

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2026-27

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, ECONOMICS & SOCIOLOGY



PPES FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP JANUARY 2027 – 4 PAPERS IN TOTAL

BRIEF PAPER DESCRIPTORS

PHILOSOPHY	
Paper 1	This paper concerns the topics covered in the Central Problems in Philosophy modules taught in the previous JF year and the History of Philosophy IIA module taught in the first semester of the SF year.
Paper 2	Chosen Philosopher and Text. This is a non-course-based paper. Students choose to focus on a text (or some few texts) of a philosopher and, in consultation with a member of staff devise a plan of study for the exam. The purpose of this exam is for students to apply 'general' skills in philosophy to material that was not covered in courses they have taken.
Paper 4	Chosen special Topic. This is a non-course-based exam. Students choose to focus on a topic not covered in course work and, in consultation with a member of staff devise a plan of study for the exam. As in Paper 2, the purpose of this exam is for students to apply 'general' skills in philosophy to material that was not covered in courses they have taken.
ECONOMICS	
Paper 1	Economics I. The main focus of the questions will be material relating to module ECU22011 Intermediate Economics A. In contrast to annual exam papers, questions will be more general in nature. Questions may also draw on material from ECU11011 and ECU11012
Paper 2	Economics II. The focus will be on material covered in module ECU22021, The Economy of Ireland A. Questions will be general in nature.
Paper 3	Economics III. Questions covered will draw on material from the Introduction to Economics sequence, ECU11011 and ECU11012. Compared to annual exam papers, questions will be more general in nature.
Paper 4	Quantitative Methods. Questions will draw mainly on material from ECU22031, Mathematical and Statistical Methods A, but may also draw on material from ECU11021 and ECU11022. Compared to annual exam papers, questions will be more general in nature.
Paper 5	Economic Issues. Questions will be based on material from ECU22041, Economic Issues A. Compared to the annual paper, questions will be more general in nature.
POLITICAL SCIENCE	
Paper 1	General Paper (Students taking one or more SF Political Science modules)
Paper 2	General Paper (Students with JF credits only in Political Science – not taking any SF Political Science modules)
Paper 3	History of Political Thought Paper
Paper 4	Comparative Politics Paper
Paper 5	International Relations Paper
Paper 6	Political Science Research Paper
SOCIOLOGY	
Paper 1	This is a ' foundations ' paper which draws on the material taught in Semesters 1 and 2 in their first year in the modules Introduction to Sociology 1 and 2 . Students are offered six questions in two sections and they must answer one from each section.
Paper 2	This paper is a 'general paper' designed to test candidates' analytical, critical and discursive abilities. Students are provided with a number of readings on two topics: intermarriage and cultural capital. Two questions on each topic are provided in two sections and students answer one question from each section .
Paper 3	The Foundation Scholarship Examination Sociology Paper 3 is a 'theory and methods' paper. Students are presented with six questions overall in two sections (A and B) from which they answer two question in total from either section. Section A will have three questions which draw on the material taught in Social Theory Semester 1 (SOU22061). Section B will have three questions which draw on the material from Introduction to Social Research Semester 1 (SOU22011).
Paper 4	Paper 4 is a 'core topics' paper. Students are presented with six questions overall in two sections (A and B) from which they answer two question in total from either section. Section A will have three questions which draw on the material taught in Gender, Work and Family in Semester 1 (SOU22021). Section B will have three questions which draw on the material from Power, State and Social Movements Semester 1 (SOU22041).

CREDIT PROFILES AND PAPER CHOICE			
	Pathway	Credit profile (SF)	Paper choices (4 papers in total)
1a.b	Single Honor	S1 (40 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	3 Papers in S1, and 1 Paper in S2, S3, or S4 from JF Yr
2a.b.c.d	Major with minor	S1 (40 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS)	2 Papers in S1 and 2 Papers in S2 or 3 Papers in S1 and 1 Paper in S2
3d	Joint Honor	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	2 Papers in S1 and 2 Papers in S2
3a.b	Three subjects	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + S3 (20 ECTS)	1 Paper in S1, 1 Paper in S2, 1 Paper in S3 and another Paper from either S1, S2, or S3 or 2 Papers in S1 and 2 Papers in S2

See following pages for specifics:

