

Entrance Requirements

A full A-level or equivalent qualification in English Literature or English Language and Literature is expected. A-level History is highly recommended. All candidates must take the History Aptitude Test (HAT). Candidates will be required to submit one piece of written work for History on an historical topic and two pieces for English.



Which colleges offer History and English?

History and English is not offered at all colleges. You can check which colleges are offering places for this Joint School course in the current Prospectus, on the University's admissions website (www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/colleges), or by contacting individual colleges.

www.english.ox.ac.uk

www.history.ox.ac.uk

"There's a misconception that studying joint honours is like doing two degrees at once but from my experience, this isn't the case. I can frequently apply what I learn in one subject to the other. I would definitely recommend applying for a joint course!"

Shona, Keble College



"I have explored my areas of interest in a lot more depth and found illuminating links between the courses. This not only enriched my understanding, but revealed to me just how intertwined the subjects are!"

Emma, St John's College

ENGLISH AT OXFORD

English Faculty
St Cross Building
Manor Road
Oxford
OX1 3UL

 www.english.ox.ac.uk
 undergrad@ell.ox.ac.uk
 01865 271540
 @engfac
 facebook.com/englishoxford

FACULTY OF
HISTORY

FACULTY OF
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
AND
LITERATURE



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



HISTORY AND ENGLISH AT OXFORD

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This joint degree enables students to combine the study of history with that of English language and literature. The intersection between language, culture, and history is currently the focus of active debate within both the disciplines and you are encouraged throughout your course to relate literary and historical ideas in the investigation of your chosen periods, topics, or authors. A History course already enriched by a strong cultural input is an ideal companion to the study of English literature. Whether your interest is in early or Middle English, the Renaissance, or the later periods, intellectually fruitful combinations are possible. The joint degree includes two explicitly interdisciplinary papers taught jointly by specialists in the two subjects.



YOUR FIRST YEAR

Students study four papers, on which they are examined at the end of the first year.

1. History of the British Isles. A choice of six options is available: 300-1087; 1042-1330; 1330-1550; 1500-1700; 1688-1848; 1830-1951. Students can look at social, economic, and cultural as well as political themes, and a degree of specialisation within these broad periods is readily permitted.
2. EITHER a paper on historical methods, for which a variety of options is available. These include 'Approaches to History' which involves an examination of interdisciplinary ways of studying history, and 'Historiography: Tacitus to Weber' which looks at great historians and their works.
OR an Optional Subject in History involving the use of primary sources.
3. Introduction to English Language and Literature. An introduction to some of the techniques available for approaching texts from the eighth century to the present day.
4. An additional course in English which can be Early Medieval Literature (650 – 1350), Victorian Literature (1830 – 1910) or Modern Literature (1910 – present).



SECOND AND THIRD YEARS

Seven papers are taken, which are assessed by a mix of submitted work and written examinations:

1. An interdisciplinary 'bridge' paper, for example, Representing the City (London), 1558-1640.
2. A period of British History not studied in the first year.
3. TWO subjects from the broad range of papers available in years 2 and 3 of the English Language and Literature course.
4. EITHER a Modern History Special Subject (which counts as two papers, and gives an opportunity for studying a particular topic in considerable depth),
OR two from: a History Further Subject paper; a period of British or European and World History not already covered; an additional subject from the English course.
5. An interdisciplinary dissertation on a subject area of your choice.

The degree course is therefore extremely flexible. Students wishing to specialise in the medieval period, for example, might offer in their first year Literature in English 650 – 1350, British History 300-1087, and The Age of Bede; while in later years they could take a European and World History paper in the period 600-1000 and add a Further Subject in Anglo-Saxon Archaeology.

Those wishing to specialize in the Modern period could combine the study of Victorian Literature with Nineteenth-Century British History in their first year, while among the papers they might study for finals would be Intellect and Culture in Victorian Britain, an English Special Option on Science in Victorian Literature (depending on the options available in a particular year), and the History Special Subject on War and Reconstruction: Ideas, Politics and Social Change, 1939-45.

Renaissance specialists could produce an intellectually stimulating course combining an early Modern literature outline paper with Early Modern British History and the Further Subject Literature and Politics in Early Modern England or offering one of the more culturally orientated Special Subjects like the High Renaissance or English Architecture.

"Many prospective humanities students often find themselves caught between two subjects and love both dearly—and Oxford caters for this with its joint honours programmes. History and English is amongst the best, having been in place for almost thirty years and taking in a keen and clever cohort annually. The course has specific interdisciplinary elements that bring the two subjects together, which is quite rare for undergraduate study programmes, and is often what HEng students thrive off during their time here. The small yearly intake have unique HEng classes from the word 'go!', meaning the cohort become quite close despite being spread across the colleges, which brings an added bonus of immediately having friends beyond your own college walls!"

Harry, Pembroke College