HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD
Academic Committee

Change(s) in the regulations governing the MPhil in English Studies (Medieval Period):
communication from the Board of the Faculty of English Language and Literature

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

Humanities Divisional Board

MPhil in English Studies (Medieval Period)

Brief note about the nature of the changes
Syllabus reform.

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

1. In Examination Regulations, 2010, p. 517, l.31 – p.520, l.14, delete: ‘In the second year candidates
must offer’... ‘may only submit or retake a paper on one occasion’.

2. In Examination Regulations, 2009, p. 509, l. 15 (in place of text deleted above) insert:
‘In the second year candidates must offer three of the following subjects and a dissertation.

Syllabus
1. The History of the Book in Britain before 1550 (Candidates will be required to transcribe from and
comment on specimens written in English under examination conditions (1 hour).)
2. Old English
3. The Literature of England after the Norman Conquest
4. The Medieval Drama
5. Religious Writing in the Later Middle Ages
6. Medieval Romance
7. Old Norse sagas
8. Old Norse poetry
9. Old Norse special topic (only to be taken by candidates offering either paper 7 or paper 8 or both)
10./11. One or two of the C course special options as on offer in any year, as specified by the M.St. English,
provided that they may not re-take any option on which they have submitted examined work as part of their
M.St. course.
12./13./14./15. Relevant options from other courses as specified in the list for the year concerned which will
be published by the Graduate Studies Office before the beginning of MT.

Examination
The method of examination for each course will be an essay of 5,000-7,000 words to be submitted to
Examinations Schools, High Street, Oxford not later than noon on Thursday of the tenth week of Michaelmas
Term or Hilary Term (depending on the term in which the course was offered).

Two copies of the dissertation (c.15,000 words) on a subject related to their subject of study should be
delivered to Examination Schools , by noon on Monday of the eighth week of Trinity Term. The dissertation
must be presented in proper scholarly form. Candidates must gain approval of the topic of their dissertation
by writing to the Chairman of the M.St./M.Phil. examiners, care of the English Graduate Studies Office, by
Friday of sixth week of Hilary Term, providing an outline of the topic of not more than 200 words.
Each candidate's choice of subjects shall require the approval of the Chairman of the M.St./M.Phil. examiners, care of the English Graduate Studies Office. Approval must be applied for on or before Saturday of the second week of Michaelmas Term preceding the examination.

Candidates are warned that they must avoid duplicating in their answers to one part of the examination material that they have used in another part of the examination, but the dissertation may incorporate work submitted for the first year dissertation.

No candidate who has failed any of the above subjects will be awarded the degree in that examination. Candidates who fail any one of the three papers or the dissertation may re-submit that element by noon on the last Monday of the Long Vacation; candidates who fail more than one element of the examination (including one element plus the translation paper where applicable) must re-submit those elements (and, where applicable, take the translation paper) according to the timetable for the examination in the following year. A candidate may only resubmit or retake a paper on one occasion.

**Explanatory note**
These revisions to the MPhil syllabus aim to make it more symmetrical with the current M. St. course in terms of teaching and assessment, refresh the core papers offered, and allow for more flexibility in the provision and teaching of other topics. The submission of a dissertation is now a mandatory requirement.