

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by the Teaching Audit Committee on 16/03/15 and by Education Committee on 18/03/15

Title of Programme

MPhil Politics (Comparative Government, European Politics and Society, Political Theory)

Brief note about nature of change: minor revisions to text and layout, removal of language proficiency requirement

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2015

For first examination from 2015-16 (Qualifying Exam)

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

Detail of change

1. P524, I25 – P526, I24:

The regulations made by the Politics Graduate Studies Committee are as follows:

~~Qualifying Test~~

Each candidate must pass ~~at~~the Qualifying Test at the end of the third term from the beginning of the course. ~~in the~~ The Qualifying Test consists of two *compulsory* papers ~~specified for their course, (unless~~ given a candidate is granted exemption by the Politics Graduate Studies Committee):

~~In Comparative Government the two compulsory papers are Comparative Government and~~

~~Research Methods in Political Science.~~

~~In European Politics and Society the two compulsory papers are European Governance and Research Methods in Political Science.~~

~~In Political Theory the two compulsory papers are Theory of Politics and Research Methods in Political Theory.~~

~~Candidates who fail the written examination part of the Qualifying Test will normally be allowed to retake it before the beginning of the next academic year.~~

~~Compulsory papers:~~

~~(1) A single three hour written examination paper testing knowledge of the candidate's core subject (Theory of Politics or Comparative Government or European Governance).~~

~~Theory of Politics~~

~~Compulsory paper for Political Theory students only. A critical examination of political concepts and theories, including social concepts and theories with political relevance.~~

~~Comparative Government~~

~~Compulsory paper for Comparative Government students only. The theory and practice of government in modern states.~~

~~European Governance~~

~~Compulsory paper for European Politics and Society students only. The theory and practice of government in European states, including the UK, and the theory and practice of integration in Europe.~~

~~(a) Research Methods~~

~~(2) A research methods paper (~~(+)~~ *Research Methods in Political Science* or *Research Methods in Political Theory*).~~

~~Research Methods in Political Science~~

~~(Compulsory paper for Comparative Government and European Politics and Society students only).~~

~~Research Methods in Political Theory~~

~~Compulsory paper for Political Theory students only.~~

~~Research Methods in Political Science and Research Methods in Political Theory are assessed in the following way. The candidate must submit:~~

~~Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods~~

~~training, as specified in the Student Handbook, and will also produce a~~

~~(i) A Research Design ProposalEssay of between 40004,000-and 60006,000-words, excluding bibliography, on the subject of the student's proposed M.Phil.MPhil thesis. Two hard copies of the Research Design ProposalEssay, together with a copy on CD or USB, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. The Director of Graduate Studies in Politics shall draw the attention of the examiners to the names of any candidates who have failed to complete their research methods training to a satisfactory level of quality, and the examiners may require candidates to retake the course or a specified part thereof.~~

~~(ii) Research methods training coursework. Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Student Handbook. Further details regarding these courses are provided in the Student Handbook. Research Methods in Political Theory (Compulsory paper for Political Theory students only). Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Student Handbook, and will also produce a Research Design Essay of between 4,000 and 6,000 words, excluding bibliography, on the subject of the student's proposed M.Phil. thesis. Two copies of the Research Design Essay, together with a copy on CD, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. The Director of Graduate Studies in Politics shall draw the attention of the examiners to the names of any candidates who have failed to complete their research methods training to a satisfactory level of quality, and the examiners may require candidates to retake the course or a specified part thereof.~~

For a candidate for the degree of MPhil to pass the Qualifying Test and proceed to the second year of study, the candidate must pass: the research methods paper (all elements of coursework and the Research Design Proposal) and the written examination.

Candidates who fail the written examination (paper (1) above) will normally be able to retake it before the beginning of the next academic year.

The mark for the written examination part of the Qualifying Test (paper (1) above) is carried forward and included in the final classification process for the degree of MPhil.

~~Candidates in European Politics and Society will be required to have a working (i.e. good reading) knowledge of two of the following languages of the European Union: viz. English, and one of French, German, Italian, Polish, or Spanish. Unless exempted by the Politics Graduate Studies Committee, candidates will be tested in the language or languages they propose to offer by the end of their third term. Candidates who fail the test will normally be allowed to retake the test before the beginning of the next academic year.~~

~~(b) Comparative Government (Compulsory paper for Comparative Government students~~

~~only) The theory and practice of government in modern states.~~

~~(c) Theory of Politics (Compulsory paper for Political Theory students only) A critical examination of political concepts and theories, including social concepts and theories with political relevance.~~

~~(d) European Governance (Compulsory paper for European Politics and Society students only) The constitutions and formal structure of governments in European states, including the UK, and the theory and practice of integration in Europe. The marks achieved by candidates in the two compulsory papers of the Qualifying Test will be carried forward to be considered by the examiners in the second year alongside the marks achieved in the Final Examination.~~

Final eExamination

No candidate shall enter the Ffinal Eexamination unless he or she has already passed the Qualifying Test. In the Ffinal Eexamination every candidate must offer:

(1) A thesis of not more than 30,000 words, excluding bibliography. Two hard copies, together with a copy on CD or USB, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Monday of first week of Trinity Term. ~~The thesis~~ It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.

(2) Two subject-written examination papers, taken from the approved list of optional subjects in Politics, as published in the *Student Handbook* by the Politics Graduate Studies Committee on Monday of first week of Michaelmas Term each academic year (to apply to candidates being examined in the Trinity Term of that year). Candidates should note that the Politics subjects available in any particular year will depend on the availability of teaching resources. Not all subjects will be available in every year, and restrictions may be placed on the number of candidates permitted to offer certain subjects in any particular year.

Candidates may, with ~~the~~ special permission of the Politics Graduate Studies Committee, offer subjects outside this list. Applications must be made by the last Friday of the Trinity Term preceding that in which the examination is to be taken, and must be supported by the ~~student's~~ candidate's supervisor. Supervisors should ensure that applications are submitted as early as possible so that if approval is not granted given, the candidate has sufficient time to choose an alternative.

When candidates sit optional papers offered at departments other than the Department of Politics and International Relations, they are bound by the examining regulations of the MPhil in Politics.

~~Candidates must present themselves for viva voce examination when requested by the examiners.~~

The Examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination, on the

basis of the work submitted to them in both the Qualifying Test and the Final Examination.

Explanatory Notes

Amendments to layout, and clarification and amendments to text. Removal of language proficiency requirement for European Politics and Society students.