

<b>HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD</b>
<p><b>Title of Programme</b></p> <p>Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies - Cuneiform</p>
<p><b>Brief note about nature of change:</b> Amendments to administrative procedures for the degrees and tidying up the regulations.</p>
<p><b>Effective date</b></p> <p><b>For students starting from MT 2015</b></p> <p><b>For first examination from 2015-16</b></p>
<p><b>Location of change:</b> <i>Examination Regulations 2014</i>, pages 508-510.</p>
<p><b>Detail of change:</b> Please see attached.</p>
<p><b>Explanatory Notes</b></p> <p><b>These changes reflect some administrative procedural changes and also tidy-up the current regulations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Take-home papers will be released on Weblearn rather than collected from the Faculty Office. Information on where the paper will be released will be included in the setting conventions.</li> <li>2) Candidates must submit an electronic copy of the dissertation in Word or PDF in a memory stick or CD-Rom. The memory stick and CD-Rom must be included with the hard copies of the dissertations.</li> <li>3) All options are removed from the examination regulations to the course handbooks. Options will be finalised by the start of Trinity Term in the year preceding the start of the course to ensure that the list of available options is in the course handbooks in good time.</li> <li>4) The phrase 'Students are recommended to attend a language course abroad' (or similar) is being removed from the examination regulations and put included in course handbooks.</li> <li>5) The dissertation submission date is to be streamlined to three (rather than five) deadlines: noon on Friday of Wk 2, 4 or 6 of Trinity Term.</li> <li>6) Amending phrasing on viva requirements to 'Candidates may be required to attend a viva'.</li> <li>7) Moving certain information (e.g. dissertation submission) to the general regulations rather than under individual degrees so that information is only available at one place.</li> </ol>

## (i) Cuneiform Studies

A. *Qualifying Examination* Each candidate will be required, unless exempted by the Oriental Studies Board, to pass a qualifying examination in the Sumerian and Akkadian languages not later than the end of the third term after that in which his or her name has been placed on the register.

B. *Final Examination* The following papers are assessed by a written examination paper at the end of Trinity Term except for paper 4. Each candidate will be required to offer the following papers:

1. Prepared translations of Sumerian texts and related essay questions (1 paper)
2. Prepared translations of Akkadian texts and related essay questions (1 paper) A list of prepared texts in the Sumerian and Akkadian languages will be provided to the candidate after he or she has successfully passed the qualifying examination. Lists of set texts must be submitted to the Faculty office by Friday of seventh week of Michaelmas Term. The list of texts will be reported to the Faculty Board's second meeting of Michaelmas Term in the second year of the course.12
3. Unprepared translations of Akkadian (1 paper)
4. History and culture of ancient Mesopotamia (1 paper) ~~Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of the outlines of major aspects of Mesopotamian history, including political, social, economic, and cultural developments. They will be~~ Candidates are required to submit two essays each of not more than 5,000 words in length, which display knowledge of more than just a narrow range of the topic. ~~Candidates are required to collect the subject of the essays from the Faculty Office, Oriental Institute, The subject of the essays will be published~~ by noon, Friday of Week 1 of Michaelmas Term of the second year of the course for the first essay and by noon, Friday Week 1 of Hilary Term of the second year of the course for the second essay. Candidates will be contacted with details on how to collect or access the question paper. The essays must be submitted to the Examination Schools by the end of Weeks 8 of Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term respectively. For each essay two printed copies and a signed form certifying that the essay is the candidate's own work must be delivered in an parelenvelope bearing the words marked 'Essay presubmitted for the M.Phil. in Cuneiform Studies' to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG.'
5. The cuneiform world in context and approaches to the study of Assyriology; (a) Cuneiform world in context (one half paper) ~~Candidates must be able to integrate the study of the cuneiform world into the wider context of the Near East. Three approaches may be pursued:~~

~~(1) The cuneiform world and the ancient Near East, i.e. the Hittite, Egyptian, or Biblical worlds. (2) The cuneiform world and the ancient Mediterranean, i.e. Graeco-Roman antiquity. (3) The cuneiform world and the later Near East, i.e. late antique and medieval periods.~~

[A list of approaches will be published in the course handbook.](#)

Candidates must specify which of these approaches they will pursue not later than the end of the third term after that in which their name has been placed on the register. Not all options may be available every year.

~~(b) Approaches to the study of Assyriology (one half paper): Questions will be set on the method, theory, bibliography, and history of Assyriology. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of how to research any subject relating to cuneiform studies, and how to evaluate critically the contributions of disciplines, such as anthropology, archaeology, art history, history, and literary criticism, to the study of the cuneiform world.~~

C. *Thesis* Each candidate will be required to present a thesis of not more than 20,000 words on a subject approved by the board. The thesis needs to include a substantial cuneiform-related element. ~~The thesis should be presented not later than noon on the Friday of the second week of Trinity Term in which the final examination is taken.~~<sup>13</sup>