

**Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences
Division**

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

**Approved at the meeting of Teaching Audit Committee on 27 February 2015 and by
Education Committee on 19 March 2015**

Title of Programme

BA Human Sciences

Brief note about nature of change: Amendment to syllabus and assessment of one paper

Effective date

For students starting FHS from MT 2015

For first examination from 2016-17

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

Detail of change

1. P246, I20 – P247, I51:

The Honour School is divided into two sections. All candidates will be required to offer papers: 1, 2, 3 (examined by extended essay and a presentation), 4, 5(a) or 5(b), a dissertation (paper 6) and two option papers (7 and 8):

1. Behaviour and its Evolution: Animal and Human
2. Human Genetics and Evolution
3. Human Ecology
4. Demography and Population The examiners will permit the use of any hand-held pocket calculator subject to the conditions set out under the heading 'Use of

calculators in examinations' in the Special Regulations concerning Examinations.

5(a). Anthropological analysis and Interpretation *or* 5(b). Sociological Theory The date by which students must make their choice will be stated in the course handbook.

6. Dissertation

7. and 8. Candidates will also be required to offer any two optional subjects from a list posted in the Human Sciences Centre at the beginning of the first week of Hilary Full Term in the year preceding the final examination. These lists will also be circulated to College Tutors. The date by which students must make their choice will be stated in the course handbook.

Schedule of Subjects

1. *Behaviour and its Evolution: Animal and Human* Introduction to the study of behaviour including the evolution of behavioural interactions within groups. Behavioural strategies that have evolved in humans and other animals. The use of models to understand complex behaviour. Advanced ethology and cognition, including learning. Perception and decision-making. Primate behaviour and evolutionary ecology, including the development of primate social systems and the evolution of cognition. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

2. *Human Genetics and Evolution* The nature and structure of the human genome, including single gene traits, gene function, and assessment of social implications. Population genetics of humans and primates. Quantitative genetics and complex trait analysis in humans. Genomic complexity as illustrated by the genetic basis for immune response. Molecular evolution, human genetic diversity and the genetic basis of human evolution. Genetic basis of common complex diseases. Human behaviour, cognition and cultural transmission in the context of six million years of physiological evolution and ecological change. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

3. *Human Ecology* Human ecology of disease, emphasising diseases that significantly contribute to the global burden of mortality and cultural change. Diet and nutrition anthropology of human societies. Ethno-biology and its cultural, ontological and epistemological contextualization, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Ethno-linguistics and the principles of folk-naming and folk-taxonomy of organisms, Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) and the significance of place, and practical applications of ethnobiology including biological conservation. Ecology of human reproduction, including cultural differences in reproductive strategies.

This paper will be examined by an extended essay not exceeding 5,000 words (including references and footnotes but excluding bibliography) and a presentation. The essay will be chosen from a list of titles published by the Examiners on Monday of Week 1 of Trinity Term of their second year.

Essays should be word-processed in double-line spacing and should conform to the standards of academic presentation prescribed in the course handbook. Two copies of the essay must be delivered to the Examination Schools (addressed to the Chair of Examiners of the Final Honour School of Human Sciences, High Street, Oxford) not later than 12 noon on Friday of Week 6 of Trinity Term of their second year.

Candidates will be required to give a short presentation on the topic of the extended essay in Michaelmas Term of their Final year. The exact date of the presentation will be notified to students by Week 1 of Michaelmas Term. The presentation will be assessed for clarity and engagement and contributes 5% of the final mark for the extended essay.

4. *Demography and Population* Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of the major features of past and present population trends, the socio-economic, environmental and biomedical factors affecting fertility, mortality and migration; the social, economic and political consequences of population growth, decline and ageing; and major controversies in demographic theory. Specific topics will include traditional and transitional population systems in historical and contemporary societies; demographic transitions and their interpretation; demographic processes in post-transitional societies (modern Europe and other industrial areas) including very low fertility, longer life, international migration and new patterns of marriage and family; the changing position of women in the workforce; ethnic dimensions of demographic change; and policy interventions. The paper will also test knowledge of demographic analysis and techniques including data sources, the quantitative analysis of fertility and mortality, the life table, the stable population and other population models, population dynamics and projections, and limits to fertility and the lifespan. [**Until 1 October 2015:** The paper will contain essay questions and questions involving computation. Candidates will be required to answer three questions, two of the former and one of the latter.] [**From 1 October 2015:** The paper will comprise two sections. Section 1 will test the candidate's knowledge of substantive trends and their explanation. Section 2 will test the candidate's ability to interpret quantitative results and the methods of demographic analysis. Candidates will be required to answer three questions, two from Section 1 and one from Section 2.]

5(a). *Anthropological analysis and interpretation* The comparative study of social and cultural forms in the global context: to include economics and exchange, domestic structures and their reproduction, personal and collective identity, language and religion, states and conflict, understanding of biology and environment, historical perspectives on the social world and upon practice in anthropology. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

5(b). *Sociological Theory* Theoretical perspectives including rational choice; evolutionary psychology; interpersonal interaction; social integration and networks; functionalism. Substantive problems including stratification; gender; race and ethnicity; collective action; norms; ideology. Candidates will be expected to use theories to explain substantive problems. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

Explanatory Notes

Amendment to syllabus of one paper, change of assessment from examination to essay and presentation.