HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Changes in the regulations governing the Honour Moderations and the Preliminary Examination in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Classics

Ref: MUS/2

Approved on behalf of the Humanities Divisional Board 28 May 2012.

Humanities Divisional Board

Honour Moderations and the Preliminary Examination in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Note about nature of the changes: These changes will remove Honour Mods as the First Public Examination in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, and will replace it with Prelims as the First Public Examination for this degree course. The changes also clarify resit requirements.

With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)


2. Ibid., p. 58, l.11, delete ‘*’.

3. Ibid., p. 62, after l.8, insert:

   ‘Classical Archaeology and Ancient History 3rd’.

4. Ibid., delete p. 72, l.17 to p. 74, l.46.

5. Ibid., p. 107, delete ll.1-19, and substitute:

   ‘A

The subjects of the examination shall be under the joint supervision of the Board of the Faculty of Classics and the Social Sciences Board.

B

Every candidate shall offer four papers [of three hours each] as follows:

1. Aristocracy and democracy in the Greek world, 550-450 BC
   The paper studies the history and archaeology of the changing culture of the Greek polis states between the aristocracies in the later sixth century and the emergence of the new demos culture in the first half of the fifth century. Areas of emphasis will include: aristocracy, tyranny, and the history of the interacting archaic states; Achaemenids and the Greek collision with Persia;
competing models of social and political culture after the Persian invasion; the archaeology of sanctuaries and cities; and the visual revolution in art and representation.

II. Republic to Empire: Rome, 50 BC to AD 50
The paper studies the impact of the first emperors on the history and archaeology of Rome and its subject states in the period from Late Republic to Early Empire. Areas of emphasis will include: Roman political culture from the Republican war-lords to Augustan princeps; emperor, senate, and the evolving administration; the Julio-Claudian dynasty and court culture: wallpainting, marbles, gardens and suburban parks; municipal culture: houses, tombs, and freedman art; land and countryside: estates, vici, and centuriated settlement; manufacture, trade, and natural resources; the archaeology of the frontier armies; traditional religion and emperor cult.

III, IV. Two papers from the following groups, provided that not more than one paper may be chosen from any one group:

A. Special subjects in archaeology:

1. Homeric archaeology and early Greece, 1550-700 BC
   Evidence on the composition and history of the poems provided by extant archaeological remains, with special emphasis on burial practices, architecture, metals, and the world outside the Aegean. An overall knowledge will be required of the archaeological evidence for the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age of the Aegean from 1550 BC to 700 BC. The examination will consist of one picture question and three essay questions.

2. Greek vases
   The study of the general history of Greek decorated pottery from c.800 bc to c.300 bc, including study of the Attic black-figure and red-figure styles and of South Italian Greek vase painting. Knowledge will be required of the techniques used in making Greek pottery and in drawing on vases, also of the ancient names for vases and the shapes to which they refer. Candidates should in addition study the subjects of the paintings and their treatment by painters as compared with their treatment by writers and should be familiar with actual vases, for example those in the Ashmolean Museum. The examination will consist of one picture question and three essay questions.

3. Greek sculpture, c.600-300 BC
   The major monuments of archaic and classical Greek sculpture—their context and purpose as well as their subjects, styles, and techniques. Candidates will be expected to show some knowledge of the external documentary evidence, such as literary and epigraphic texts, on which the framework of the subject depends, and to be acquainted with the major sculptures of the period represented in the Ashmolean Cast Gallery. The examination will consist of one picture question and three essay questions.

4. Roman architecture
   The subject comprises the study of Roman architecture from the Republic to the Tetrarchy in Italy and in the provinces, looking at public buildings, private housing, and imperial palaces. Particular attention is paid to developments in building materials and techniques, the evolution of architectural styles and ideas, and the ways in which different provinces show variations on a common theme as Roman influences interacted with local culture. The examination will consist of one picture question and three essay questions.

B. Special subjects in Ancient History:
Note: All texts are studied in translation (see Course Handbook for details of the prescribed translation).

1. **Thucydides and the west**
   The prescribed text is Thucydides VI and VII. Compulsory passages for comment will be set from these books (from S. Lattimore (ed), *The Peloponnesian War* (Indianapolis, Hackett, 1998). Candidates will also be expected to be familiar with Plutarch, *Nicias*.

2. **Aristophanes' political comedy**
   The prescribed plays are *Knights*, *Wasps* and *Lysistrata*. Compulsory passages for comment will be set from *Wasps* and *Lysistrata*. Candidates will also be expected to be familiar with *Knights* and the *Old Oligarch*.

3. **Cicero and Catiline**

4. **Tacitus and Tiberius**
   The prescribed text is Tacitus, *Annals* I and III. Compulsory passages for comment will be set from these books (see Course Handbook for details of the prescribed text). Candidates will also be expected to be familiar with *Annals* II and IV-VI.

C. Ancient languages:

1. **Beginning Ancient Greek**
   (This subject is not available to candidates with a qualification in ancient Greek above GCSE-level or equivalent.)
   Candidates will be required to show knowledge of some of the main grammatical structures of ancient Greek and of a small basic vocabulary. The paper will consist of prepared and unprepared translations, with grammatical questions on the prepared texts.

2. **Beginning Latin**
   (This subject is not available to candidates with a qualification in Latin above GCSE-level or equivalent.)
   Candidates will be required to show knowledge of some of the main grammatical structures of Latin and of a small basic vocabulary. The paper will consist of prepared and unprepared translations, with grammatical questions on the prepared texts.

3. **Intermediate Ancient Greek**
   (This subject is not available to candidates with a qualification in ancient Greek above AS-level or equivalent.)
   Candidates will be required to show an intermediate level knowledge of Greek grammar and vocabulary. The set texts for the course are: Xenophon, *Hellenica* I (Oxford Classical Text) and *Lysias* I (Oxford Classical Text). The paper will consist of a passage of unseen translation, three further passages for translation from the two prescribed texts, and grammatical questions on the prescribed texts.

4. **Intermediate Latin**
   (This subject is not available to candidates with a qualification in Latin above AS-level or equivalent.)

Candidates who fail one or two of papers I, II, III, and IV above may resit only that subject or subjects at a subsequent examination; candidates who fail three or four papers will be required to resit all four papers at a subsequent examination.'.