Changes in the regulations governing the Honour School of Modern Languages: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

Ref:

Subject to approval on behalf of the divisional board, which is now sought, and by Education Committee, the following changes in regulations have been made:

Humanities Divisional Board

Brief note about nature of the changes
Russian syllabus.

(1) Board of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

Honour School of Modern Languages

With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)

1 In Examination Regulations, 2010, p. 350, l.51, delete ‘VI,’.

2 Ibid., p. 357, l. 1, delete ‘Russian: to 1660’.

3 Ibid., l. 11, delete ‘Russian: 1660-1830’ and substitute ‘Russian: 1100-1700’.

4 Ibid., l. 30, after ‘IX’ insert: ‘Enlightenment Texts (Russian only) or’.

5 Ibid., p. 358, delete ll.24-36 and substitute ‘The syllabus will consist of the following texts with passages for commentary eligible to be set from those marked with an *):

   Avvakum, Zhitie*
   ‘Povest’ o Savve Grudtsyne’; ‘Povest’ o Frole Skobeeve’; ‘Povest’ o Bove
   Koroleviche’
   Antiokh Kantemir Satires I*, II, IV, VII, IX
   Mikhailo Lomonosov: ‘Oda na vzhatie Khotina’; ‘Pis'mo o pol’ze stekla’, ‘Oda
torzhestvennaya (1747)*; ‘Oda torzhestvennaya (1762)*; ‘Uturnee razmyshlenie o
bozhiem velichesteve**’, ‘Vechernee ramyshlenie’*.
   Aleksandr Sumarokov, ‘Epistola o stikhotvorstve’; ‘Lyubovnye elegii’ [extracts]*
   Denis Fonvizin, Brigadir, Nedorosl*;
   Vassily Kapnist, Yabeda
   Ippolit Bogdanovich, Dushen’ka
   N.I. Novikov, Satiricheskie zhurnal’. Excerpts.
   M. Chulkov, Prigozhaya povarikha*

   Alexander Radishchev, Puteshestvie iz Peterburga v Moskvu [3 chapters to be
   prescribed]*
   Gavriil Derzhavin: ‘Bog’*; ‘Pamyatnik geroyu’; ‘Vel’mozha’; ‘Vlastitelyam i sud’yam’;
   ‘Russkie devushki’; ‘Evgeniyu. Zhizn’ zvanskaya’*; ‘Solovey vo sne’; ‘Na smert
   knyazya Meshcherskogo’*, ‘Priglashenie k obedu’; ‘Pamyatnik’; ‘Moi istukan’; ‘Reka
   vremen v svoem stremlenii’.
   Nikolai Karamzin, Bednaya Liza*, Ostrov Borngol’im; Pis’ma russkogo
   puteshesvennika (extracts)
   Vassily Zhukovsky, Svetlana; ‘Sel’skoe kladbishche’*
Konstantin Batiushkov, ‘Moi Penaty’; ‘Moi genii’; Elegia; Na razvalnyakh na zamke v Shvetsii;
Pushkin, *Ruslan i Lyudmila*; selected lyrics.

(2) Boards of the Faculties of Medieval and Modern Languages and Classics
Honour School of Classics and Modern Languages
With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)
As for the Honour School of Modern Languages (see (1) above).

(3) Boards of the Faculties of Medieval and Modern Languages and English Language and Literature
Honour School of English and Modern Languages
With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)
As for the Honour School of Modern Languages (see (1) above).

(4) Boards of the Faculties of Medieval and Modern Languages and History
Honour School of History and Modern Languages
With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)
As for the Honour School of Modern Languages (see (1) above).

(5) Boards of the Faculties of Medieval and Modern Languages and Oriental Studies
Honour School of European and Middle Eastern Languages
With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)
As for the Honour School of Modern Languages (see (1) above).

(6) Boards of the Faculties of Medieval and Modern Languages and Philosophy
Honour School of Philosophy and Modern Languages
With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)
As for the Honour School of Modern Languages (see (1) above).

Explanatory note
(i) The rationale for the changes is redesign and optimisation of the course, partly to accommodate a marked preference long-term of undergraduates for Russian literature post-1700, partly to match teaching resources and strengths.

(ii) The changes to the Regulations accordingly deletes Paper VI (medieval Russian), which now becomes Paper VII; Paper IX drops Medieval Prescribed Texts and becomes Enlightenment Prescribed Texts (revamped Paper VII) ie in total one Period Paper in Russian has been dropped.

(iii) The only current students with a vested interest who might be affected if the changes to the examination regulations come into force from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013) are the current second year. It will be possible to contact all of them to explain the changes. The overwhelming likelihood, based on the long-term pattern of take up of FHS papers, is that none will in any case be opting for current Paper VI. At present only one person in the second has opted for current Paper VII. If it becomes necessary to set a second examination paper for old Paper VII in the FHS 2013 that will not be a problem.

(iv) There are no resource implications. The original papers tabled before the various bodies have in fact argued that the change helps Oxford Russian play to strengths.