## Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

**Social Sciences Board**

Approved by TAC 1 June 2012

### Title of programme

Preliminary Examination for Philosophy, Politics and Economics

### Brief note about nature of change:

The rubric of the ‘Introduction to Politics’ paper has been extensively rewritten in order to clarify the expectations of the paper.

### Effective date

From 1 October 2012

### Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2011*

### Detail of change

1. **Delete P.148 l.38 to P.149 l.17, and substitute:**
   
   ‘The paper will be divided into two sections. Candidates are required to answer *four* questions, of which at least one must be from section (a) and two from section (b). Section (b) will be in two parts. Part (b-i) will contain questions on topics set out in para 2, below. Part (b-ii) will contain questions on the political history of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

   Candidates may choose to answer any combination of questions in section (b), but each part (b-ii) question chosen must relate to a different country (so answers must be on *two* different countries if *two* answers are chosen from (b-ii) and *three* countries if *three* answers). Candidates may, where appropriate, answer questions from part (b-i) exclusively in relation to one of the named countries, but any question chosen from part (b-ii) should not then be on that same country.’
Candidates are expected, where appropriate, to show knowledge of the methodological issues involved in both normative and empirical political research.

(a) Theorizing the Democratic State


(b) Analysis of Democratic Institutions

Questions in part (b-i) will be set on the following topics: the state and its institutions (executives, legislatures, parties and party systems, courts, constitutions and centre-periphery relations); political representation; the politics of instability; policy continuity and policy change; democratic transitions and consolidation. Questions in part (b-ii) will be set on these topics with reference to the political history of the United States of America since 1932, the United Kingdom since 1945, France since 1946, and Germany since 1932, as outlined in the department's official reading list.’.

Explanatory Notes

Reason: the rubric has been extensively rewritten in order to clarify the expectations of the paper and to ensure it is clearer to candidates what is required in relation to demonstrating country knowledge.