HUMANITIES DIVISION

Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion

Title of Programme

Master of Philosophy in Philosophical Theology

Brief note about nature of change: Removal of provision to supplicate for an MSt in place of the MPhil

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2015

For first examination from 2016-17

Location of change

Examination Regulations 2014

Detail of change

Master of Philosophy in Philosophical Theology

[1.1](*See also the general notice at the commencement of these regulations.*)

[1.2]The regulations made by the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion are as follows:

[1.3]Candidates will be admitted to take the examination as defined below in a specific year. In exceptional circumstances candidates may be allowed to take an examination later than one to which they were admitted. Permission for this must be sought from the faculty board not later than Monday of the week before the first week of the Trinity Term in which the examination was to have been taken. The application must have the support of the candidate's college and be accompanied by a statement

from the supervisor.

[1.4]Candidates shall be required:

[1.5](*a*) To present themselves for a written examination in three of the papers prescribed below, the selection to depend on their previous qualifications;

[1.6](*b*) to present a thesis**{ HYPERLINK "http://www1.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mopinphiltheo/administratorview/" \l "d.en.176608" \o "Root » UAS Home » Examination Regulations » 2014-15 » Master of Philosophy in Philosophical Theology » Administrator View : 13"** [1] of not more than 30,000 words on a topic in philosophical theology to be approved by the faculty board (the thesis must be accompanied by a signed statement by the candidate that the thesis is his or her own work except where otherwise indicated; successful candidates may be required to deposit one copy of the thesis in the Bodleian and to sign a form stating whether they give permission for the thesis to be consulted);

[1.7](*c*) to present themselves for a viva voce examination unless individually dispensed by the examiners (no candidate will be failed without a viva).

[1.8]1. *Philosophy of Religion*

[1.9]with syllabus for examination the same as that for essays for the B.Phil. in Philosophy.

[1.10]2. *Either Moral Philosophy*

[1.11]*or Metaphysics and Theory of Knowledge*

[1.12]*or Philosophical Logic and Philosophy of Language*

[1.13]*or Philosophy of Science*

[1.14]*or Philosophy of Mind and of Action*

[1.15]with syllabus for examination the same as that for essays for the B.Phil. in Philosophy.

[1.16]3. *History of Philosophical Theology*

[1.17]The paper will contain questions on philosophical influences on theology during the patristic period, the early medieval period, and the period 1760-1860. Candidates are required to show knowledge of two of the three periods, and, within each of those two periods, of some of the principal relevant writings, viz. for the patristic period of works of Origen and Augustine, for the early medieval period of works of Anselm and Aquinas, and for the period 1760-1860 of works of Kant, Kierkegaard, and Schleiermacher. Study of texts in the original languages will not be required.

[1.18]4. Either *The Development of Christian Doctrine to AD 787* or *Theology in Western Europe from Gabriel Biel to Jacob Arminius*

[1.19]as specified for the M.Phil. in Theology (paper 1 of Section A and paper 1 of Section C of the Christian Doctrine option).

[1.20]The Examiners may award a Distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

[1.21]~~If it is the opinion of the examiners that the work done by a candidate is not of sufficient merit to qualify him or her for the Degree of M.Phil. but is nevertheless of sufficient merit to qualify him or her for the Degree of Master of Studies in Philosophical Theology, the candidate shall be given the option of resitting the M.Phil. examination under the appropriate regulation, or of being granted permission to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Studies.~~

Explanatory Notes

The current regulations for the MPhil in Philosophical Theology include the provision that where a candidate is not deemed to have achieved work of sufficient merit to qualify for the MPhil, he or she may be granted permission to supplicate for the MSt instead.

Such a provision is found elsewhere in regulations. However, it is no longer considered to be appropriate in this case. When the degree was originally designed, all candidates entered to study for an MPhil, and the MSt was awarded only for failure on the MPhil. As things are now, students may enter for both degrees. A resit is permitted for MPhil students who have not only failed the examination, but also failed a viva (it is now the case that everyone in danger of failing is viva'd, by regulation). By being viva'd, the student has already received a second chance.