

University of Cambridge: Programme Specifications

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Archaeological and Anthropological Tripos – Programme Specification

Introduction

The Archaeological and Anthropological Tripos is taught at the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology. The Faculty is divided into three Departments, those of Archaeology, Biological Anthropology and Social Anthropology. Undergraduate students on the Tripos all study a common Part I course (see below), but for Parts IIA and IIB (in the second and third year), specialise by studying one of the three disciplines on offer through that Department. Within the following Specification for the course there are subdivisions under Departmental headings to indicate the individual practices and philosophies adopted by each of the Departments.

1. Awarding Institution	The University of Cambridge
2. Teaching Institution	The University of Cambridge
3. Accreditation details	None
4. Final Award	Bachelor of Arts
5. Programme Title	Archaeology and Anthropology
6. UCAS Code	LV64 BA/AA
7. QAA Benchmarking Group	Archaeology / Anthropology
8. Date of production:	December 2002

9. Educational Aims – Departments of Archaeology, Biological Anthropology and Social Anthropology

Archaeology

The Department of Archaeology is the principal institution providing archaeological teaching within the University of Cambridge at the undergraduate, MPhil and PhD levels. It also draws upon the resources of several other Faculties in the University of Cambridge to optimize its teaching programme, including Classics, Oriental Studies and Geography.

Aims

- to provide education in archaeology of the highest calibre at both the undergraduate and graduate level
- to enable students to attain a critical appreciation of archaeology and the human past
- to equip students with confidence in critical thinking and in a wide range of intellectual skills, taking advantage of archaeology's unusually broad range across the humanities and sciences, and its diverse interdisciplinary links
- to continue to attract outstanding students from varied backgrounds and to equip them as future leaders of archaeology and heritage management around the world and as versatile graduates in a range of professions
- to encourage and pursue archaeological research of the highest quality, and to maintain Cambridge's position as one of the world's leading centres in archaeology
- to maintain the highest academic standards in undergraduate and graduate teaching and to keep open the channels between current research and curriculum design.

The primary focus of the undergraduate teaching programmes falls in the following subject areas:

- Archaeological Theory and Practice
- Archaeological Science (including geoarchaeology, zooarchaeology, osteology, palaeobotany, archaeo-genetics, materials technology, geographical information systems and remote sensing)
- World Archaeology (including a variety of courses on the prehistory of the Near East, Mesopotamia, Africa, Britain, Europe and the Americas, and the Historic periods of Britain, Europe and Scandinavia)

Biological Anthropology

The Department of Biological Anthropology is the principle provider of undergraduate, MPhil and PhD level teaching in human evolution, human ecology, human and primate molecular genetics and primate behaviour. As such it provides teaching to Archaeology & Anthropology students over three years, as well as to Natural Scientists (NST) in their first year (Part IA Evolution & Behaviour), and Medical and Veterinary (MVST) and NST students in their final year. The MVST students either follow the full course as Biological Anthropology Part IIB candidates, or they can take two or single paper options within the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Part II Tripos. Teaching within the department occasionally draws on resources from

Anatomy, Zoology and Genetics, as well as from other institutions to optimise its diversity and teaching quality.

Aims

- To provide information on human biology, ecology and evolution sufficient to allow for the advanced exploration of concepts and theories in the field of study.
- To enable a critical and synthetic understanding of human adaptation, evolution and diversity.
- To provide a comprehensive ecological, behavioural and evolutionary perspective on the non-human primates, and to be able to critically relate this understanding to human adaptations.
- To develop quantitative skills and facilitate the manipulation, assessment and interpretation of data in the human and biological sciences.
- To stimulate independent analysis, both quantitative and qualitative, of concepts and issues in biological anthropology.
- To develop the interactive exchange of ideas and problem-solving methods between cohorts of students, as well as with staff, in combination with College-based teaching.
- To explore new styles of learning, from conventional class based lectures to individual explorations in laboratories, museums, or field environments.

Social Anthropology

Social Anthropology is currently taught over three years as a discipline within the Archaeology and Anthropology Tripos. Part I (first year) is taught together with Biological Anthropology and Archaeology. Part IIA (second year) and Part IIB (third year) are programmes in Social Anthropology. This document covers Part IIA and B.

The Department has a teaching staff of twelve, including a Head of Department and an Academic Secretary. There is an Academic Co-ordinator for Part I, for Part II (both years combined), and for each of the graduate programmes. There are also 'Paper Co-ordinators', who are responsible for the organisation of the teaching courses provided by the Department in preparation for each examination paper.

The Department operates a 'stints policy', designed to help teaching staff to effectively balance and co-ordinate their duties of teaching, research and administration. All academic staff are appraised regularly and given the opportunity to discuss individual contributions with a senior member of staff.

