Title of Programme
Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies

Brief note about nature of change: Removal of obsolete information

Location of change
In Examination Regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/mopinoriestud/)

Effective date
For students starting from MT 2018
For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change
Deletions struck through, new text underlined:

Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies

1.1 The regulations made by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies are as follows:

1.2.1. [For students starting before MT 2017: Every candidate must present himself or herself for a written examination in one of the following subjects.] [For students starting from MT 2017: All candidates must present themselves for a written examination in one of the following subjects.]

1.2.1(i) Cuneiform Studies.

1.2.1(ii) Egyptology (including Graeco-Roman and Christian Egypt).

1.2.1(iii) Modern Middle Eastern Studies.

1.2.1(iv) Classical Indian Religion.
1.2. Candidates for subject (i) must satisfy the Oriental Studies Board by the time of their qualifying examination that they possess a working knowledge of French and German; candidates for (ii) must satisfy the Oriental Studies Board by the time of their qualifying examination that they possess a working knowledge of French and German, and candidates who wish to offer Greek papyrology must possess a fluent knowledge of Greek; and for subject (v) candidates should possess a working knowledge of either Hebrew or Yiddish, and a relevant European language. [For students starting from MT 2017: For subject (vi), candidates must satisfy the Oriental Studies Board before admission to the course that they possess a working knowledge of Hebrew.] For subject (viii) and the Turkish option in subject (ix) candidates should possess a sound reading knowledge of Modern Turkish or Arabic or Persian. For subject (x) Modern Chinese Studies, candidates will normally have a first degree in a discipline relevant to their elective subject. For subject (xiii)(xi) Traditional East Asia: Classical, Medieval, and Early Modern, candidates should possess a good proficiency (normally at least two years’ study or equivalent) in modern Chinese, Japanese, or Korean.

1.3. A candidate who fails any part or parts of the Qualifying Examination may retake such part or parts during the Long Vacation prior to the second year of the course, except [For students starting before MT 2017: in the cases of the M.Phil. in Classical Indian Religion, Modern Middle Eastern Studies, Modern Jewish Studies, and Tibetan and Himalayan Studies.] [For students starting from MT 2017: candidates for (iii) Modern Middle Eastern Studies, (iv) Classical Indian Religion, (v) Modern Jewish Studies, and (x)(xi) Tibetan and Himalayan Studies.] A candidate who fails any part or parts of the Qualifying Examination for these four courses may retake such part or parts during Trinity Term of the first year of study except where stated otherwise in the particular regulations for individual courses.

1.4. A candidate who fails any part or parts of the Final Examination may retake such part or parts on one occasion in the following academic year.

1.5. Subject to such regulations as the board may hereinafter make, every candidate must offer a
1.158 Modern Chinese Studies

Candidates in Modern Chinese Studies must follow EITHER Track A (Social Science) OR Track B (Humanities) throughout the entire course. Candidates are required to spend a period of at least three months on an approved course of language study in China or Taiwan after the qualifying examination at the end of the Trinity Term of the first year, and before the start of the Hilary Term of the second year.

1.160 A. Qualifying Examination

The examination shall take place not later than the end of the [For students starting before MT 2017: third term from the candidate's admission to the programme.] [For students starting from MT 2017: Trinity term of the first year.] Candidates who fail one or more parts of the Qualifying Examination may be allowed to retake that part or parts once at the end of the Long Vacation of the first year of the course, except for Study of Contemporary China which may be retaken at the end of Trinity Term of the first year of the course. Candidates who fail the Final Examination elective paper taken with the Qualifying Examination in the first year of the course may be allowed to retake that part
with the remainder of the Final Examination papers offered at the end of the second year of the course.

The Qualifying Examination shall consist of three parts for Track A and two parts for Track B, as follows:

1.162 (1) Study of Contemporary China

Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction on modern China. Candidates will present themselves for examination in the core course Study of Contemporary China at the beginning of Hilary Term of the first year.

1.163 (2) Modern Chinese language (written and oral)

All candidates must offer one written and one oral Chinese examination. Candidates will be examined in Chinese I or Chinese II. Those who have followed the Chinese II course will not be permitted to enter for the Chinese I examination. Candidates shall present themselves for examination in Chinese language at the end of Trinity Term of the first year.

1.164 (3) Research Methods for Area Studies (Track A only)

All candidates are required to undertake an assessment in research methods for Asian studies, which is a series of assignments and/or unseen written examinations as published in the course handbook. The forms of assessment, and the dates and times of submission, where applicable, will be published in the course handbook.

Candidates shall also be required to offer one Final Examination Elective Paper at the end of Trinity Term of the first year (see below).

