

<b>HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD</b>
<i>Approved at the Theology and Religion Faculty Board meeting of 12 March 2015</i>
<b>Master of Studies in Theology</b>
<b>Brief note about nature of change:</b> introduction of a clearer, more structured form of presentation and enumeration
<b>Effective Date</b>  <b>For students starting from MT 2015</b>  <b>For first examination from 2015-16</b>
<b>Location of the changes</b>  <i>Examination Regulations 2014, page 607</i>
<b>Detail of the changes</b>  See attached.
<b>Explanatory Notes</b>  [1] While recent changes have been agreed to the examination regulations for individual subjects within the MSt in Theology, the presentation and form of enumeration have remained the same.  [2] A clearer, more structured form of presentation is being used in the course regulations pamphlet.  [3]The change will align the examination regulations with the pattern of presentation including the enumeration in use in the course regulations, and help make it easier to identify any discrepancies.

## Theology

~~1. All candidates will be required to follow a course of instruction and directed research for three terms and present themselves for examination in one of the following subjects: Old Testament; New Testament; Ecclesiastical History (split into 6 subsections, see below); Christian Doctrine (split into 4 subsections, see below); Christian Ethics; Science and Religion; Biblical Interpretation.~~

~~2. Candidates will be expected to attend such lectures and seminars as their supervisor shall recommend.~~

Candidates for the M.St. in Theology are required to follow a course of instruction and directed research for three terms and to present themselves for examination in one of seven subjects:

### I. Old Testament

### II. New Testament

### III. Christian Doctrine, specialising in one of four fields:

- History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology (c. AD 100-787)
- History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology (c. AD 1050-1350)
- History of Doctrine: Theology of the Reformation Period (c. AD 1500-1650)
- Modern Doctrine (post-1789), further specialising in one of three tracks:
  - Modern Theology
  - Theology & Modern European Thought
  - Theology & Literature

### IV. Ecclesiastical History, specialising in one of five fields:

- The Early Church AD 200-476
- The Western Church AD 476-1050
- The Western Church AD 1000-1400
- European Christianity AD 1400-1800
- European Christianity AD 1800-2000

### V. Christian Ethics

### VI. Science & Religion

### VII. Biblical Interpretation

~~3. The examination shall consist of:~~

~~(i) a three-hour examination as prescribed in the regulations for each course;~~

~~(ii) two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics proposed by the candidate and accepted by the Theology and Religion Faculty Board (candidates should be very aware of this word limit when proposing their titles; the most significant cause of rejected essay titles is insufficient focus);~~

~~(iii) a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic proposed by the candidate and accepted by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee. For candidates intending to proceed to doctoral study, the topic of the thesis should be such as to provide a foundation for future research.~~

~~The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.~~

~~4. Proposals for titles of essays and dissertations must be submitted to the Theology and Religion Faculty by Monday of Week Nought of Hilary Term for consideration by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee. These will be considered by the committee in consultation with the examiners. Candidates are advised that some time may be required for communication with the Examiners to take place before permission is granted; permission will normally be granted by Monday of Week 8 of Hilary Term. All proposals should be accompanied by a brief indication of how the subject will be treated and a brief account of the primary and secondary sources used. The titles and contents of essays and the dissertation should not substantially overlap with each other, though~~

they may cover ground included in the scope of examinations as detailed below, and, in the case of Christian Doctrine and Ecclesiastical History, they may fall within the same section.

5. Two copies of essays must be submitted not later than the Friday before the beginning of Trinity Term. Two copies of the dissertation must be submitted at the end of eighth week of Trinity Term. All submitted work must be printed and sent in a parcel bearing the words 'M.St in Theology' to The Chair of Examiners, c/o the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. The 3-hour examination will take place in the tenth or eleventh week of Trinity Term. Each candidate will be required to present himself or herself for an oral (viva voce), which will take place within a few days of the written examination, and may include discussion of both the examination paper and any pre-submitted work. Candidates must not put their names on the examination paper or on any pre-submitted work. The dissertation must be accompanied by the candidate's signed statement that it is entirely his or her own work except where otherwise indicated.