Aims

- to provide an excellent education in Social Anthropology and associated subdisciplines, informed by current directions in research
- to provide a stimulating environment in which students may realise their intellectual potential
- to provide, in collaboration with Colleges, an integrated system of learning and teaching which can be tailored to the needs of individual students
- to help students develop a range of intellectual abilities, writing and investigative skills, and qualities of mind that will enable them to make a significant contribution in their chosen careers and walks of life
- to develop a critical awareness and understanding of human social and cultural diversity

10. Archaeological and Anthropological Tripos: Course Structure and Outcomes

Part I

In the first year (Part I), students take one paper each in Archaeology (Paper 1), Biological Anthropology (Paper 2) and Social Anthropology (Paper 3), along with either an interdisciplinary paper (Paper 4A) across all three subjects or a paper (4B) in Sociology from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

By the end of the first year (Part I) students are expected to have:

- gained an awareness of the range of approaches that can be taken to the study of human societies and how they vary in time and space: the application of genetic and evolutionary approaches to humans' place within nature; the archaeological study of the genus *Homo* and the origins and development of complex societies; and the anthropological study of the diversity of human culture, its social organisations, ideology and material culture, questions of gender and identity, and cultural practices of modern day humans
- gained an awareness of how this broad range of approaches can be brought together synthetically to address common problems of the human condition
- visited a range of archaeological sites and become aware of issues of archaeology in the field
- been introduced to human adaptation and human responses to environments in functional and evolutionary contexts
- been introduced to the background to humanity including the non-human primates and evolutionary ancestors

Outcomes

The educational emphasis in this first year is upon the diversity of intellectual skills that can be brought to bear on studies of our own species through space and time.

Learning skills are developed through personal study, essay writing for supervisions, participation in group seminars, attendance on the Wessex fieldtrip and optional practical classes. The course is assessed by four written papers.

Part IIA¹

In Archaeology

In the second year (Part II A), students specialise in Archaeology, but may take one topic in Biological Anthropology or Social Anthropology. There are two compulsory papers in Theory and Practice, respectively, and the student may choose another two papers from a further 19 option papers (by period and/or area, archaeological science, or one paper from Social or Biological Anthropology). In all cases, students take written examinations in four subjects, and are required to participate in six weeks of fieldwork.

By the end of the second year (Part IIA) students are expected to have:

- become conversant with the history, theory and practice of archaeology, and aware of how changing theoretical positions have influenced the manner in which archaeological data is collected, analysed and interpreted
- begun to acquire critical, in-depth knowledge of selected sub-fields of archaeology
- received specific training in archaeological fieldwork, in the use of statistics and computing applied to archaeological data-sets, and in the practical aspects of the sub-fields of archaeology they have selected for intensive study
- experienced and taken part in practical archaeology in the field.

Outcomes

The educational emphasis in the second year is upon the structure of archaeology as a discipline, and on the acquisition of specific expertise and skills within it, entailing theoretical, library-based and practical elements.

Learning skills are further developed through personal study, essay writing for supervisions, producing written work for assessment, participation in group seminars and practical classes, and attendance on the Easter fieldtrip, training excavation and vacation period fieldwork. The course is assessed by four written papers. In addition, most papers have at least a 20-25% assessed component based on the submission of practical work, projects and/or reports.

A note on Fieldwork:

Part IIA students are required to take part in six weeks of compulsory fieldwork in order to proceed to Part IIB. This consists of two weeks on the Department's Training Excavation and four weeks on an approved excavation in the United Kingdom or abroad. These activities are primarily supported by the Vacation Study Grant Fund, but additional fieldwork funding is usually available from the Colleges and Faculty.

¹ Students normally enter from Part I of the Archaeology & Anthropology Tripos. They may exit at the end of Part I (first year) or they can continue to Part II (second and third years). Students from other Triposes may also enter the IIA course with the agreement of the College Director of Studies (in some cases with the requirement of a 2.1 in Part I.) In either case, students are expected to start Part IIA with some knowledge of the subject. This may derive from the Part I in Archaeology and Anthropology or the Part I in Social and Political Sciences (both of which have papers in Social Anthropology), or from preparatory reading courses designed by College Directors of Studies for students changing into the subject from other Triposes.

In Biological Anthropology

In the second year (Part IIA), students can specialise in Biological Anthropology to a greater extent and progress in this discipline. The course consists of two core papers, a practical paper, and an option of either a research seminar to explore a current topic in biological anthropology, or one of the designated Part IIA papers from Social Anthropology or Archaeology.

At Part IIA the objectives are to provide students with an understanding of the important mechanisms for physiological, genetic, nutritional and reproductive adaptation and how these interact with human behavioural responses. How and when human patterns arose is covered in the evolutionary perspective.

