

## HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

**Title of Programme**

Master of Philosophy in Islamic Studies and History

**Brief note about nature of change:** Change of assessment methods

**Effective date**

For students starting from Michaelmas Term 2015

For first examination from 2016-17

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

**Detail of change**

Delete from p.517, l.8 to p.518, l.35 and substitute the attached.

**Explanatory Notes**

- 1) The prescribed take-home essay on methods and research materials has been removed. It was found that this paper is difficult to manage due to the variety of research interest among the students. The removal of this paper makes it more in line with the other MPhils with similar course structure like Modern Middle Eastern Studies and Modern South Asian Studies.
- 2) The assessment method for the two option papers has been change from a single method by a three hour examination paper to either three hour examination paper or a take-home research paper. Students are given a week to complete the take-home research paper at the end of term in which the option is taught. The teaching group found that some options are better assessed through an essay rather than a three hour timed paper. Again, this change falls in line with similar MPhil degrees.
- 3) The thesis deadline has been moved to noon Friday of Wk 6 to conform to the three deadlines agreed at GSC.
- 4) Other minor changes to conform with changes agreed by GSC and tidying up the wording in the regulation.

## **(ix) Islamic Studies and History**

### *A. Qualifying Examination*

Each candidate will be required, unless exempted by the Oriental Studies Board, to pass a qualifying examination in Arabic or Persian or Ottoman Turkish or any other language approved by the Faculty Board not later than the end of the third term after that in which the candidate's name has been placed on the register. The content of the examination shall be of such nature as to satisfy the board that the candidate is capable of using pre-modern texts in the respective language.

### *B. Final Examination*

1. The examination shall take place not later than the end of the third term of the second year from the candidate's admission to the M.Phil degree programme. Full details of the examination will be provided in the examination conventions, which will be made available to the candidates in the second term of the second year of the course. Candidates must make their entries for the Final Examination by filling out the appropriate examination entry form by Friday of the first week of the second term of the second year from the candidate's admission to the course. The examiners may award a distinction to candidates who have performed with special merit. A candidate will be permitted to retake any failed papers on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the initial attempt.

2. The Final Examination shall consist of the following five units (1–5).

(1) A language examination in Arabic, or Persian, or Ottoman Turkish, or any other language approved by the Faculty Board. This written examination will take place at the end of Trinity Term.

(2) Islamic studies and history, 570–1500. This written examination will take place at the end of Trinity Term.

(3) and (4) Two optional papers which will be examined either as a written examination paper at the end of Trinity Term or by means of a take-home research paper of up to 5,000 words. A list of options and how they will be assessed will be available in the course handbook by eighth week of Michaelmas Term in the year of the exams. Teaching for some options may not be available in every year. All candidates must obtain the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies for the papers they wish to offer. All applications for approval must reach the Senior Academic Administrator, Oriental Institute, not later than the Monday in the second week of Michaelmas Full Term preceding the examination.

For options assessed by means of a take-home research paper, the question paper will be published by the examiners by noon Friday of eighth week of the term in which the option is taught, and two copies

of the essays must be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford by noon on Friday of the following week. Candidates will be contacted with details of how to collect or access the questions. The examination for at least one of these optional papers, whether conducted in the Examination Schools or as a take-home essay, must require the student to demonstrate the ability to use Arabic, Persian, or Turkish primary sources.

(5) A thesis of 25,000 words on a subject approved by the Oriental Studies Faculty Board, of which two typed copies and an electronic copy in PDF format in a memory stick or CD, of the thesis must be delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by noon of Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term of the second year from the candidate's admission to the course. 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.