The examination consists of three elements:

**A** **Two essays of not more than 5,000 words each**

Essay proposals must be submitted for consideration by the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee by Monday of Week 0 of Hilary Term. The completed essays (two copies of each) must be submitted for examination by Friday of Week 0 of Trinity Term.

**B** **A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words**

The dissertation proposal must be submitted for consideration by the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee by Monday of Week 0 of Hilary Term. The completed dissertation (two copies) must be submitted for examination by Friday of Week 8 of Trinity Term.

**C** **A written examination of three hours' duration**

The written examination takes place in Week 10 or 11 of Trinity Term.

All essay and dissertation proposals should comprise a title, a short statement of how the subject will be treated, a bibliography of core texts (both primary and secondary), and the signature of the supervisor indicating his or her approval. The titles and content of the essays and dissertation should not substantially overlap with each other. For candidates intending to proceed to doctoral study, the topic of the dissertation should normally be such as to provide a foundation for doctoral research.

All submitted work should be double-spaced in font-size 12.

Candidates must not put their names on the written examination papers or on any submitted work. All submitted work must be printed and sent in a parcel bearing the words, 'M.St. in Theology', to the Chair of Examiners, c/o the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

Each candidate is also required to present himself or herself for an oral (viva voce) examination, which takes place within a few days of the written examination, and may include discussion of the candidate's work in any of the three elements listed above.

Within this general pattern, particular requirements pertain to certain subjects, as indicated below.

### **I-Old Testament**

**The examination shall consist of:**

**(i) A three-hour paper on prescribed Old Testament Texts in Hebrew. The prescribed texts for the examination will be published on Weblearn before the end of Michaelmas Term.**

**(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

~~(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).~~

## I. OLD TESTAMENT

A and B (essays and dissertation) as above.

C (the written examination) is on prescribed Old Testament Texts in Hebrew. Candidates are notified of the set texts at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

## ~~H. New Testament~~

~~The examination shall consist of:~~

~~(i) a three-hour paper on prescribed texts in Greek, which will be published in the Gazette by the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion before the end of Michaelmas Term.~~

~~(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).~~

~~(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).~~

## II. NEW TESTAMENT

A and B (essays and dissertation) as above.

C (the written examination) is on prescribed New Testament Texts in Greek. Candidates are notified of the set texts at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

## ~~III. Ecclesiastical History~~

~~The examination shall consist of:~~

~~(i) a three-hour general paper on the nature and practice of ecclesiastical history. Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of a range of historiographical approaches to key questions in ecclesiastical history and of the variety of approaches to historical method which have emerged as a result of the professionalisation of teaching and research in history and of the introduction of new methods into the writing of history.~~

~~(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).~~

~~(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above). All work submitted by a candidate under (ii) and (iii) shall lie within one (and only one) of the following sections:~~

~~(a) The Early Church AD 200-476~~

~~(b) The Western Church AD 476-1050~~

~~(c) The Western Church AD 1050-1400~~

~~(d) English Church History AD 1066-1272~~

~~(e) European Christianity AD 1400-1800~~

~~(f) European Christianity AD 1800-2000~~

## ~~IV. Christian Doctrine~~

**Work submitted on Christian doctrine shall lie within one of the following sections:**

- (a) History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology (c.100-787 AD)**
- (b) History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology (c. 1050-1350 AD)**
- (c) History of Doctrine: Theology of the Reformation period (c. 1500-1650 AD)**
- (d) Modern Theology (1780—the present)**

**The examination shall consist of:**

**(i) a three-hour paper. For section (a), this will include passages for translation and comment from one or more prescribed texts in Greek or Latin. For section (b) it will include passages for translation and comment from prescribed texts in Latin. Prescribed texts will be published on Weblearn.**

**For section (c) it will consist of passages for translation and comment from prescribed texts in Latin, German or French of the Reformation period. The prescribed texts will be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on the advice of course leaders and ratified by the Faculty Board before the end of Michaelmas Term in the year when the course commences, and will be published on Weblearn. Essays will also be set, both on the prescribed texts and on general topics within the stated period. For section (d), the examination will be on methods and styles in theology.**

**(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

**(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

**All work submitted by a candidate shall fall within the same section. In proposing titles for essays and the dissertation, candidates in section (d) should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring the encounter between theology and some non-theological discipline; (b) exploring a modern theological response to some theological reflection of the past.**