Key objectives include:

- A detailed understanding of human anatomy and skeletal biology, with a strong evolutionary component.
- The capacity to understand and use appropriate statistical tests.
- The development of independent research skills; literature, field or laboratory based.
- The ability to present independent research succinctly, with a focused and detailed assessed essay, and via practical write-ups.

Outcomes

The intended outcomes are the acquisition of detailed knowledge on human and non-human primate biology and evolution, as reflected in essay work, the examination papers and the continuously assessed practical material.

In Social Anthropology

The main aim of Part IIA is to provide a broad foundational basis in the advanced study of social organisation, comparative socio-cultural analysis and social theory. The Part IIA programme consists of four papers: two in the Foundations of Social Anthropology, one paper on Theory and Methods, and one paper chosen from (a) Social Anthropology Optional Papers, (b) Optional Papers in Archaeology or Biological Anthropology, or (c) specified papers from the History or Social and Political Sciences Triposes. The Social Anthropology Optional Paper is chosen from a current list of nine themes and all of these Options are available to students at either IIA or IIB levels (examinations of the Options take account of the candidate's year of study).

Outcomes

On completion of Part IIA students should have:

- An understanding of the nature and extent of the diversity of human societies and cultures
- A good understanding of the foundations of social and cultural anthropology in the following fields: (a) economics and kinship; (b) politics and religion; (c) the history of anthropological enquiry
- A good understanding of the development of social theory and of the repertoire of concepts and key research methods used in anthropological analysis
- An appreciation of the relationship between local social and cultural forms in relation to global processes and broader temporal developments
- An ability to question cultural assumptions
- An awareness of how anthropology articulates with cognate disciplines

Good understanding of one specialised theme in Social Anthropology or in cognate disciplines

Part IIB²

In Archaeology

In the third year (Part IIB), students specialise in Archaeology. As in Part IIA, there are two compulsory papers in Theory and Practice, and then the student may choose another two from a further 19 option papers. Each student must take examinations in four subjects, plus either a fifth examination paper (taken from the same list of option papers) or a dissertation.

By the end of the third year (Part IIB) students are expected to have:

- Consolidated their understanding of the history, theory and practice of archaeology, and placed it in the context of a wider awareness of archaeology of different regions of the world
- expanded their knowledge and critical in-depth understanding of their selected sub-fields of archaeology
- had the option of completing a largely self-motivated study of an archaeological problem, either through intensive library work and/or as a hands-on project.

Outcomes

The educational emphasis of this final year is thus upon consolidating and adding further depth to knowledge and understanding, and opening the way to self-directed and self-motivated study and analysis. The latter are most developed through individual practical projects and/or the dissertation research and presentation.

Learning skills are further developed through personal study, essay writing for supervisions, producing written work for assessment, participation in practical classes and presenting a small group seminar. The course is assessed by four written papers and a dissertation, or five examination papers. Most papers have at least a 20-25% assessed component based on the submission of practical work and/or reports.

² Students normally progress from Part IIA to part IIB and do not exit from the course after the second year. It is a requirement that Part IIA be passed in order to enter Part IIB.

In Biological Anthropology

At Part IIB (third year) level, the study of Biological Anthropology is pursued in detail through patterns of human adaptation, and responses to environments in functional and evolutionary contexts. This year represents a clear progression and deepening of specific knowledge in biological anthropology. The course consists of three papers, a practical examination (including continually assessed work) and an independent research dissertation.

At Part IIB, the objectives are to develop an in-depth perspective on human biology, behaviour and adaptations integrating the biology with a whole organism approach, as well as a detailed understanding of patterns and processes in human evolutionary history.

Key objectives are:

- To advance detailed knowledge of human biology, behaviour and evolution.
- To understand the genetic and behavioural bases for evolutionary patterns, human variation and human adaptations.
- To enhance skills in written presentation, independent research work, laboratory practices, computing use, database management and biostatistics.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the presentation of independent research work through the extended essay or dissertation, the capacity to manipulate data and present statistics via the practical work, and gaining the skills in critique, synthesis and original thought necessary for the examination papers.

In Social Anthropology

The Part IIB programme aims to broaden and deepen the knowledge previously acquired, to provide the opportunity for regional specialisation and dissertation research, and to give students access to innovative teaching informed by the recent research of the academic staff. Candidates take five papers or four papers and a dissertation. The compulsory part of the programme consists of two core papers in Social Anthropology (the topics complement one another and vary every few years). Students choose one specialised Ethnographic Area paper from a current range of eight regions and one Optional Paper chosen from a current list of nine themes. They may also choose to do a dissertation, and if not, they select a further paper from the list of Optional Papers.