(1a,b) SINGLE HONOURS – 3 Papers from Subject 1 and 4th Paper from any of the remaining three Subjects i.e. Papers as set i.e. Phil Paper 2 or 4; Econ Paper 3; PolSci Paper 2; Soc Paper 1

ECONOMICS		POLITICAL SCIENCE		SOCIOLOGY		PHILOSOPHY	
Econ	Paper 1,2, 4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 1	Mandatory	Paper 1
Econ	Paper 1,2, 4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4,5 or 6	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 2
Econ	Paper 1,2, 4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4,5 or 6	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Mandatory	Paper 4
Phil	Paper 2 or 4	Econ	Paper 3	Econ	Paper 3	Econ	Paper 3
PolSci	Paper 2	Phil	Paper 2 or 4	PolSci	Paper 2	PolSci	Paper 2
Soc	Paper 1	Soc	Paper 1	Phil	Paper 2 or 4	Soc	Paper 1

(2a,b,c,d) MAJOR WITH MINOR – 2 Papers from Major / 2 Papers from Minor; OR 3 Papers from Major / 1 Paper from Minor)

ECONOMICS Major		POLITICAL SCIENCE Major		SOCIOLOGY Major		PHILOSOPHY Major	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 1
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Phil	Paper 2 or 4
OR		OR		OR		OR	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 1	Mandatory	Paper 1
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 2
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Mandatory	Paper 4

ECONOMICS Minor		POLITICAL SCIENCE Minor		SOCIOLOGY Minor		PHILOSOPHY Minor	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 1
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Phil	Paper 2 or 4
OR		OR		OR		OR	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Phil	Paper 2 or 4

(3a,b) TRIPLE STRAND – 1 Paper from each Subject and 4th paper from within any of 3 chosen Subjects; OR 2 Papers from Subject 1 and 2 Papers from Subject 2

ECONOMICS		POLITICAL SCIENCE		SOCIOLOGY		PHILOSOPHY	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Phil	Paper 2 or 4
And 1 Paper for each of S2 & S3		And 1 Paper for each of S2 & S3		And 1 Paper for each of S2 & S3		And 1 Paper for each of S2 & S3	
If taking a second Econ Paper (Paper 4), choose		If taking a second PolSci Paper (Paper 4), choose		If taking a second Soc Paper (Paper 4), choose		If taking a second Phil Paper (Paper 4), choose	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5 (not already chosen above)	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 1

OR		OR		OR		OR	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 1
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Phil	Paper 2 or 4

(3d) JOINT HONOUR– 2 Papers from each Subject

ECONOMICS		POLITICAL SCIENCE		SOCIOLOGY		PHILOSOPHY	
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	Mandatory	Gen Paper 1	Soc	Paper 2	Mandatory	Paper 1
Econ	Paper 1,2,4 or 5	PolSci	Paper 3,4, 5 or 6	Soc	Paper 3 or 4	Phil	Paper 2 or 4

PHILOSOPHY

Paper no.	Paper description	Can be taken by							
1	Philosophy Paper 1 - based on JF Central Problems in Philosophy (PIU11021/PIU11023/PIU11022) History of Western Philosophy I (PIU11031/PIU11032/PIU11034) & first two modules of SF History of Western Philosophy II A(PIU22011)								
2	Philosophy Paper 2 - General paper, based on a philosopher of student's choice								
4	Philosophy Paper 4 - General paper, based on a topic of student's choice								
Pathway no./code	Credit profile	Phil in Pathway	Student credit profile	No. of SF credits to be taken in Philosophy by end of Semester 1	Number of papers taken in Philosophy	Papers to be taken (M= mandatory, O= optional)			
						Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4
1a	S1 (40 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	S1 is Phil	40 SF credits in Philosophy (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	M	M		M
1b		S1 is not Phil	JF credits only in Philosophy	n/a	1		O		O
2a	S1 (40 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS)	S1 is Phil	40 SF credits in Philosophy (20 by end Sem 1)	20	2	M	O		O
2b		S1 is Phil	40 SF credits in Philosophy (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	M	M		M
2c		S2 is Phil	20 SF credits in Philosophy (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	M	O		O
2d		S2 is Phil	20 SF credits in Philosophy (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1		O		O
3a	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + S3 (20 ECTS)	S1, S2, or S3 is Phil	20 SF credits in Philosophy (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1		O		O
3b		S1, S2, or S3 is Phil	20 SF credits in Philosophy (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	M	O		O
3d	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	Either S1 or S2 is Phil	20 SF credits in Philosophy (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	M	O		O

