Lincoln College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

TO THOSE BEGINNING THEIR STUDY OF FRENCH IN OCTOBER 2026

The Course in French Language

Papers I and II

Paper I consists of translation into French (10 sentences and a short literary or journalistic passage) and a summary exercise in French. Paper II involves translation from French of two short literary or journalistic passages. You will have regular oral classes. You should make every effort to maintain and even improve your level of linguistic competence by any means available to you. Certainly you must equip yourself with a good grammar book, for example Roger Hawkins & Richard Towell, *French Grammar and Usage*, or Granville Price's revision of the standard Byrne & Churchill's *A Comprehensive French Grammar,* or H. Ferrar's *A French Reference Grammar.* You should also obtain a large bilingual dictionary (ca. 2000 pages, ca. 19cm x 26cm, e.g. Oxford-Hachette, or Collins-Robert). You can also buy a monolingual dictionary such as *Le Petit Robert* or *Lexis*, but there is also an excellent dictionary available free online at the following address: https://www.cnrtl.fr/definition/

You will also have free access to the Oxford English Dictionary online once you have your Oxford University email address on arrival in October. Please note that you cannot rely on other, free online dictionaries (mono-lingual or bi-lingual), since they are not good enough for university study.

You will be studying for these two language papers, I and II, throughout the first year.

Oral classes: these will focus on proper pronunciation and intonation, and include discussion in French of texts dealing with issues in contemporary French culture.

Paper III ('Short Texts')

(i) Montaigne, 'Des Cannibales' from *Essais*, vol. 1 (recommended edition: *Essais: 'Des cannibales' et 'Des coches'*, ed. by Tarpinian, Éditions Ellipses, 1994)
(ii) Racine, *Phèdre* (recommended edition by Raymond Picard, Gallimard 'Folio', 2015)
(iii) Verlaine, *Romances sans paroles* (recommended edition by Arnaud Bernadet, GF-Flammarion, 2018 [2012])
(iv) NDiaye, *Papa doit manger* (recommended edition Éditions de Minuit, 2003)

You will be studying for this paper in your first term, and you should therefore read these texts before you arrive in Oxford.

Paper IV ('French Narrative Fiction'; NB: no particular editions recommended)

Anon., *La Chastelaine de Vergy*
Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*
George Sand, *Indiana*
Condé, *Traversée de la mangrove*

You will study for Paper IV in the second and third terms.

In order to prepare for these two literature papers, III and IV, you will need to obtain and read one of the following 'study skills' guides before arriving in Oxford:

- Phyllis Creme and Mary R. Lea, *Writing at University*, 3rd edn (Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2008).
- Stella Cottrell, *The Study Skills Handbook*, 3rd edn (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).
- David B. Pirie, *How to Write Critical Essays* (Lonon: Routledge, 2002).