Outcomes

On completion of Part IIB students should have:

- Competence in using major theoretical perspectives and concepts in anthropology
- Ability to formulate, investigate and discuss anthropologically informed questions about human societies and cultures
- Advanced understanding of two of the following core themes in Social Anthropology: (a) cognition, knowledge and belief; (b) ethics and moral economy; (c) political economy; and (d) transformations of society.
- Advanced knowledge of the social, cultural, economic and political features of one region of the world and the anthropological debates concerning this area
- Capacity to use ethnographic description in relation to theory and assess the qualities of different kinds of description
- Advanced understanding of at least one specialised theme in anthropology (such as, medical anthropology; the anthropology of cities and space; gender, body and sexuality; sources of anthropological understanding beyond professional texts; development anthropology; post-socialist transformations of society; nationalism, race and ethnicity; anthropology of colonialism and empire)
- The ability to plan, undertake and present scholarly work that demonstrates an understanding of anthropological aims, methods and theoretical considerations

Part II – One Year Course

In Archaeology

The one year Part II course in Archaeology may be taken by students from other Faculties or Departments in the year after another Honours examination in the University. These students follow the Part IIA course, but are not required to do the fieldwork component.

By the end of the one year Part II (Part IIA) students are expected to have:

- become conversant with the history and practice of archaeology, and of how changing theoretical positions have influenced the manner in which archaeological data is collected and analysed
- acquired critical, in-depth knowledge of at least two selected sub-fields of archaeology
- received instruction in the use of statistics and computing in an archaeological context, and in the practical aspects of the sub-fields of archaeology they have selected for intensive study.

Outcomes

The educational emphasis of this single year of archaeology, within a broader programme drawn from elsewhere in the University's curriculum, is to give students the advantage of the intellectual breadth and intrinsic interest of archaeology with which to complement their training in other disciplines.

Learning skills are further developed through personal study, essay writing for supervisions, producing written work for assessment and participation in practical classes. The course is assessed by four written papers. Most papers have at least a 20-25% assessed component based on the submission of practical work and/or reports. There is no compulsory fieldwork requirement for the one-year Part II course.

In Biological Anthropology

There is a one-year Part IIB course in Biological Anthropology for third year students from Medical and Veterinary Sciences (MVST) or Natural Sciences (General). Candidates either follow the full Part IIB course or take a variety of paper combinations from Biological Anthropology and other biological or clinical subjects. These options are offered to MVST students as an educational opportunity to gain a valuable perspective on the whole human organism operating in a normal environment. For Vets, the option of pursuing primate biology and behaviour in-depth is relevant and attractive.

11. Assessment and Progression

Archaeology

Examinations

At the end of Part I, Part IIA and Part IIB there is a compulsory Tripos examination (comprising a set of individual examination papers). The three years offer a clear progression in terms of intellectual content and knowledge. However, each part of the Archaeological and Anthropological Tripos is fully examined at the end of each academic year and no marks are carried forward from year to year.

There is no continuous assessment in Part I, but most courses in Part IIA and Part IIB include an assessed and/or practical component, which counts as a proportion (c. 20 - 25%) of the final paper mark in both core compulsory and option papers.

Written work

The bulk of written work is in the form of essays written for a supervisor which are discussed for an hour in a supervision with the supervisor and one or two other students. This small group teaching is a distinctive feature of teaching at Cambridge. These supervision essays do not contribute to the final paper mark, but allow checks on student achievement, progression and elaboration of material presented in lectures by the Departmental and College teaching staff. Supervisors prepare reports which are reviewed by the College Tutor and Director of Studies, and each student's progress is discussed with the Director of Studies at the end of every term.

Biological Anthropology

Part I is assessed at the end of the year through four written examination papers. There is no continuously assessed practical work at Part I. The examination results at the end of Part I represent the final mark for this year and these are not carried forward to the following years.

Part IIA is examined by a combination of two written papers, continuously assessed practical work, a written practical examination, and a research seminar report for those candidates not following an option from another discipline. Practical work carried out over the course of the year is submitted in the form of notebooks. Notebooks are assessed as 50% of the overall practical paper mark. The practical examination occurs in the Easter term and carries 50% of the overall practical paper mark. Special Topic Seminars are assessed through the presentation of a Research Report in the form of an extended essay of no more than 8000 words. This written work forms the fourth component of the Tripos. Students taking Option B Subjects (Archaeology or Social Anthropology) take written examinations as laid out by the relevant department. This year's results are independent of Part I and are not carried forward to the third year. However, the student must pass Part IIA in order to proceed to Part IIB.

For Part IIB, three core papers are assessed by written examinations in the Easter Term. Each course has associated practical work, which is assessed at the end of each term through the submission of a notebook. The notebooks represent 50% of the practical paper result. There is also a practical examination, covering material for the year, in the Easter term. This represents the remaining 50% of the practical mark. For MVST candidates reading single papers or two-

paper options, the practical sessions associated with each lecture course represent 15% of the final paper mark.