B. Final Examination

1.171 No candidate can pass the Final Examination unless they have already passed all parts of the first-year Qualifying Examination. The examination shall take place not later than the end of the third term of the second year [For students starting before MT 2017: from the candidate’s admission to the M.Phil. degree programme], with the exception of the first of the two elective papers that shall be taken at the end of the first year of the programme. In order to pass the degree all parts of the Final Examination must be passed. A candidate who fails the Final Examination will be permitted to retake it on one further occasion in the following year and only have to retake those parts of the examination that were failed.

1.172 The Final Examination shall consist of:

1.173 (1) Thesis

The thesis will not be more than 20,000 words on a subject approved by the Oriental Studies Faculty Board. [For students starting before MT 2017: 13 ]

1.174 (2) Two Elective papers

Candidates will be required to choose two elective papers offered as option courses under the
M.Phil. or M.Sc. in Contemporary Chinese Studies or under another Master’s (M.Phil., M.Sc., or M.St.) degree programme in the University. The latter must be approved by the Board. The first elective paper will be taken at the end of the first year of the course, while the second paper will be taken at the end of the second year of the course. A list of papers approved for this purpose by the Oriental Studies Faculty Board will be available from the Course Director. The paper elected in the second year may not be the same as that taken in the first year. The examiners may, at their discretion, either require candidates to sit the standard examination paper for these elective papers, or offer a paper set specifically for students on the M.Phil. in Modern Chinese Studies.

1.177 (3) Modern Chinese language (written and oral)

Candidates will be required to take the written examination and an oral examination at the end of the Trinity Term of their final year. Candidates will be examined in Chinese I or Chinese II. Those who have followed the Chinese II course will not be permitted to enter for the Chinese I examination.

1.178 (4) Modern China Humanities (Track B only)

Candidates will be required to take a final written examination in the study of Modern China.

1.181 (xi) Tibetan and Himalayan Studies

[...]

1.199 (xii) Modern South Asian Studies

A. Qualifying Examination

1.201 Candidates must pass a qualifying examination in Modern South Asian Studies not later than the end of the [For students starting before MT 2017: third term after that in which the candidate’s name is first entered on the register of M.Phil. students.] [For students starting from MT 2017: Trinity term of the first year.] Unless exempted by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies candidates will be required to offer the following papers:

1.202 1. A language examination in Hindi (Beginners or Advanced), Brajbhasha and Old Hindi Texts I, or a substitute core language, based on knowledge of grammar, translation and reading comprehension. (Teaching for some languages may not be available every year).

1.203 2. A general methodological paper on the history and culture of South Asia, to be assessed by three-hour examination.

1.204 Candidates, who will submit a take-home essay in their first year of the course to partially fulfil the requirements of (c) in the Final Examination, must enter for this paper in their first year. The mark for such essays will not be moderated until the candidate’s final year of the course.

B. Final Examination

1.205 1. All candidates must offer:

1.206 (a) one of the following language papers in Hindi (Advanced), Hindi and Urdu, Literary Hindi,
Literary Hindi and Urdu, Bengali, Braj Bhasha & Old Hindi Texts, Sanskrit, Tibetan or Persian, based on knowledge of grammar, translation and reading comprehension. (Teaching for some languages may not be available every year).

1.208 (b) a thesis of not more than 20,000 words on a topic selected by the candidate in consultation with their supervisor and approved by the Faculty Board. [For students starting before MT 2017: 13].

1.209 (c) three papers from a list published in the Course Handbook. Instead of one of the papers on the list, a candidate may offer a paper on a subject with the approval of the board. Teaching for some optional subjects may not be available every year.

The papers can be assessed either by a three hour examination paper at the end of the second year or a take-home examination paper. The method of examination will be published in the course handbook. Candidates are required to submit two essays of no more than 5000 words each, on topics selected by the candidate from a list on the take-home examination paper. The list of topics will be published. [For students starting before MT 2017: after 12 noon] [For students starting from MT 2017: by 5pm] on the last Friday of term in which teaching for the paper is completed. Candidates will be contacted with details of how to collect or access the questions. The essays must be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by 12 noon on the Friday of noughtth week of the term following that in which formal teaching for the Option Subject is completed. When a paper assessed by essay is taught in the first year of the course, candidates must enter for the paper in the first year. Candidates are not allowed to enter for papers already chosen as unit 1 in the Qualifying Examination and I(a) in the Final Examination.

1.211 (xiii)(xi) Traditional East Asia: Classical, Medieval, and Early Modern

[...]

1.227 (xiv)(xii) Buddhist Studies

[...]

1.237 (xv)(xiii) Eastern Christian Studies

Explanatory Notes

As new degree courses from MT 2017 offered jointly by the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies and the Faculty of Oriental Studies, regulations for the MPhil degrees in Modern Chinese Studies and Modern South Asian Studies are now listed separately in the Examination Regulations. Content and references relevant to these courses are therefore removed from the regulations for the Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies.