

**Humanities Division
Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion**

Approved at the meeting of 2 February 2017

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Studies in Theology

Brief note about nature of change: Clarification/realignment of course content and essay requirements

Effective date

For students starting from **MT 2017**

For first examination from **2017-18**

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2016 (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mostudintheo>)

Detail of change

New text underlined, deleted text struck-through

^{1.4} **III. Christian Doctrine**, specialising in one of four fields:

^{1.5} History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology (c. AD 100-787)

^{1.6} History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology (c. AD 1050-1350)

^{1.7} History of Doctrine: Theology of the Reformation Period (c. AD 1500-1650)

^{1.8} ~~Modern Doctrine (post-1789), further specialising in one of three tracks:~~ Modern Theology (post-1789)

^{1.9} ~~Modern Theology~~

^{1.10} ~~Theology & Modern European Thought~~

~~1.11 Theology & Literature~~

~~1.12~~ **IV. Ecclesiastical History**, specialising in one of five ~~fields~~ historical periods:

~~1.13~~ The Early Church AD 200-476 AD 200-600

~~1.14~~ The Western Church AD 476-1050 AD 400-1100

~~1.15~~ The Western Church AD 1000-1400 AD 1000-1500

~~1.16~~ European Christianity AD 1400-1800 AD 1400-1800

~~1.17~~ European Christianity AD 1800-2000 AD 1800-the present

[...]

~~1.39~~ **III. CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

~~1.40~~ **A and B** (essays and dissertation): All work must fall within one of the four specialised fields listed above under Christian Doctrine. ~~Candidates specialising in Modern Doctrine choose one of three tracks within that field (i.e. Modern Theology, Theology & Modern European Thought, or Theology & Literature); this determines their attendance of seminars, and should influence their choice of titles for essays and the dissertation. In proposing their titles for such work, Modern Doctrine candidates should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring the encounter between theology and some non-theological discipline, and (b) exploring a modern theological response to some theological reflection of the past.~~

~~1.41~~ **C** (the written examination) takes particular forms for the different fields. In the History of Doctrine specialisms, the examination includes passages for translation and comment from prescribed texts: Greek or Latin texts in the case of Patristic Theology; Latin texts in the case of Scholastic Theology; and Latin, German, or French texts in the case of Theology of the Reformation Period. In each of these cases essays will also be set, both on the prescribed texts and on general topics within the same period. Candidates are notified of the set texts at the beginning of Michaelmas Term. In the Modern ~~Doctrine~~ Theology field, the examination will be on Methods & Styles in Theology.

~~1.42~~ **IV. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY**

~~1.43~~ **A and B** (essays and dissertation): ~~All work must fall within one of the five specialised fields listed above under Ecclesiastical History.~~ Students may choose to write one of their essays on a topic which falls outside their primary period of study, provided that they obtain the prior written permission of their supervisor and the course coordinator.

Explanatory Notes

Christian Doctrine: The regulations for the MSt in Theology previously stipulated that, as a part of the Christian Doctrine course 'Modern Doctrine (post-1789)', candidates were required to specialize further in one of three tracks: *Modern Theology*, *Theology and Modern European Thought*, and *Theology and Literature*. It was agreed to combine the three options under the single heading of 'Modern Theology (post-1789)' to better align the assessment structure with the

teaching available in this area.

Ecclesiastical History: The regulations for the MSt in Theology previously required candidates studying Ecclesiastical History to specialize in one of five fields, and complete their submitted work within the one field. It was agreed to extend the dates of four of the five historical periods offered, remove any geographical reference and allow students to write one of their essays on a topic that falls outside of their primary area of study, provided that they obtain the written permission of their supervisor and the course coordinator. The proposed changes are designed to clarify the content of the Ecclesiastical History course and essay requirements.