The fifth and final assessed element is that of compulsory written work, consisting either of a dissertation or an extended essay for full Part IIB students. These can either be based on independent research or data analysis (dissertation), or on a literature review or a theoretical or philosophical consideration of a major issue in Biological Anthropology (extended essay). For most candidates, the Part IIB mark represents their result for graduation, and reflects only the marks attained in the final year.

Written essay work

The Special Subject Report for Part IIA aims to provide students with their first experience of independent research. Background material is presented via readings and seminar discussions (guided by one or more members of staff). The student then designs a specific research question within the context of the seminar topics, receives advice on its appropriateness, and develops a focussed argument in relation to the chosen topic. The essay is a maximum of 8000 words, including references, footnotes and appendices. The word limit is designed to facilitate the presentation of an argument within a concise and well-structured written presentation.

The extended essay or dissertation at Part IIB aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop independent research skills in the form of posing relevant questions, methodologies for exploring and analysing questions, and written presentation of research results. Dissertations take the form of an extended essay, a report, or a practical project. The form of the dissertation is very flexible and it can be based on laboratory or museum work, observational studies, fieldwork, investigations of databases, or a literature review of a relevant topic. Each student is assigned to a supervisor, chosen as a function of the major topic area of the dissertation. The dissertation is a maximum of 10,000 words (excluding footnotes, appendices and bibliography).

For all three years of study, essays (typed 4-6 pages) are written for the major topics studied, which are then considered in the course of supervisions. The supervisions typically last one hour, and have between 2-4 students present. Topics for essays are provided by the supervisors, along with suggested readings. At Part IIA and Part IIB, supervisions are organised by the lecturers, and thus are closely linked to the taught material. However, the main goal of the essay work is not the practice of examination question answers, but rather the acquisition of knowledge, the capacity to use bibliographic techniques, the ability to present coherent and synthetic written work, and the facility to discuss challenging concepts in groups. Students received qualitative feedback on essays rather than marks. Supervisors provide feedback on general student performance to Colleges and Directors of Studies, who review this with the student every term.

Social Anthropology

Formative assessment is provided mainly through the supervision system. Supervision essays allow students the opportunity to develop a discursive account or argument, supported by reference to primary or secondary literature, often completed within a prescribed word-limit. Students are given regular feedback on essays through written comments and discussion of their work, and supervisors also provide termly reports which often include provisional forecasts of examination grades. These reports are discussed in interviews at the beginning and end of each term with College Directors of Studies.

Summative assessment is aimed to provide an objective framework for testing students' knowledge, understanding, and ability to communicate. The principal method is by three-hour, unseen, written examination at the end of the academic year. The candidates are anonymous (they enter by number, not by name) and all papers are double-marked by two examiners (also anonymous), adjudicated in cases of disagreement by an External Examiner. The External Examiner also looks at a sample of scripts with agreed marks from the point of view of standards overall. Part IIA and Part IIB are classed separately. There is no carry-over from one year to the next. The criteria for marking and classification are published in the Student Handbook.

The Part IIB dissertation offers an alternative form of assessment, now taken by around 80% of candidates. Independent marking by two examiners is followed by an oral examination. The oral is designed to assess depth of understanding, verify authorship, offer feedback, and allow students to defend and discuss their work in detail.

Directors of Studies receive a breakdown of their students' performance in examinations and provide end-of-year advice to students moving from Part IIA to IIB. The Teaching Committee of the Department discusses the standards of each year overall and makes recommendations for the following year. Students have access to the reports of internal and external examiners to the Degree Committee.

With regard to particular skills, assessment is further carried out as follows:

Intellectual skills: Assessment of these skills is made through several methods: unseen written examinations designed to test students' knowledge and understanding; examinations of dissertations, allowing assessment of students' ability to identify an intellectual problem and carry out a sustained piece of research and analysis. Supervisions and regular feedback on supervisions (including not only comments by teachers but also the possibility for students to respond to these comments) are a central element in the Cambridge assessment system. For dissertations, oral examinations allow students to defend and discuss their work in detail.

Communication skills: Assessment of these skills is informal and qualitative. Supervisors provide regular and ongoing comments on essay writing skills of individual students. Discussions with teachers and other students at seminars enable students to improve their oral presentation skills in a supportive context.

Organisational skills: Assessment of these skills is carried out informally and verified in a variety of contexts, such as: evidence of independent library reading; of co-ordination of work for different courses; of formative planning, managing and executing in good time a research project for a dissertation; of collaborative presentations at seminars; participation in workshops, exhibitions, museum displays.

