Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette

Social Sciences Board & Humanities Board

Approved at the meeting of 25 February 2011

Title of Programme
Honour School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Brief note about nature of change: Change in the weighting of core Economics papers from two-thirds to full weight; removal of two Economics options; introduction of new Philosophy/Economics option on the environment; some minor corrections.

Effective date
With effect from 1 October 2011 (for first examination in 2013)

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2010

Detail of change

1  p.412, l.29 delete ‘shall be’ and substitute ‘are’.

2  Ibid., p. 143, delete ll.1-5 and substitute:

    ‘Their other two subjects may be chosen freely from those listed under Philosophy and under Politics and under Economics, except that (i) if any subjects in Economics are chosen they must include the third core subject; (ii) certain combinations of may not be offered (see List of Subjects below); and (iii) not all Economics subjects may be available in any particular year (see below for details). There may also be restrictions on numbers permitted to offer some Economics subjects in any particular year.’.

3  Ibid., p.412, l.40 after ‘103,’ insert ‘and any two of’
4  Ibid., p.413, l.19 delete ‘four’ and substitute ‘three’.

5  Ibid., ll. 21-22 delete ‘(ii) at least one must be a further subject in Economics (other
than the thesis if offered;’ and renumber (iii) to (v) as (ii) to (iv) accordingly.

6  Ibid., l.24, after ‘subjects may be’ delete ‘offered’ and substitute ‘available’.

7  Ibid., l.30 delete ‘four’ and substitute ‘three’.

8  Ibid., ll.33-34 delete ‘(ii) at least one must be a further subject in Economics (other
than the thesis if offered;’ and renumber (iii) to (v) as (ii) to (iv) accordingly.

9  Ibid., l.36, after ‘Economics’ delete ‘may be offered’ and substitute ‘subjects
may be available’.

10 Ibid., p.414, after l.19 insert ‘125.  The Environment (319)’.

11 Ibid., p.415 delete ll. 31-32 and renumber (314) to (320) as (312) to (318)
accordingly.

12 Ibid., after l.39 insert ‘319.  The Environment (125)’.

13 Ibid., p.424, delete ll.13-43, and renumber subsequent rubrics 314 to 320 as 312
to 318 accordingly.

14 Ibid., p.428, after l.19 insert:

‘319.  The Environment

Philosophical foundations: justice and goodness, theories of value; decision-
making under uncertainty. Economics foundations: externalities, public goods,
international environmental agreements. Politics and the environment. Inter-
generational ethics, discounting. The choice of instruments: taxes, permits and
command-and-control; environmental instruments in practice. Valuing human
life. Valuing nature. Cost-benefit analysis: foundations and critiques; valuation
methods.’.

Explanatory Notes

Clauses 1, 6 and 9 amend wording for the sake of clarity. Clauses 2,3,4,5,8 amend the
regulations in accordance with a change in the weighting given to Economics papers from
two-thirds to full weight. This reflects the effort required of students, and ensures that
sufficient time is given to them to provide appropriate breadth and depth across the
discipline. For those taking Economics and one other subject, the new regulations specify
three core papers in economics, two in the other subject area and three options, including
at least one in another subject area. Those taking all three subjects can now choose any
two of the three economics core papers, and if they choose any further economics papers,
these must include a third core subject. Clauses 10, 12 and 14 introduce a new
Economics/Philosophy paper in The Environment – the introduction of this option reflects
the prominence of environmental issues in public discourse. Clauses 11 and 13 remove
two (currently suspended) Economics options from the schedule: Statistical Methods in Economics, and Classical Economic Thought. The content of the former is now covered within the Quantitative Economics core course; and the latter is too restrictive in scope. Consideration is currently being given to developing a new more broader-based course.