

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved by officers on behalf of the Board on 19 September 2017

Title of Programme

Honour School of Oriental Studies

Brief note about nature of change: Amendment to description of essay requirements

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016* (<http://www1.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/hsoforiestud/>)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2018

For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

1.139 Jewish Studies

1.140 The following papers will be set.

1.141 a. One paper on one of the following languages: Biblical and Rabbinic, Medieval Hebrew, Modern Hebrew or Yiddish. Papers for Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew, Medieval Hebrew and Modern Hebrew are the same papers for subsidiary languages under Hebrew a(1), (b)1 and (c)1. Refer to section on Subsidiary Languages. Teaching for some language options may not be available in every year.

1.142 b. *History, Culture and Society*

1.143 c. Five options, of which at least one must be chosen from each of sections I, II, and III. At least three must be chosen from papers which require study of set texts in the original language. Not more than one paper may be chosen from section V. The list of options will be published in the course

Handbook by Monday in the Week 1 of Michaelmas Term in the year preceding the examinations.

1.144 Papers in section V will be examined in the form of two essays ~~(one compulsory, the other from a choice of two)~~ not exceeding 5,000 words in total. The subjects will be published at 10 a.m. on Monday of second week in the term in which the final examination is to be offered, and must be handed in to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford no later than 12 noon on Monday of third week. Candidates will be contacted with details on how to collect or access the question paper. A signed statement that the essays are the candidate's own work should be submitted separately in a sealed envelope bearing his or her candidate number, to the Chair of Examiners (forms are available from the Faculty Office, Oriental Institute).

Explanatory Notes

When the take-home examinations were introduced, the Faculty sought to ensure a broad coverage of subjects in the examination, and it was felt that one way to do this was to make one question compulsory and to set a question for this requiring a broad/synthetic kind of essay, while the second question would offer a choice of more focused topics.

The Faculty has decided that prescribing the mode of each essay and number of options for the second essay topic has proved too restrictive and inflexible for students. The same outcome - a good range of topics and areas to be discussed – can be provided by other means. The change represents one of these means and introduces the possibility of providing students with a wider range of subjects from which to choose their essays.