Inter-personal and inter-cultural skills: These are embedded in the handling of ethnographic and theoretical materials. There is no formal assessment of these skills, but students are provided with feedback by supervisors and College tutors when appropriate.

Statistical and computing techniques: There is no specific requirement for such skills in Part II but credit is given if they are used well, for example an IT-based project presented at a seminar, or as part of an argument in a dissertation.

Research skills: These skills are assessed by a combination of various methods: comments on supervision essays; termly written comments by supervisors on intellectual progress; written and oral examinations of dissertations.

Audio-visual skills: These skills are assessed in the course of regular examination procedures, such as audio-visual materials submitted as part of a dissertation.

Scholarly and information-retrieval skills: These skills are assessed through reports on the scholarly quality of supervision work and the dissertation.

12. Transferable Skills

Generic skills:

- **Intellectual skills:** General problem-solving as an intellectual exercise, with critique, analysis, synthesis and original thinking as key components – gained via attending lectures, seminars, practicals, supervisions, and by undertaking independent research and project work, sitting examinations.
- **Communication skills:** Developing oral and written presentation skills, using diverse approaches to presentations, discussions within specific contexts, listening to others, and responding to critique.
- **Organisational skills:** The capacity for independent work requiring initiative, motivation and resourcefulness in the context of formal deadlines – time management, project management, and organisation of events. Project design and implementation in the course of independent work.
- **Inter-personal skills:** Teamwork in small group supervisions, seminars and practical groups, as well as the participation in Departmental and Faculty committees, leading to joint management of goals, discussion and outcomes; the ability to work with and motivate others. The development of flexibility and adaptability; and the recognition of diversity in approaches.
- **Report writing:** through essays, laboratory projects and dissertations – skills in making reports accessible to a range of users.
- **Numeracy and quantitative skills:** the ability to generate, assess and interpret quantitative information, as well as understand the output and limitations of the procedures.
- **IT skills:** familiarity with a wide range of computer applications, including the use of computers for bibliographic research, word-processing for the presentation of written work, graphics packages, data handling and analysis via complex statistical packages.

13. Learning and Teaching Methods

Biological Anthropology

The major forms of delivery of teaching and learning are as follows:

Lectures: these aim to provide information about a major topic within 50 minutes in order to stimulate interest in a particular area or field of study. They can consist of a critique of existing ideas, or the presentation of a new perspective based on recent research. Typically they combine visual images with analysis or graphical presentations. Opportunities for students to interrogate the lecturer about lecture material are made available. Students are provided with a lecture list giving the structure of the course, and with core and supplemental readings in the form of a syllabus.

Seminars: the Department holds weekly research seminars for the formal presentation of internationally recognised researchers. Research seminars provide opportunities for observing presentation styles, discussion and debates, as well as ground-breaking science. In addition, seminar teaching is widely used for special subjects and as supplementary teaching for some lecture courses. Teaching Seminars provide training in exchange, debate, listening, and critique and allow students to present material of their own.

Practical classes: these provide students with opportunities to handle material and place this into a “real world, real time” perspective. Skills in measurement, accuracy, group work, and analysis are all developed through the practical classes, while the write-ups require analysis, interpretation and presentation skills. These are designed also to provide knowledge specific to each practical problem.

Supervisions: These complement the main teaching course work, and are designed to provide a forum for independent learning which then is translated into interactive exchange between small numbers of students and an experienced researcher in a specific field. These also enhance essay writing skills and time management required by the regular submission of essays for assessment.

Social Anthropology

The following methods are used in both parts of the Tripos: lectures, seminars, supervisions, preparation classes for particular tasks such as writing dissertations. In addition: practicals, film analysis, reading-groups and informal discussions are sometimes used for specific courses. The general strategy is to combine three major forms of teaching and learning: relatively formal presentation of material in lectures, opportunity for analysis and argument in seminars, and work on individual / small group attainments and shortcomings in College supervisions.

Lectures: cover a range of learning objectives: providing a framework of information and/or critical approaches; stimulating interest in the subject; opening up new perspectives related to current research. Specialist lecturers from outside the University are regularly invited to contribute to the programme. Course outlines and reading-lists are always provided, and lecturers make regular use of audio-visual aids, hand-outs, and other materials relevant to their topics.

Seminars: complement the lecture programme. They provide a forum for discussion, enable students to learn how best to present ideas and materials, and accustom them to take part in constructive argument, criticism and evaluation of evidence. Seminars are frequently the forum for innovations in teaching and learning, such as group presentations, teamwork in handling opposed ideas, work with items of material culture, and assessment and analysis of non-standard ethnographic evidence (documentary film, indigenously-authored film, oral and musical materials, literary materials, etc.).