### **III. CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

**A and B (essays and dissertation): All work must fall within one of the four specialised fields listed above under Christian Doctrine. Candidates specialising in Modern Doctrine choose one of three tracks within that field (i.e. Modern Theology, Theology & Modern European Thought, or Theology & Literature); this determines their attendance of seminars, and should influence their choice of titles for essays and the dissertation. In proposing their titles for such work, Modern Doctrine candidates should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring the encounter between theology and some non-theological discipline, and (b) exploring a modern theological response to some theological reflection of the past.**

**C (the written examination) takes particular forms for the different fields. In the History of Doctrine specialisms, the examination includes passages for translation and comment from prescribed texts: Greek or Latin texts in the case of Patristic Theology; Latin texts in the case of Scholastic Theology; and Latin, German, or French texts in the case of Theology of the Reformation Period. In each of these cases essays will also be set, both on the prescribed texts and on general topics within the same period. Candidates are notified of the set texts at the beginning of Michaelmas Term. In the Modern Doctrine field, the examination will be on Methods & Styles in Theology.**

### **IV. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY**

A and B (essays and dissertation): All work must fall within one of the five specialised fields listed above under Ecclesiastical History.

C (the written examination) is a general paper on the Nature & Practice of Ecclesiastical History. Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of a range of historiographical approaches to key questions in ecclesiastical history and of the variety of approaches to historical method which have emerged as a result of the professionalisation of teaching and research in history and of the introduction of new methods into the writing of history.

#### **V. Christian Ethics**

**The examination shall consist of:**

**(i) a three-hour paper on Christian Moral Concepts and Methodology: Contemporary and Historical Discussions.**

**(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

**(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

**In proposing titles for essays and the dissertation, candidates should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring an ethical question, substantive or conceptual, in relation to contemporary discussion; (b) the interpretation of a Biblical text of moral significance; (c) the discussion of a non-Biblical text of moral significance from some period of history prior to 1900.**

#### **V. CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

A and B (essays and dissertation): In proposing titles for essays and the dissertation, candidates should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring an ethical question, substantive or conceptual, in relation to contemporary discussion; (b) the interpretation of a biblical text of moral significance; and (c) the discussion of a non-biblical text of moral significance from a period of history prior to 1900.

C (the written examination) is on Christian Moral Concepts & Methodology: Contemporary & Historical Discussions.

#### **VI. Science and Religion**

**The examination shall consist of:**

**(i) a three-hour paper on topics in Science and Religion.**

**(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

**(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).**

**In proposing titles for essays and the dissertation, candidates should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring a historical debate in which scientific and religious issues are involved; (b) exploring a philosophical debate with a bearing on the discussion of science and religion; (c) analysing a contemporary issue on the interface between science and religion.**

#### **VI. SCIENCE AND RELIGION**

A and B (essays and dissertation) as above.

C (the written examination) is on topics in Science and Religion. In proposing titles for essays and the dissertation, candidates should explain in which pieces of work they will demonstrate competence in (a) exploring a historical debate in which scientific and religious issues are involved; (b) exploring a philosophical debate with a bearing on the discussion of science and religion; (c) analysing a contemporary issue on the interface between science and religion.

## **VII. Biblical Interpretation**

**The examination shall consist of:**

~~(i) a three-hour paper on the History and Principles of Biblical Study with special reference to a selected period. The period will be selected by the student in consultation with his or her supervisor. Where there is more than one student, each will be able to answer on the period that he or she has selected.~~

~~(ii) Two essays of not more than 5,000 words on topics approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above).~~

~~(iii) A dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a topic approved by the Theology and Religion Graduate Studies Committee (see 4 above). Pre-submitted work under (ii) and (iii) shall fall within the period covered by the examined paper (i).~~

## **VII. BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION**

A and B (essays and dissertation): All work must fall within one period in the history of biblical study. The period is selected by the student in consultation with his or her supervisor.

C (the written examination) is on the History & Principles of Biblical Study with special reference to a selected period. The period is the same one as that on which the student has worked for the essays and dissertation; where there is more than one candidate in the examination, each will be able to answer on the period which he or she has studied.