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

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology

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

1. In Examination Regulations, 2013, p. 1011, l. 8, insert after 'Theology': 'and Religion'

2. Ibid., l. 11, delete: 'and has kept statutory residence for at least three terms'

3. Ibid, ll. 13-14 delete: ‘: (a)’

4. Ibid, delete from p. 1011, l. 19 to l. 24 ‘; or (b) ..... the purpose of this clause’ and substitute ‘.’

5. In Examination Regulations, 2013, before p. 1012, l. 2 insert: ‘1. Every candidate is required to follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Theology, and he or she will, when he or she enters his or her name for the examination, be required to produce from his or her Society a certificate that he or she is following a course of instruction in Theology for at least three terms.

2. Candidates may complete the course either in nine months as a full-time student, or in twenty-one months as a part-time student.’

In Examination Regulations, 2013, at start of p. 1012, l. 2 (before ‘All candidates…’) insert: ‘3.’

6. Ibid, l. 2 delete: 'not less than'

7. Ibid, l. 3 delete: ‘five’ and insert: ‘four’

8. Ibid, l. 3 delete: 'of which at least one must normally be either (1) or (2) and another must be either (3), (4) or (5)' and substitute 'from the schedule of papers prescribed for the Final Honour School of Theology, apart from those listed below:

(i) Further Studies in History and Doctrine
(ii) Selected Topics (Old Testament) I
    (i) Prophecy
    (ii) Apocalyptic
(iii) Selected Topics (Old Testament) II
    (i) Wisdom
    (ii) Worship and Liturgy
(iv) The Hebrew of the Old Testament
(v) Archaeology in Relation to the Old Testament
(vi) Religions and Mythology of the Ancient Near East
(vii) Christian Liturgy
(viii) Early Syriac Christianity
(ix) History and Theology of the Church in the Byzantine Empire from AD1000 to 1453
4. Part-time students will study two papers in their first year of study, and the third (and fourth, if this option is chosen) in their second year of study. Examination will be at the second year of study.

5. Not all papers will be available every year.

6. Candidates may choose to offer either two short essays of 3,000 to 4,000 words or one long essay of 7,000 to 8,000 words in place of one of their chosen papers. The essay word limit is inclusive of notes and appendices, but excludes the bibliography.

7. Any candidate may be examined viva voce.

9. In *Examination Regulations*, 2013, delete from p. 1012, l. 5, ‘(1) The Four Gospels’ to p. 1013, l. 26, ‘will take place in Trinity Term.’ and insert:

   ‘Regulations concerning essays

   In the Michaelmas Term of each year, the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion will publish a list of topics, from which candidates may choose to write either two short essays or one long essay in place of one of their chosen papers. The topics will have regard to the prescribed content of individual papers for which the essay(s) is/are replacing.

   The candidate is advised to have an initial discussion with his or her supervisor regarding the proposed field of study, the sources available, and the method of presentation. He or she should have further discussions with his or her supervisor during the preparation of the essay. His or her supervisor may read and comment on drafts of the essay.

   Every candidate shall sign a letter declaring the essay to be his or her own work. This letter, which can be found in the Handbook for Graduate Studies or printed from the Theology Faculty webpages, shall be presented together with the essay, in a separate sealed envelope.

   The candidate must submit two typed copies of the essay (bound or held firmly in a stiff cover), addressed to the Chairman of the Examiners, Postgraduate Diploma in Theology, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford not later than noon on the Friday of the 1st week of Trinity Term. Candidates must not put their names on the examination paper or on any pre-submitted work.’

**Explanatory note**

This represents a tightening of requirements for and a streamlining of the assessment of the Postgraduate Diploma.