**Social Sciences Board**

**Title of programme**
MSc and MPhil in Comparative Social Policy

**Brief note about nature of change:**
Extra 2,500 word essay to allow department to form a better assessment of candidates’ abilities and skills in the critical appreciation of research papers in different areas of comparative social policy.

**Effective date**
From 1 October 2012

**Location of change**
In *Examination Regulations* 2011

**Detail of change**

1. **P.500, l.28, delete ‘an essay’ and substitute ‘two essays’.**
2. **P.500, l.31, delete ‘a list’ and substitute ‘two lists’.**
3. **P.500, l.33, delete ‘one from the list of papers as the subject for this essay’ and substitute ‘one from both of these lists of papers as the subject for each essay’.**
4. **P.682, l.28, delete ‘A compulsory paper’ and substitute ‘Two compulsory papers’.”

**Explanatory Notes**
Candidates are currently required to produce an essay of up to 2500 words evaluating the design and the methods of data analysis and collection of a published research paper. The department propose to change the rubric in the following way. Candidates will be required to produce two such essays, one relating to a paper following a primarily qualitative approach, the other to a paper following a primarily quantitative approach. This change would allow the department to form a better assessment of candidates’ abilities and skills in the critical appreciation of research papers in different areas of comparative social policy.
The increase in the Critical Methods essay requirements is in the context of recent change to the quantitative assignments this year which have been reduced from four assignments to two. The proposed essay change therefore reflects a recalibration of work and one which the department feel better meets the methodological training needs of students.