College supervisions: complement lectures and seminars in both parts of Part II and all supervisors have access to lecture course abstracts, reading-lists and hand-outs. Supervisions are interactive sessions in small groups (from 1 – 4 students), usually lasting one hour, and based on written work submitted in advance and marked by the supervisor. They are the principal academic forum in which students develop the ability to work independently, learn with and from others, acquire the ability to write clearly, and how to question their own assumptions. Supervisions are also intended to provide guidance for students following up individual intellectual interests beyond the lecture and seminar programme. The discipline of regular essay writing teaches students how to cope with deadlines.

Preparation classes: are provided for specific purposes such as: making oral presentations, researching and writing dissertations, and taking unseen examinations. Departmental advice on essay and dissertation writing is also available on the website.

The balance, intellectual progression, and future development of the Tripos is discussed annually by Teaching Groups for each major theme in anthropology. These groups also make sure that essential ideas are covered, that courses are integrated, and that any overlap in the teaching has a pedagogical purpose. For individual students, progress and overall workload is monitored by the College-based Director of Studies. In the second year (Part IIA) students are expected to attend all lectures, seminars and preparation classes for the programme they have chosen (up to 15 hours per week) and they are expected to write at least one essay per week. In the third year (Part IIB) this pattern continues, though students increasingly select lectures according to their intellectual interests and choice of options. There is a norm of 24-8 lectures / seminars per option over the academic year, though more may be provided for certain courses in which supervision plays a lesser role than usual. The Department provides an Academic Liaison Officer, whom student may consult on a range of problems, including the relation between College and Departmental teaching.

14. Learning Support

Archaeology

The Department, the University and the Colleges provide students with a wide range of support and guidance. Each student has a College Director of Studies and usually also a Tutor. The former is primarily concerned with academic progress; the latter has a more general role in pastoral welfare. Students meet with their Director of Studies on a regular basis, but are most frequently seen by their supervisors, who thus provide the front line of support and guidance. Supervisors contact the Tutor or Director of Studies if a student gives cause for concern.

Directors of Studies hold termly meetings. In addition to the Tutor, College chaplains and nurses are also on hand to help students. Those experiencing exceptional problems may be referred by college officers, or may refer themselves, to the University Counselling Service.

Colleges also provide student induction and offer social and cultural facilities. The Colleges assist with graduate students' accommodation needs and provide tutorial and pastoral support, social and recreational facilities, and an environment for interaction with staff and students from other disciplines. Within the Department, students run an Archaeological Field Club with the support of staff members, and publish a peer reviewed archaeological journal, *Archaeological Review* from Cambridge.

The University and Department offers support networks for disabled students so that they are not disadvantaged in any way.

Biological Anthropology

Within the Department, there is a course co-ordinator nominated for each paper who is responsible for ensuring liaison between students and lecturers during a course. Lecturers also have office hours for students to consult when there are learning issues or problems relating to course or practical work. Email contact is also encouraged for responding to minor questions. The primary support for personal problems occurs in the context of the colleges, via Directors of Studies and Tutors. Members of the Department are often involved in dual roles within the colleges, and thus are well placed to monitor and ensure the academic progress of individual students.

Students with disabilities or illness have extensive support networks within the University and the colleges and issues of special access, provision of additional teaching support material or submission of practical write-ups and practical examination schedules are dealt with in the Department in conjunction with the colleges.

Social Anthropology

Many of these are provided by Colleges (e.g. libraries, computer links, technical IT support). Undergraduate students of the Department have access to a specialist Archaeology and Anthropology library (the Haddon Library), a specialist Museum, and to a video / documentary film / audio collection dedicated to anthropology. With permission they may also consult the collection of historical anthropological photographs held in the Museum. Within the Department main building there are two teaching rooms, a common room, a suite of secretarial offices, a xeroxing room, and a few computer stations for student use. Lectures for large classes are held in well-equipped University lecture theatres. Students also have access to the following University facilities: the University Library, the Audio-Visual Aids Unit; the language laboratories. Students are entitled to attend lectures in any Faculty in the University, and they may also consult specialist research centres / libraries for access to information about particular areas of the world (Latin America; South Asia; Africa; Polar regions; Mongolia and Inner Asia, etc.).

15. Indicators of Quality

Archaeology

In any one year, there are about 60-70 Part I students, with about 20-30 students going on to do Part II Archaeology. The pass rate is usually 100%.

Admission to Cambridge Tripos courses by the Colleges is based on high achievement in A-level examinations or equivalent, interviews, school references, and sometimes written work. To remain at Cambridge, students must normally achieve at least Third Class honours standard each year; none in recent years has failed to do so.

