

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved at the Oriental Studies Faculty Board meeting of 30 January 2020

Approved by Division on 9 March 2020

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Honour Schools of Oriental Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

- To rationalize and restructure the teaching loads dedicated to the different FHS papers, for greater consistency between papers.
- To give students broader and more consistent teaching on major issues and ideas in the study of Classical India.
- Increasing all subsidiary language options in FHS to three papers: to better reflect the time commitment required of students for their subsidiary languages and to bring Sanskrit in line with all other OS main languages

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2019-20*

<https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/hsoforiestud/administratorview/>

Effective date

For students starting from TT2020

And

First examination TT2022

This is the term that the first cohort of students, to whom the regulation change will apply, will start the SPE part of the course.

Sanskrit

The following papers will be set:

- 1. Sanskrit unprepared translation.
- 2. Essay questions on ~~the history of classical Indian literature and civilization~~ classical Indian literature, history and culture.

~~This paper may include questions on the visual arts in ancient India.~~

- 3. Ancient Indian linguistics.
- 4. ~~For candidates offering Hindi, Early Iranian, Pali, Prakrit, or Tibetan as additional language:~~ The historical philology of Old Indo-Aryan, with particular reference to: selected *sūktas* from the *Rgveda Samhitā* and/or the *Atharvaveda Samhitā* and/or selected passages of prose from the *Yajurveda Samhitā* and/or *Brāhmanas*, and/or from the early *Upanisads*.

(a) ~~Selected *sūktas* from the *Rg Veda* (ed. Müller). A list of *sūktas* is available in the course handbook.~~

(b) ~~Selected passages of prose from the *Yajurveda Samhitā* and *Brahmanas*, and from the early *Upanisads*. A list of passages is available in the course handbook.~~

~~For papers 5 and 6, two papers in a chosen area of Sanskrit studies approved by the Board of the Faculty. Applications for approval must be submitted by the Monday of the sixth week of the Trinity Term of the academic year preceding the examination. (Note: These papers are intended to allow candidates to specialise in a particular area of Sanskrit studies such as *kāvya*, *dharmaśāstra*, philosophy, grammar, or religion.)~~

- 5. ~~Unprepared translation from Sanskrit texts.~~ Chosen area of Sanskrit studies. Chosen area to be approved by the Subject Group. Applications for approval must be submitted by the Monday of the sixth week of the Trinity Term of the academic year preceding the examination. (Note: This paper is intended to allow candidates to specialise in a particular area of Sanskrit studies such as *kāvya*, *dharmaśāstra*, Epic, philosophy, grammar, or religion.)

- 6. ~~Essay questions on the chosen area.~~ A special subject as approved by the Subject Group.
- 7. ~~Dissertation. A special subject from among the following, or such other special subjects as may be approved by the board of the faculty:~~

(a) ~~Comparative grammar of Sanskrit and Old Iranian.~~

(b) ~~Indian art and archaeology.~~

(c) ~~Composition in Sanskrit prose and/or verse.~~

(d) ~~Practical criticism and appreciation, including translation from the Sanskrit.~~

- Either

~~• 8. and 9. Two papers on one of the following additional languages: Hindi, Early Iranian, Pali, Prakrit, Tibetan.~~

• Or 8., 9., 10. Three papers on one of the following additional languages: Hindi, Early Iranian, Pali and Prakrit, Tibetan, or Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies) ~~as an additional language.~~

Subsidiary Languages

Early Iranian

Candidates offering Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies), Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit or Turkish as main subject will offer three papers, with at least one but no more than two from group (a). ~~Candidates offering Sanskrit as main subject will offer two papers: either one paper from group (a) and one paper from groups (b) or (c), or one paper from group (a) and paper (d).~~

(a) Old and Middle Iranian Language

- 1. Avestan ~~Texts~~ texts
- 2. Old Persian texts
- 3. Middle Persian texts

(b) Religion and Philology of Ancient and Late Antique Iran

- 4. Zoroastrianism
- 5. Indo-Iranian Philology

(c) History of Ancient and Late Antique Iran

- 6. ~~Achaemenid History~~ The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC
- 7. ~~Sasanian History~~ The Sasanian Empire, 224-651 AD

(d) Early Iranian Texts and Topics:

- 8. Texts and topics

For paper 8, candidates ~~Candidates~~ will choose two of the subjects 1 to 7 above. Candidates may not choose under (d) a subject which they are also offering from groups (a)-(c), and in addition may not choose under (d) a subject from group (a) if they are already offering two subjects from group (a).

Hindi (for candidates offering Sanskrit as main subject)

The following papers will be set:

- 1. Hindi unprepared translation.
- 2. Hindi prepared texts. ~~with questions on Hindi language and literature.~~
- 3. Questions on Hindi language and literature.

Pali and Prakrit (for candidates offering Sanskrit or Classics (in the honour school of Classics and

Oriental Studies) as main subject).

The following papers will be set:

- 1. Unprepared translation from Pali and/or Prakrit literature.
- 2. Prepared texts.
- 3. Questions on Middle Indic language, literature, and culture.

Pali (for candidates offering Sanskrit as main subject).

The following papers will be set:

- ~~1. Pali unprepared translation.~~
- ~~2. Questions on Pali language and literature, on Theravāda Buddhist doctrine, and on the early history of Buddhism in South Asia.~~

Pali (for candidates offering Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies) as main subject).

The following papers will be set:

- ~~1. Pali unprepared translation.~~
- ~~2. Questions on Pali language and literature, on Theravāda Buddhist doctrine, and on the early history of Buddhism in South Asia.~~
- ~~3. Prepared texts, with questions on contents.~~

Prakrit (for candidates offering Sanskrit as main subject).

The following papers will be set:

- ~~1. Prakrit unprepared translation.~~
- ~~2. Questions on Prakrit language and literature and on the doctrine and early history of the Jains.~~

Sanskrit (for candidates offering Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies) and Chinese (in the Honour School of Oriental Studies) as main subject.)

The following papers will be set:

- 1. Sanskrit unprepared translation.
- 2. Questions on Sanskrit language and literature.
- 3. Prepared texts.

Tibetan (for candidates offering Chinese, ~~or~~ Japanese or Sanskrit as main subject)

- 1. Tibetan prose composition and unprepared translation.
- 2. Prepared texts, with questions.
- 3. Questions on Tibetan culture and history.

Tibetan (for candidates offering Sanskrit as main subject).

The following papers will be set:

- 1. Tibetan prose composition and unprepared translation.
- 2. Prepared texts, with questions on Tibetan culture and history.

Explanatory Notes

These are to take place from TT2020, when the FHS programme starts for this degree.

The changes were discussed at the Faculty's JCC on 13 February 2020 and approved by the student body.