomnán, *Vita S. Columbae* i. 19-20, ii. 27, iii. 6-10; Ædiluulf, *Carmen de abbatibus*, lines 692-795; Ælfric, *Colloquium*, cc. 1-6, 11-15; Ælfric Bata, *Colloquium*, cc. 1-3, 6, 9; Æthilwald, *Carmen de peregrinatione*, lines 1-106; Alcuin, *Carmina* ix, xiii, xvi-xvii, xxiii, xxxii, xl, lx, lxi; Alcuinian correspondence, *Letters* x, lxv, lxvi, cxciii, ccxxix; Aldhelm, *Carmen rhythmicum*, lines 1-114, and *Enigmata* i, ii, iii, iv, xi, xiii, xv, xvi, xviii-xix, xxx, xxxii, xlix, liv, lxxxix; Asser, *Life of King Alfred* cc. 20-25, 76-9; *Altus prosator* stanzas 1-5, 17-19; Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica* III.5-6, V.12-14; Boniface, *Enigmata de uirtutibus*, v, *Enigmata de uitiiis*, iv-v; Bonifatian correspondence, *Letters* x, xiii, xv, xxvii, xxix, xxx, cxliii; Byrhtferth, *Vita S. Ecgwini Epilogus* and I.13; Columbanus, *Epistula* v.1-5; *De raris fabulis*, cc. 1-6, 8-15, 23; Gildas, *De excidio Britanniae* cc. 27-31; Hygeburc, *Vita Willibaldi*, cc. 12-16, 18-19, 28, 30-1; Lantfred, *Translatio et miracula S. Swithuni*, cc. 1, 3 and 35; *Liber monstrorum* i. 1-30; *Nauigatio S. Brendani*, cc. 4-7, 9-10, 12, 16, 23, 26; Patrick, *Confessio*, cc. 1-13, 26-34; Rhygyfarch, *Vita S. Daidis*, cc. 1-9, 15-19; Stephen of Ripon, *Vita S. Wilfridi*, cc. 25-7, 33; Tatwine, *Enigmata* i-vi, xiii, xvi, xxiv-xxv, xxvii-xxviii. Copies of all these texts will be available when the class meets.

Part II

The Faculty Board of English gives notice of the following specified subjects for Part II of the Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Tripos, 2026:

Paper 1. Saints and Farmers: Economy and Society c. 950-1050

Paper 2. Rethinking the Viking Age

Paper 3. Socio-Economic and Ecclesiastical Relations Between Britain and Ireland in the Pre-Viking Era: Interaction and Exchange

Paper 4. Islands of the Ocean: Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and the Wider World

Paper 5. *Beowulf*

Paper 9. Writing Women

Paper 14. Medieval English Literature, 1066-1500: Medieval Supernatural (Paper 6 of Part II of the English Tripos)

The Faculty Board of English gives notice of the following set texts for Part II of the Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Tripos, 2026.

Paper 6. Advanced medieval Scandinavian language and literature (also serves as Paper 26B of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

Ágrip af Nóregskonungasögum, ed. M. Driscoll (London, 1995); *Hervarar saga*, ed. C. Tolkien and G. Turville-Petre (London, 1956); *Snorri Sturluson, Edda. Skáldskaparmál*, ed. A. Faulkes (London, 1998).

Paper 7. Advanced medieval Welsh language and literature (also serves as Paper 27B of Part II of the English Tripos)

Welsh

A selection from the following:

Meilyr Brydydd, 'Marwnad Gruffudd ap Cynan' (ed. J. E. C. Williams, *Gwaith Meilyr Brydydd a'i Ddisgynyddion*, pp. 71-5; Meilyr Brydydd, 'Marwysgafn Feilyr Brydydd' (ed. C. McKenna, *The Medieval Welsh Religious Lyric*, pp. 154-7 and 221); Owain Cyfeiliog/Cynddelw, 'Hirlas Owain' (ed. G. A. Williams, *Gwaith Llywelyn Fardd I*, pp. 226-9); Cynddelw, 'Breintiau Gwŷr Powys' (ed. T. M. Charles-Edwards and N. A. Jones in *The Welsh King and his Court*, pp. 216-23); Llywelyn Fardd, 'Canu i Gadfan', Gwynfardd Brycheiniog, 'Canu i Ddewi' and Cynddelw, 'Canu Tysilio' (ed. A. P. Owen, <https://saints.wales/theedition/>); 'Historia Gruffud vab Kenan' (ed. P. Williams, *Historical Texts from Medieval Wales*, pp. 22-6); extracts from 'Cyfraith Hywel Dda' (ed. P. Russell, *The Prologues to the Mediaeval Welsh Lawbooks*; ed. M. E. Owen in *The Welsh King and his Court*, pp. 224-54); the St Padarn englyn (ed. P. Russell in *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* 63, 1-14).

Cornish and Breton

A selection from the following:

Henry Lewis, *Llawlyfr Cernyweg Canol*, 2nd ed. (Cardiff, 1946) or *Handbuch des Mittelkornischen*, German edition by Stefan Zimmer (Innsbruck, 1990); Henry Lewis and J. R. F. Piette, *Llawlyfr Llydaweg Canol* (Cardiff, 1966) or *Handbuch des Mittelbretonischen*, German edition by Wolfgang Meid (Innsbruck, 1990).

Paper 8. Advanced medieval Irish language and literature (also serves as Paper 28B of Part II of the English Tripos)

A selection from the following:

Fergus Kelly (ed. and trans.), *Audacht Morainn* (Dublin, 1976); James Carney (ed. and trans.), *The Poems of Blathmac son of Cú Brettan together with the Irish Gospel of Thomas and a Poem on the Virgin Mary* (London, 1964); Donncha Ó hAodha (ed. and trans.), 'The Lament of the Caillech Bérrí', in *Sages, Saints and Storytellers: Celtic Studies in Honour of Professor James Carney*, ed. D. Ó Corráin et al. (Maynooth, 1989), pp. 308-31; Donncha Ó hAodha (ed. and trans.), *Bethu Brigte* (Dublin, 1978); John Carey (ed. and trans.), 'Scél Tuáin meic

Chairill', *Ériu* 35 (1984) 93-112; Máire Bhreathnach (ed. and trans.), 'A new edition of Tochmarc Beccfhola', *Ériu* 35 (1984) 59-91; Wolfgang Meid (ed.), *Táin Bó Fraích* (Dublin, 2nd ed., 1974); A. G. van Hamel (ed.), *Immrama* (Dublin, 1941); A. G. van Hamel (ed.), *Compert Con Culainn and Other Stories* (Dublin, 1933); Cecile O'Rahilly (ed. and trans.), *Táin Bó Cúailnge, Recension I* (Dublin, 1976), lines 399-456, 1289-1386; Cecile O'Rahilly (ed. and trans.), *Táin Bó Cúailnge from the Book of Leinster* (Dublin, 1967), lines 739-813, 1565-1695; Cecile O'Rahilly (ed.), *The Stowe Version of Táin Bó Cúailnge* (Dublin, 1961), lines 764-844, 1609-1735; Myles Dillon (ed.), *Stories from the Acallam* (Dublin, 1970); R. T. Meyer (ed.), *Merugud Uilix maic Leirtis* (Dublin, 1958); Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha (ed. and trans.), 'An address to a student of law', in *Sages, Saints and Storytellers: Celtic Studies in Honour of Professor James Carney*, ed. D. Ó Corráin et al. (Maynooth, 1989), pp. 159-77; Eleanor Knott (ed. and trans.), 'Filidh Éireann go haointeach', *Ériu* 5 (1911) 50-69; Caoimhín Breatnach (ed. and trans.), *Patronage, Politics and Prose: Ceasacht Inghine Guile, Sgéala Muice Meic Dhá Thó, Oidheadh Chuinn Chéadchathaigh* (Maynooth, 1996); O. J. Bergin (ed.), *Stories from Keating's History of Ireland* (Dublin, 1930).

