HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Change(s) in the regulations governing the Honour School of English Language and Literature: communication from the Board of the Faculty of English Language and Literature

Ref:

Humanities Divisional Board

Honour School of English Language and Literature

Note about nature of the change(s)
Clarification of regulations regarding the format of the submission for Course II paper A5.

With effect from 1 October 2011 (for first examination in 2012)

1 In Examination Regulations, 2010, p. 236, ll. 29-46, delete ‘This paper will cover...may be resubmitted’ (under 5. The History of the English Language to c.1750) and substitute:

‘This paper will cover the development of the written language from the earliest records to c.1750, with particular attention to the emergence of a standard form. The paper will be examined on a portfolio of work, comprising two essays of no more than 2,500 words each. The list of themes for these essays will be divided into Section A and B and will be published on Tuesday of the seventh week of the Trinity Term preceding the examination.

Candidates will be required to submit two pieces of work, each one of between 2,000-2,500 words. They will be required to submit one piece of work in response to discursive essay questions (Section A) and one piece of close commentary work in response to directed questions (Section B). Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge of the language of two consecutive periods from those covered in the paper. The essay questions in Section A will cover subjects such as phonology, morphology, syntax and word order. Broader questions will also be set, but with the understanding that candidates will use detailed linguistic knowledge as the basis of their answer. The commentary questions in Section B will require students to find their own passages for analysis. Credit will be given for the choice of material as well as the quality of its analysis. Passages must not exceed 100 lines in total (i.e. 100 lines altogether, not separately).

Candidates must write on one theme from each section, and two typed copies of each essay must be delivered to the Chairman of Examiners, Honour School of English Language and Literature, Examination Schools by noon on Thursday of the ninth week of the same Trinity Term. A certificate, signed by the candidate to the effect that each essay is the candidate’s own work, and that the candidate has read the Faculty guidelines on plagiarism, must be presented together with each essay.

Once submitted, the essays will then be held over until the following Trinity Term, when they will be examined at the same time as Papers A1-4 and B1-26. Every essay must be the work of the candidate alone. Candidates may not consult tutors after the paper has been circulated. Essays previously submitted for the Honour School of English Language and Literature may be resubmitted.’.

Explanatory note

The 2010 regulations refer only to ‘two essays’, omitting to provide further detail about the format of the answers. The proposed change makes explicit that the portfolio submission for paper A5 should consist of one analytical essay and one commentary answer. This is in line with student expectations as established by the teaching for this paper, and in addition tallies with the description of the paper in student handbooks and in the Instructions to Candidates.