Change in the regulations governing the MPhil in Theology: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion

MPhil in Theology

With effect from 1 October 2014 (for first examination in 2015)

In Examination Regulations 2013, p. 597, l. 38, delete ‘20,000 words to p. 597, l. 39, subjects (c), (d), and (e).’ and substitute: ‘30,000 words.’

In Examination Regulations 2013, p. 598, line 30, delete ‘OLD TESTAMENT’ to p. 599, line 19, interpretation of the Bible today’ and substitute:

‘OLD TESTAMENT

All candidates will be required to offer paper (i) and two other papers.

Candidates who offer paper (ii) must also offer one of papers (iii), (iv), and (v), which will be examined by a long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each).

Candidates who do not offer paper (ii) must offer two of papers (iii), (iv), and (v). One of these will be examined by a long essay (up to 15,000 words) and the other by three short essays (up to 5,000 words each).

Proposed titles must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee not later than sixth week of Trinity Term in the candidate’s first year of study.

Papers (i) and (ii) will each be assessed by a three-hour examination.

(i) Prescribed Hebrew Texts. This paper will include passages for translation with textual and exegetical comments from each of the following: 2 Samuel 9-20; Ecclesiastes; Isaiah 40-55; and Amos. Candidates will be required to attempt four passages.

(ii) Either (A) unseen passages for translation from the Hebrew text of the Old Testament;

or (B) the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament (Daniel 2.4-7.28; Ezra 4.8-6.18; 7.12-26);

or (C) the Septuagint (Genesis 2-4; Psalms 2, 21 (MT 22), 109 (MT 110), Proverbs 1, 8, 9; Isaiah 42, 52-3). Candidates will be required to translate and comment on four passages, one from each of the groups of texts, and to answer one question of a general nature on the Septuagint with reference to the set texts.
(iii) The Literature of the Old Testament and Apocrypha in its Historical Setting

(iv) Old Testament Theology

(v) The History and Principles of Biblical Study

Explanatory note
The effect of the changes is

(a) to increase the length of the thesis from a maximum of 20,000 to a maximum of 30,000 words;

(b) to require candidates to offer (in addition to the compulsory examination on prescribed Hebrew texts) either two papers examined by submitted work or one paper examined by submitted work, and one examination paper on the Aramaic of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, or unseen passages from the Hebrew text; and

(c) to remove the detailed specifications of what in the earlier regulations were papers (i), (ii), and (v) [now (iii), (iv), and (v)], which related to the contents of three-hour written examinations, now to be replaced with submitted work.