HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Changes in the regulations governing the Master of Philosophy in Egyptology: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies

Master of Philosophy in Egyptology

Brief note about nature of the changes: Clarification of existing regulations.

With effect from 1 October 2014

In Examination Regulations, 2013, p. 573, delete l.25 – p.574, l.17 and substitute:

‘II. Two (for candidates under 2 above, Syllabus B) or three (for candidates under 1 above, Syllabus A) papers in a special field selected from the list below, of which one will be on an appropriate category of primary source material.

Since all special fields may not be available in every year, candidates must confirm with the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oriental Studies Board that the field they intend to offer is available by the end of the second term after they are admitted. Some related fields (e.g. demotic with Greek papyrology) may be combined with the permission of the board.

The following fields will normally be available:

Archaeology
Art and iconography
Christian Egypt
Demotic
Egyptian grammar
Graeco-Roman hieroglyphic texts
Greek papyrology
Hieratic texts
Egyptian literary or religious texts
Periods of history, from the early dynastic to the Byzantine.

The examination units are as follows:

(i) Take-home examination. One paper in the special field will be set as a take-home examination. The answer or answers for this examination should be typed and presented in proper scholarly form. Candidates will be informed as to which paper is to be examined as a take-home on Friday of eighth week of the Hilary Term preceding the Final examination; conventions for the setting of the paper will be released at the same time. The question paper for the take-home examination will be distributed to candidates in the Oriental Institute at 10 a.m. on Monday of first week in Full Term in the term in which the final examination is to be offered. The completed examination must be handed in to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford no later than 12 noon on Monday of second week. The completed paper should not exceed 5,000 words in length.

If candidates for a different degree are taking the same subject and are to be examined in a three-hour examination, MPhil candidates may instead take that examination. Applications to take the three-hour examination should be submitted to the faculty board by Friday of the first week in Michaelmas Term in the academic year of the final examination.

(ii) Assessed essays. For a second topic in the special field, candidates will be required to presubmit two essays of not more than 5,000 words each, which between them display command of more than
a narrow range of the topic. Supervisors or others are permitted to give bibliographical help and to discuss drafts of essays. Such essays (two printed copies) must be delivered in a parcel bearing the words ‘Essays presubmitted for the M.Phil. in Egyptology’ to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG by noon on the Thursday of the sixth week of Trinity Term in which the examination is to be taken.

(iii) Examination paper (Syllabus A only). One three-hour examination on an area within the special field. The subject of this examination is to be presented to the faculty board by Friday of the first week of Michaelmas Term in the academic year of the final examination.’

Explanatory note

The effect of these changes is to clarify existing regulations, which have been found confusing by administrative staff and the Examination Schools. There is no change to the content and structure of the degree, except that an alternative mode of examination is added for one unit where more than one group of students is covering the same material (ii above), a situation which has arisen several times in the last few years. There are no students on course with a vested interest in the regulations as they currently stand.