Changes in the regulations governing the Honour School of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Classics

Honour School of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Withdrawal of The Formation of the Islamic World, AD 550-950 and introduction of a new paper on Etruscan Italy, 900-300 BC.

With effect from 1 October 2014

In Examination Regulations 2013, p.175, l.26, delete: ‘iii. The Formation of the Islamic World, AD 550-950’ and substitute: ‘iii. Etruscan Italy, 900-300 BC. Candidates should be familiar with the relevant archaeology of the following cities and sites: Tarquinia, Caere, Veii, Vulci, Rome, Marzabotto, Populonia, Pyrgi, Gravisca, Orvieto, Cortona, and Acquarossa.,

Explanatory notes

(i) The importance of the Etruscans for understanding Greek activities in the western Mediterranean and the subsequent development of Roman culture has often been overlooked due to the paucity of extant Etruscan literature. Now, however, after decades of new excavations and studies, Etruscan Italy is more accessible, fascinating, and significant than ever before, and ideally suited to be studied through a combination of archaeological, artistic, scientific, and historical evidence. The introduction of this subject fills a major gap in the archaeology papers offered at Oxford and provides vital balance in familiarising students with the dominant cultures of Mediterranean antiquity.

This new subject also serves to maintain a balance in the provision of further subjects in archaeology and ancient history, following the decision to discontinue the Formation of the Islamic World option.

(ii) There are no vested interests.

(iii) This new subject will be taught through a combination of sixteen lectures, split over two terms in consecutive academic years, and tutorials. Teaching will be coordinated by the recently appointed Sybille Haynes Lecturer in Etruscan and Italic Archaeology and Art.