The continuous formative assessment provided by supervisions is at least as important in monitoring progress as the summative assessment provided by the Tripos exams. As well as giving frequent feedback to students, in comments on their written work, supervisors provide termly reports that are discussed at end-of-term interviews between the student and his/her Director of Studies and Tutor. The new University-wide CamCORS system of on-line supervision reporting now also means that each student has a ready-made file created on their progress which is available to the student and the Director of Studies. Students also receive feedback on their practical reports and on the first drafts of project reports and dissertations from individual Departmental staff members. There is also a Part IIA and Part IIB co-ordinator in the Department who meets termly with each student to review progress and any problems with the course.

The level of achievement is high. The majority achieve an upper second or first class honours. Thirds are almost unknown, and there are very few dropouts. Many of our students go on to further degrees or professional qualifications; unemployment rates are low with less than 6% of undergraduate students still seeking employment in the December following graduation.

The Archaeology course was included in the QAA subject review in 2001 and obtained grades of 4 in all but the quality and enhancement section where it received a score of 3 for a total of 23. The Department has been awarded 5* in the last three Research Assessment Exercises.

Biological Anthropology

Of the 65+ Part I students, between 15-20 pursue biological anthropology at Part II level. The second year is also joined by natural scientists who have completed a Part IA, or occasionally students from other disciplines (Arts or Social Sciences) who have a relevant Biology A-level.

Admissions to Part I for Archaeology and Anthropology are the responsibility of the Colleges, which obviously influences the balance of second year subjects. With eight members of staff, four of whom play a role in college admissions, committed biological anthropologists are recruited only via the enthusiasm generated during the Part I year. In the third year, Medical and Veterinary students contribute to the total numbers to such an extent that there is a quota of 35 full Part IIB students allowed to follow the subject. The quota is necessary for effective student participation in practical work and for ensuring high quality supervision of independent research.

Overall student achievement in biological anthropology is high. The majority of candidates receive an upper second or first class honours degree, with no fails in the past 10 years. Overall performance and gender balance are audited each year in the Department's Annual report.

Employment prospects of Biological Anthropology graduates appear to be excellent with no graduates reportedly seeking employment six months after the completion of the course. Approximately one half of graduates gain permanent employment within six months, and approximately 30% go on to either further post-graduate degrees or to certificate or diploma courses.

Careers are diverse, ranging from the legal professions, education, the civil service, and health professions, as well as to industry, consulting work (particularly with NGOs and in development), banking and commerce. Other graduates have pursued careers in the media, film or written, or in drama.

Social Anthropology

- The Teaching Committee of the Department has prime responsibility for effective management of the undergraduate teaching programme in Social Anthropology. In exercising it, the Committee is advised by subject-specific Teaching Groups, made up of the staff teaching given areas of the subject; by the annual meeting of the Directors of Studies in Social Anthropology, held in the Michaelmas Term; by student representatives who may attend all meetings of the Teaching Committee; and by the general body of students of each category, who are invited to attend specific open sessions annually. There is an informal strategic planning meeting of the Teaching Committee, held each summer to review the Tripos and a more formal meeting is held in the Lent Term, after the meetings of the Teaching Groups. The Teaching Committee thus follows an annual cycle in reviewing each subject area and monitoring the delivery of the undergraduate programme. Besides the committees and representations mentioned above, the Committee uses its own minutes, and especially student questionnaires and examiners' reports.
- At the end of each course, undergraduates are asked to complete a questionnaire on lecture quality. Responses are analysed and summarised by the lecturer and sent to the Paper Co-ordinator, and they together discuss any improvements to be made. The questionnaires, summaries, and suggestions for improvement, kept in the Department Office, are available to the Head of Department and the Academic Secretary. An annual meeting of the Teaching Committee is designated for discussion of responses to questionnaires. In general, the Department operates a policy of trust of lecturers (rather than critical scrutiny of their performance), and feedback to lecturers on their performance is given through the regular appraisal process.
- Directors of Studies review the supervision programme provided by their College at interviews at the beginning and end of each term. They, together with Paper Organisers, also review the quality of supervisors who put their names forward to teach on given subjects. All supervisors are required to attend the course for supervisors organised by the University. Self-assessment forms give students the opportunity to comment of College teaching. The Tutorial system complements this and enables students to raise questions they might not wish to raise with their Director of Studies. The Department provides an Academic Liaison Officer, who holds regular open office hours, to give general advice and catch any additional

problems that might arise (e.g. changing courses, time-tabling, access to books, IT provision).

The Part IIA and IIB Examiners report to the Teaching Committee on the conduct of the examinations, the standard achieved by the candidates, and other issues that may arise. These reports are discussed initially by the Teaching Committee at the Examiners' Meeting and a more formal consideration of their content and measures to be taken in response is carried out at the beginning of the following Michaelmas Term. A written response, especially on the contents of the External Examiner's Report, is sent to the Degree Committee of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology during the Michaelmas Term.