ECONOMICS										
						General Questions Included / Mandatory Nature				
						X	X	X	X	X
Pathway no./code	Credit profile	Econ in Pathway	Student credit profile	No. of SF credits to be taken in Economics by end of Semester	Number of papers taken in Economics	Papers to be taken (M= mandatory, O= optional)				
						Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4	Paper 5
1a	S1 (40 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	S1 is Econ	40 SF credits in Economics (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	O	O		O	O
1b		S1 is not Econ	JF credits only in Economics	n/a	1			M		
2a	S1 (40 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS)	S1 is Econ	40 SF credits in Economics (20 by end Sem 1)	20	2	O	O		O	O
2b		S1 is Econ	40 SF credits in Economics (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	O	O		O	O
2c		S2 is Econ	20 SF credits in Economics (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	O	O		O	O
2d		S2 is Econ	20 SF credits in Economics (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1	O	O			O
3a	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + S3 (20 ECTS)	S1, S2, or S3 is Econ	20 SF credits in Economics (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1	O	O		O	O
3b		S1, S2, or S3 is Econ	20 SF credits in Economics (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	O	O		O	O
3d	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	Either S1 or S2 is Econ	20 SF credits in Economics (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	O	O		O	O

POLITICAL SCIENCE

						General Questions Included / Mandatory Nature					
						X	X				
Pathway no. /code	Credit profile	PolSci in Pathway	Student credit profile	No. of SF credits to be taken in Political Science by end of Semester 1	Number of papers taken in Political Science	Papers to be taken (M= mandatory, O= optional)					
						Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4	Paper 5	Paper 6
1a	S1 (40 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	S1 is PolSci	40 SF credits in Political Science (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	M		O	O	O	O
1b		S1 is not PolSci	JF credits only in Political Science	n/a	1		M				
2a	S1 (40 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS)	S1 is PolSci	40 SF credits in Political Science (20 by end Sem 1)	20	2	M		O	O	O	O
2b		S1 is PolSci	40 SF credits in Political Science (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	M		O	O	O	O
2c		S2 is PolSci	20 SF credits in Political Science (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	M		O	O	O	O
2d		S2 is PolSci	20 SF credits in Political Science (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1	M					
3a	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + S3 (20 ECTS)	S1, S2, or S3 is PolSci	20 SF credits in Political Science (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1	M					
3b		S1, S2, or S3 is PolSci	20 SF credits in Political Science (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	M		O	O	O	O
3d	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	Either S1 or S2 is PolSci	20 SF credits in Political Science (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2	M		O	O	O	O

SOCIOLOGY

						General Questions Included / Mandatory Nature			
							X		
Pathway no./code	Credit profile	Soc in Pathway	Student credit profile	No. of SF credits to be taken in Sociology by end of Semester 1	Number of papers taken in Sociology	Papers to be taken (M= mandatory, O= optional)			
						Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4
1a	S1 (40 ECTS) + OM/TE (20 ECTS)	S1 is Soc	40 SF credits in Sociology (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	M	M	O	O
1b		S1 is not Soc	JF credits only in Sociology	n/a	1	M			
2a	S1 (40 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS)	S1 is Soc	40 SF credits in Sociology (20 by end Sem 1)	20	2		M	O	O
2b		S1 is Soc	40 SF credits in Sociology (20 by end Sem 1)	20	3	M	M	O	O
2c		S2 is Soc	20 SF credits in Sociology (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2		M	O	O
2d		S2 is Soc	20 SF credits in Sociology (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1			O	O
3a	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + S3	S1, S2, or S3 is Soc	20 SF credits in Sociology (10 by end Sem 1)	10	1			O	O
3b		S1, S2, or S3 is Soc	20 SF credits in Sociology (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2		M	O	O
3d	S1 (20 ECTS) + S2 (20 ECTS) + OM	Either S1 or S2 is Soc	20 SF credits in Sociology (10 by end Sem 1)	10	2		M	O	O