

Consultation sessions in Trinity Term 2026 – guidance for students

During Trinity Term 2026, Part B, Part C and (where relevant) MSc students will be able to access course-specific support for your revision in the following ways:

- Past papers and some written solutions available at [Course: Past Papers for Undergraduate Courses | Mathematical Institute](#)
- Consultation sessions with class tutors, where you can ask about past paper questions, problems sheets, lecture material, etc.

This document summarises a few key points about the last of these, to help you to know what to expect.

Scheduling

Each lecture course (assessed by exam) will have at least one consultation session. All consultation sessions will be held in-person.

Courses taken by large numbers of students will have more than one consultation session. Each consultation session will be led by someone familiar with the course: usually a class tutor who taught intercollegiate classes for that course earlier in the year. They may or may not be the course lecturer.

One consultation session will consist of a single one-hour session, that will take place in Week 2, 3, 4 or 5 of Trinity Term. If a course is taken by a large number of students, there may be two one-hour sessions that take place in this same timeframe.

Tutors have been asked that wherever possible, sessions are scheduled at different times of day, to give the maximum opportunity for students to be able to attend.

The timetable for consultation sessions will be made available to you at the start of Trinity Term.

What happens in a consultation session

Tutors are encouraged to invite suggestions from you on what you would like to see covered in each session. You might request particular past paper questions, or parts of questions. You might request problems from problems sheets, or specific topics from the lecture material.

You will be asked to send your requests to tutors in advance to help them to plan the class. Unless the tutor states otherwise, it is standard to send your requests via email. All tutors' email addresses are included in the timetable.

Tutors will then be able to use the Moodle Announcements feature for each course to announce ahead of the session what they plan to address in the session. This will help you to decide which sessions you want to attend.

If there is time in the session for additional student queries on top of what the tutor has planned, then you might be able to ask individual questions towards the end.

Tutors (and TAs) are not expected to mark students' work on past paper questions.

Consultation sessions (and revision lectures as well) will not be recorded due to GDPR. Tutors are encouraged that if they write notes during a session, they should share these on the relevant Moodle page afterwards.

Using Moodle

As noted above, most tutors will be using Moodle to make announcements about the course and share information. Some tutors might also request that students send their questions via Moodle.

To access Moodle, go to <https://courses.maths.ox.ac.uk/> and log in with your SSO. If you have attended intercollegiate classes for your chosen courses this year then you should be already enrolled in those courses on Moodle. However, if you have not then it is very important to enrol yourself! You will not be notified of the announcements or be able to see them unless you are enrolled. You will see an option to enrol yourself on the right-hand side of the course homepage. Note that enrolling doesn't commit you to anything, and you can unenroll yourself as easily as you can enrol.

The default is that Moodle will send you a daily email message with any announcements (you will not receive an email if there are no new announcements). If you'd like to receive an email right away when there's an announcement, you can change this yourself. Make sure you're logged in, and click on the down arrow in the top right-hand corner, then choose Preferences. From the list that comes up, choose Forum preferences. Now you can choose the email digest type to "No digest" for immediate notifications. Be sure to save your changes (button at the bottom of the page)! The image below shows what it should look like when you change your preferences:

Forum preferences

Email digest type	?	No digest (single email per forum post) ▾
Forum auto-subscribe		Yes: when I post, subscribe me to that forum discussion ▾
Use experimental nested discussion view		No ▾

Do I have to sign up?

No. As consultation sessions are optional and attendance is not recorded (see below), there is no registration process.

Do I have to go?

No. Attendance at consultation sessions is optional. Tutors will not keep a record, and will not report on your attendance/participation. You do not need to say in advance whether or

not you plan to attend (but if you make a request for something to be covered in a session then the tutor can reasonably expect that you will turn up!).

Most students attend at least some consultation sessions for each course they are taking for exams. They can be most helpful when your specific questions are addressed, but some students like to go along even when they don't have particular questions, to hear what others are asking, and to hear the tutors' insights.

You are encouraged to attend a consultation session for each course you are taking, but please do not feel the need to attend all of them. You need to find a balance that works for you: plenty of time for independent work, complemented by time to join others at consultation sessions.

Experience suggests that consultation sessions later in term are sometimes busier than those earlier in term, as students have got further into their exam preparation and have identified more queries they want to raise. You are encouraged to attend sessions in Weeks 2 and 3 if you already have queries at that stage, to try to make best use of the time available.

You might want to adjust your plans once you see what the tutor says will be covered in each session. Note that you are not obliged to stay for a full session: if your question is addressed at the start and you don't want to hear the rest then you are free to leave. You can also arrive late if appropriate - this might for example help if you have a clash between sessions you'd like to attend. We are encouraging tutors to let you know the plan for the session in advance, to help you decide whether you want to go, and to help if you want to prepare the relevant past paper questions beforehand.