

Humanities Divisional Board

Title of Programme

Honour School of History and Economics

Brief note about nature of change: Curriculum reform in undergraduate History degrees.

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2018

For first examination from 2019-20

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* on-line, Honour School of History and Economics
[\(http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandecon/administratorview/\)](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandecon/administratorview/)

Explanatory Notes

These changes bring about undergraduate curriculum reform in History. The theme of the reforms is diversification:

- i) The enlargement of the scope of an Oxford History degree, through the requirement that all undergraduates take one paper in a historical subject outside Europe at some point in the three years of the degree, although this requirement will not apply to the five Joint Schools which include History.
- ii) The introduction of a number of Theme papers to the Outline menus, of a type which is new to the syllabus and which will enable specific themes to be followed over longer periods. There is no requirement that students choose a Theme paper from a given Outline menu.
- iii) The assessment of the History of the British Isles (HBI) in Finals by a take-away examination in week 9 of Trinity Term of the second year.

Changes (i) and (ii) are being introduced for entry in Michaelmas term 2017 (i.e. students starting their FHS in Michaelmas term 2018). Change (iii) will be introduced as soon as

possible, so for entry in Michaelmas term 2016 (i.e. for students starting their FHS in Michaelmas term 2017) – see regulation change HDB(16)78_U, published in the Gazette of 21 July 2016.

The opportunity to undertake significant re-drafting of the relevant regulations has also been taken, partly to make them shorter and less burdened with unnecessary detail, and partly to remove detailed menus of specific papers: such material is more appropriately covered within course handbooks. Lists of Further and Special Subjects were removed some time ago, and the detailed menus for the History of the British Isles and European & World History are also being removed, which will provide flexibility to make changes to those menus and to rotate the Theme papers.

Detail of change

Delete all regulations for the Honour School of History and Economics and substitute those appended to the end of this notice.

Regulations for the Honour School of History and Economics

A

1. The examination in the Honour School of History and Economics shall consist of such subjects in History and Economics as the Board of the Faculty of History and Division of Social Sciences from time to time shall in consultation prescribe by regulation.
2. No candidate shall be admitted to examination in this School unless he or she has either passed or been exempted from the First Public Examination.
3. The examination in the Honour School shall be under the joint supervision of the Board of the Faculty of History and the Social Sciences Divisional Board, which shall appoint a standing joint committee to make proposals for regulations concerning the examination. Such proposals shall be submitted to the two Boards which shall make regulations concerning the examination and which, in the case of difference of opinion, shall hold a joint meeting at which the matter in dispute shall be resolved by the vote of the majority.
4. The Chairs of Examiners for the Honour School of History and for the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics shall consult together and designate such of their number as may be required for the examination for the Honour School of History and Economics, whereupon the number of examiners shall be deemed to be complete.
5. The lists of specific papers available in this School from the Honour School of History and in Economics in the Honour School of Politics, Philosophy and Economics will be published by the relevant Boards at the dates defined in the regulations for those schools.

B

Each candidate shall offer:

B1. Macroeconomics

As specified for the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

B2. Microeconomics

As specified for the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

B3. Quantitative Economics

As specified for the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

B4. British Economic History since 1870

As specified for the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

B5. An Outline or Theme paper in *either* European & World History *or* The History of the British Isles as specified for the Honour School of History. No candidate may offer a paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History similar to one offered when passing the Preliminary Examination. Illegal combinations will be specified by the Board.

B6., B7. Any one of the following combinations, (a), (b), (c), or (d):

(a) two Further Subjects in History;

(b) two Further Subjects in Economics;

(c) (i) one Further Subject in History and

(ii) an Outline or Theme paper, subject to the rule on overlap with the Preliminary Examination under B5 above, in

either European & World History, except any such period offered under B5 above,

or The History of the British Isles, if the paper offered under B5 above is in European & World History;

(d) (i) one Further Subject in History and (ii) one Further Subject in Economics.

For all Economics papers (which shall be taken to include British Economic History since 1870 but not other papers in Economic History) candidates are permitted the use of one hand-held pocket calculator from a list of permitted calculators published annually by the Department of Economics on its Undergraduate website, which will be updated annually in the week prior to Week 1 of Michaelmas Term.

B8. A Thesis from Original Research

Regulation B6 of the Honour School of History shall apply with the following modifications:

Sub-clause 1 For 'Candidates must submit a thesis as part of the fulfilment of their final examination' read 'Candidates must submit a thesis—normally, but not necessarily in economic history—as part of the fulfilment of their final examination'.

Sub-clause 2 For 'Theses shall normally be written during the Hilary Term of the final year' read 'Theses shall normally be written during the Michaelmas and/or Hilary Term of the final year'.

Sub-clause 3(b) (iii) For 'Chair of the Examiners for the Honour School of History' read 'Chair of the Examiners, Honour School of History and Economics'.

Sub-clause 5 For 'Honour School of History' read 'Honour School of History and Economics'.

Sub-clause 6 For 'primary historical sources' read 'primary historical sources or economic data'; for 'College History Tutor' read 'College History Tutor or Economics Tutor'.

Sub-clause 8 For 'Chair of Examiners, Honour School of History' read 'Chair of Examiners, Honour School of History and Economics'.

Sub-clause 9 For 'Candidates shall not answer in any other paper, with the exception of Disciplines of History (regulation B5), questions which fall very largely within the scope of their thesis' read 'Candidates shall not answer in any other paper questions which fall very largely within the scope of their thesis.'

Sub-clause 10 section ii For 'Chair of the FHS in History' read 'Chair of the FHS in History and Economics'.

B9. An Optional Additional Thesis

A second thesis, in addition to the papers listed under sections B1 to B8 may be offered in accordance with Regulation B7 An Optional Additional Thesis of the Honour School of History, q. v. modified as follows:

- (a) the subject shall, to the satisfaction of the examiners, fall within the scope of the Honour School of History and Economics;
- (b) theses must be submitted to the Chair of the Examiners, Honour School of History and Economics, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. In the assignment of honours, attention will be paid to the merits of any such thesis;
- (c) not more than two theses may be offered.
- (d) Sub-clause 10 For 'The Final Honour School Examiners will arrive at a formal degree result for candidates who submit an Optional Additional Thesis by inclusion of the 7 highest marks awarded for the 8 papers submitted, except that the mark awarded for the Optional Additional Thesis may not substitute for a mark lower than 50.' read 'The Final Honour School Examiners will arrive at a formal degree result for candidates who submit an Optional Additional Thesis by inclusion of the 8 highest marks awarded for the 9 papers submitted, except that the mark awarded for the Optional Additional Thesis may not substitute for a mark lower than 50'.