Changes in the regulations governing the Master of Philosophy (xiii) Modern South Asian Studies: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies

Ref: II/21/1

Approved on behalf of the Humanities Divisional Board on 9 March 2012.

MPhil Oriental Studies (xiii) Modern South Asian Studies

Brief note about nature of the change: To move the Qualifying Examination from the end of the second term to the end of the third term of the first year.

With effect from 2012 (for first examination in 2013)

2. Ibid., l. 42-43, delete ‘, Modern South Asian Studies’.
3. Ibid., l. 43,1, delete ‘and the M.Phil. in’.
4. Ibid., after ‘Modern Middle Eastern Studies,’ insert ‘Modern Jewish Studies and’.
5. Ibid., p. 565, l. 8, delete ‘Candidates will be required, unless exempted by the Oriental Studies Board,’ and substitute: ‘Candidates must pass a qualifying examination in Modern South Asian Studies not later than the end of the third term after that in which the candidate’s name is first entered on the register of M.Phil. students. Unless exempted by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies candidates will be required’.
6. Ibid., ll. 10-11, delete ‘at the end of the Hilary term of their first year,’.
6. Ibid., delete ll. 15-16.

Explanatory notes

It is proposed to move the Qualifying Examination for this course from the end of the Hilary Term to the end of the Trinity Term. There are three reasons for doing so:

(i) Starting in October 2012, first year MPhil students and students taking the new joint History/Oriental Studies MSt Modern South Asian Studies will take the same Core Course and the same language classes. It therefore makes sense to examine both cohorts at the same time, i.e. at the end of Trinity Term.

(ii) For first year MPhil students, the change to a Trinity Term Qualifying Exam will produce a more even distribution of their workload. At present, students continue with their language study, take the second half of the Core Course, take their first Optional paper, and prepare for the Qualifying Exam, during the Hilary Term. In the Trinity Term, preparation for the Core Course is finished, and students are taking only language classes and their first Optional paper.

(iii) MPhil students will still have an opportunity to re-sit failed papers, which is the main rationale for the Qualifying Exam itself. A re-sit can be taken at the start of the next academic year.

Other changes have been made to clarify and correct the general regulations at the start of the MPhil Oriental Studies Section. In more detail, the changes will have the following effect:

1. To separate the text about admission from the text about re-sits.
2. To remove this MPhil from the list of exemptions for the timing of the qualifying examination and re-
sits.

3. and 4. To correct editorial errors and omissions.

5. To bring the regulation for the MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies into line with other MPhil
regulations for courses with a third-term qualifying examination.

6. and 7. To delete unnecessary text.