HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Change(s) in the regulations governing the Bachelor of Theology: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Theology

Approved on behalf of the Humanities Divisional Board on 3 July 2012.

Humanities Divisional Board

Bachelor of Theology

Brief note about nature of the change(s): These changes will remove rubrics concerning college-assessed work; ensure a range of assessment methods in Part I; change assessment for Papers A.3 and A.4 from one long essay to two shorter essays (2,500 words); introduce a list of approved essay titles for Papers A.3 and A.4; introduce the option of a long essay for Paper D.2(a); reduce the word-limit for Part 2 long essays to 5,000 words; and allows for independent research by promoting the option of a dissertation in the third year.

With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)
The regulations below apply to students starting the Bachelor of Theology in or after October 2012. The existing regulations apply to students who started the Bachelor of Theology before October 2012.

1 In Examination Regulations, 2011, p. 468, l. 31, after ‘Candidates’ insert ‘, including those who take E9 twice,’.
2 Ibid., l. 32, after ‘section E.’ insert ‘Only one paper may be taken from section F.’
3 Ibid., l. 35, after ‘subjects may’ insert ‘or must’.
4 Ibid., l. 35, delete ‘long essays’ and substitute ‘two short essays or one long essay’.
5 Ibid., p. 469, l. 35, delete ‘the college assessed work’ and substitute ‘a course of instruction covering the syllabus’.
6 Ibid., l. 46, delete ‘41’ and substitute ‘34’.
7 Ibid., l. 47, delete ‘3LW’ and substitute ‘3LD’.
8 Ibid., p. 470, ll. 3-5, delete ‘by long essay of 4,000-5,000 words ... college assessed work’, and substitute: ‘in Part I by two essays of 2,500 words (± 10%), whose titles are to be drawn from a list agreed by tutors and approved by the Supervisory Committee; and in Part II by a long essay of 5,000 words (± 10%), the title of which must be submitted’.
9 Ibid., l. 6, delete ‘Together these must adequately cover’, and substitute: ‘Candidates must sign a declaration supported by their society that they have attended an appropriate course of instruction and have adequately covered’.
10 Ibid., p. 470, l. 45; p. 471, l. 1; and p. 471, l. 5; delete ‘†’.
Ibid., p. 471, l. 16, delete ‘periods studied’ and substitute ‘period within which the subject of their essay falls’.

Ibid., l. 18, delete ‘†’.

Ibid., l. 43, delete ‘study’ and substitute ‘write on’.

Ibid., l. 44, delete ‘the college-assessed work’ and substitute ‘they have’.

Ibid., l. 45, delete ‘covers’ and substitute ‘covered’.

Ibid., l. 45, after ‘paper’ insert ‘in their course of instruction’.

Ibid., p. 472, ll. 27-28, delete ‘College-assessed work for assessment by long essay may come from any period except the periods studied by the candidate in A.3.B.’.

Ibid., l. 39, delete ‘†’ and substitute ‘§’.

Ibid., delete ll. 40-44, and substitute:

‘This paper will be assessed by an essay of 5,000 words (± 10%), which must be based on a supervised placement of at least twenty-one days in a church or secular setting in which the candidate shares in the experiences of those involved, and must be accompanied by a declaration supported by the student’s society that the placement has been undertaken. The essay may be accompanied by additional documentation on the nature of the placement that would not otherwise be available to the examiner, which must not exceed ten A4 pages in total and must not identify the candidate. The essay should contain theological reflection on the placement with the help of the candidate’s study of issues of mission and ministry and, as appropriate, of contributory disciplines.’.

Ibid., p. 473, l. 2, delete ‘will be assessed by two written papers’ and substitute ‘consists of two parts, (a) and (b)’.

Ibid., l. 4, after ‘examination’ insert ‘or long essay’.

Ibid., l. 6, after ‘worship.’ insert ‘This part of the paper will be assessed either by a long essay of 4,000 words (± 10%), the title of which must be submitted for approval to the Supervisory Committee, or by a three-hour written examination.’.

Ibid., l. 8, before ‘Candidates’ insert: ‘This part of the paper will be assessed by a two-hour written examination.’.

Ibid., p. 474, l. 22, delete ‘Special Subject’ and substitute ‘Translation Paper’.

Ibid., delete ll. 23-33, and substitute:

‘Candidates may propose texts for approval by the Supervisory Committee, from which passages will be set for translation and comment in a three-hour written examination. The texts must be in a language relevant to theological study, such as Biblical Hebrew, New Testament Greek or Ecclesiastical Latin.

A candidate may offer Paper E.9 twice, so as to be examined on texts in two different languages.’.
SECTION F. DISSERTATION OR PROJECT

Candidates may either write a dissertation or undertake a project capable of suitable assessment. In either case, it is expected that no college-assessed formative pieces of work will be required.

§ F.1—Dissertation

Candidates may propose a topic for approval by the Supervisory Committee, a topic which will involve some research and/or interdisciplinary study leading to the composition of a dissertation of 10,000 words (± 10%).

The proposal should include the title, a brief description of the subject and approach envisaged, and a preliminary bibliography.

§ F.2—Project

Candidates may propose a project for approval by the Supervisory Committee.

The proposal should include the title, a brief description of the subject and approach envisaged, a preliminary bibliography and details of the proposed assessment method.’

Rationale: After consultation of the students and with the support of the Theology Faculty, the B.Th. Supervisory Committee submits the following proposals (i) to bring the B.Th. into line with other courses in Oxford which make use of long essay-based work (for example courses in history and English) and (ii) to improve the learning experience of the students. This is a one-year course and the changes to regulations will affect students starting in Michaelmas term 2012. There are no additional teaching requirements.