Paper 9. Writing Women

A selection from the following:

Aldhelm, *Prose De uirginitate* and *Carmen de uirginitate*, ed. R. Ehwald, *Aldhelmi Opera Omnia*, Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Auctores Antiquissimi 15 (Berlin, 1919); the letters written by, and addressed to, women in the Bonifatian correspondence, ed. M. Tangl, Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Epistolae Selectae I (Berlin, 1916); Hygeburc's *Vita s. Willibaldi episcopi* and *Vita s. Wynnebaldis abbatis*, ed. O. Holder-Egger, Monumenta Germaniae Scriptores 15 (1887-8), 86-106 and 106-117; Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* on Æthelthryth and Seaxburh (IV.19-20 [17-18]), the Barking ladies (IV.6-10), and Hild (IV.23 [21]), ed. and trans. B. Colgrave and R.A.B. Mynors, *Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (Oxford, 1969; reprinted 1991); Bede, *In Cantica Habacuc Allegorica Expositio*, ed. J.E. Hudson, Corpus Christianorum Series Latina 119B (Turnhout, 1983), 381-409; Goscelin, *Liber confortatorius*, ed. C.H. Talbot, 'The *Liber Confortatorius* of Goscelin of Saint Bertin', *Analecta Monastica* 37 (1955), 1-117; Goscelin, *Vita s. Edithe*, ed. A. Wilmart, 'La légende de Ste Édith en prose et vers par le moine Goscelin', *Analecta Bollandiana*, 56 (1938), 5-101, 265-307; Goscelin, *Vita s. Mildrethe*, ed. D.W. Rollason, *The Mildrith Legend. A Study in Early Medieval Hagiography in England* (Leicester, 1982), pp. 108-43; Goscelin, *Vita s. Wulfilde*, ed. M. Colker, 'Texts of Jocelyn of Canterbury which relate to the history of Barking Abbey', *Studia Monastica* 7 (1965), 383-460; Goscelin, *Vitae ss. Werburge, Sexburge and Eormenhilde*, ed. and trans., R.C. Love, *Goscelin of Saint-Bertin. The Lives of the Female Saints of Ely*, Oxford Medieval Texts (Oxford, 2004), pp. 1-51; anon., *Vita s. Cuthburge*, ed. R. Rushforth, 'The medieval hagiography of St Cuthburg', *Analecta Bollandiana* 118 (2000), 291-324; anon., *Vita s. Fritheswithe*, ed. W.J. Blair, *Saint Frideswide Patron of Oxford* (Oxford, 1988); Cogitosus, *Vita s. Brigitae*, ed. *Patrologia Latina* 72, cols. 775-90, and *Acta Sanctorum*, Feb. I.135-41; Conchubranus, *Vita s. Monennae*, ed. M. Esposito, 'Conchubrani Vita Sanctae Monennae', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 28C (1910), 202-38; Ulster Society of Mediaeval Latin Studies, 'The Life of St Monenna by Conchubranus', *Seanchas Ardmhacha* 9 (1978-9), 250-73 and 10 (1980-2), 117-41; anon., *Vita s. Wenefredae* (ed. A.W. Wade-Evans, *Vitae Sanctorum Britanniae et Genealogiae* (Cardiff, 1944), pp. 288-308; anon., *Vita S. Osmannae*, ed. *Acta Sanctorum*, Sept. III.417-25; Turgot, *Vita S. Margaretae reginae Scotiae*, ed. *Acta Sanctorum*, Iun., II.328-35; J.H. Hinde, *Symeonis Dunelmensis Opera*, Surtees Society 51 (Durham, 1868), pp. 234-54; anon., *Encomium Emmae Reginae*, ed. A. Campbell, Camden Society, 3rd series 72 (London, 1949), reprinted with a supplementary introduction by S. Keynes, Camden Classic Reprints 4 (Cambridge, 1998); anon., *Vita Eadwardi Confessoris*, ed. and trans. F. Barlow, *The Life of King Edward who rests at Westminster*, Oxford Medieval Texts, 2nd edition (Oxford 1992)