**Title of Programme**
Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies

**Brief note about nature of change:**
Greater clarity on what language needed to pass a qualifying examination.
Introducing the choice of take home examination or written examination for one of the components of the degree.

**Location of change**
In Examination Regulations 2019 [https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/mopinoriestud/](https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/mopinoriestud/)

**Effective date**
For students starting from MT 2019
For first examination from 2019-20

**Detail of change**

1. Candidates for subject (i) must satisfy the Oriental Studies Board by the time of their qualifying examination that they possess a working knowledge of French and German; candidates for (ii) must satisfy the Oriental Studies Board by the time of their qualifying examination that they possess a working knowledge of French and German, and candidates who wish to offer Greek papyrology must possess a fluent knowledge of Greek; and for subject (v) candidates should possess a working knowledge of either Hebrew or Yiddish, and a relevant European language. For subject (vi), candidates must satisfy the Oriental Studies Board before admission to the course that they possess a working knowledge of Hebrew. For subject (viii) and the Turkish option in subject (ix) candidates should possess a sound reading knowledge of Modern Turkish or Arabic or Persian. For subject (xii) Traditional East Asia: Classical, Medieval,
and Early-Modern, candidates should possess a good proficiency (normally at least two years’ study or equivalent) in modern Chinese, Japanese, or Korean.

1.90 (v) [For students starting before MT 2019: Modern] Jewish Studies

1.91 A. Qualifying Examination

1.92 Candidates must pass a qualifying examination in [For students starting before MT 2019: Modern] Biblical Hebrew or Modern Hebrew or Yiddish not later than the end of the Hilary term of the first year of the course unless exempted by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. The examination will consist of a language examination in Biblical Hebrew or Modern Hebrew or Yiddish based on grammar knowledge and reading comprehension.

1.93 Candidates, who will submit a take-home essay in their first year of the course to partially fulfil the requirements of (b) in the Final Examination, must enter for this paper in their first year. Marks will not be moderated for Final Examination take-home essays taken in the first year of the course until the end of the second year of the course.

1.94 B. Final Examination

1.95 All candidates must offer

1.96 (a) one language paper in [For students starting before MT 2019: Modern] Biblical Hebrew or Modern Hebrew or Yiddish based on grammar knowledge, reading comprehension, and translation into English, at a level equivalent to Intermediate or higher.

1.97 (b) Four papers from a list published in the course handbook, to be examined either by three-hour written examination held at the end of Trinity Term of the second year of the course or by take-home essay examination, as set out in the course handbook.

1.98 Candidates will present themselves for papers to be examined by a take-home essay examination. Essay examination will consist of the submission of two essays of not more than 2,500 words each, for each of the four papers chosen, which must be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by 12 noon on the Friday of noughtth week of the term following that in which the paper was taught. The essay topics will be published, on Friday of eighth week of the term in which the paper is taught. Candidates will be contacted with details on how to collect or access the question paper.

1.99 When a paper assessed by take-home essay is taught in the first year of the course, candidates must enter for the paper in the first year. Candidates proposing to offer a paper not included in the list must obtain the permission of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. All applications requiring the approval of the board must be sent to the Senior Academic Administrator, Oriental Institute, on or before the Monday in the second week of the Michaelmas Full Term of the second year.

Explanatory Notes

Providing clarity and more flexibility in assessment methods.