

## Humanities Divisional Board

### Title of Programme

Honour School of History and English

**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 English  
[\(http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandengl/administratorview/\)](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandengl/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**

1. *Examination Regulations* on-line, Honour School of History and English, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandengl/administratorview/>, amend the text at citation reference 1.6 as follows:

‘(a) Candidates should note that no more than ~~four~~five out of the total of seven Final Honour School papers can be examined by submission. Candidates should also note that some English and History papers are examined only by submission and should bear this restriction in mind when making their choices.’

2. *Ibid.*, citation reference 1.14:

“The candidate must deliver two typed copies of the bridge paper essay by hand to the Chair of Examiners for the Joint School of History and English, at the Examination Schools, High Street, by noon on ~~Thursday of the eighth~~Friday of the first week of the Trinity Term in the final year preceding the final examination. A certificate, signed by the candidate to the effect that each essay is the candidate’s own work, and that the candidate has read the History Faculty and English Language and Literature Faculty guidelines on plagiarism, must be presented together with the submission (see the introductory regulations for ‘submitted work’ for the Honour School of History and English).’

3. *Ibid.*, delete the text from citation reference 1.15 (‘(ii) One period of British History...’) to 1.21 (‘...all Course I or all Course II English subjects.’) inclusive and substitute:

‘(ii) One Outline or Theme paper in the History of the British Isles. No candidate may offer a period similar to one offered when passing the Preliminary Examination. Illegal combinations will be specified by the Board.

(iii) and (iv) Two subjects chosen from subjects 1 to 6 of Course I or two subjects chosen from subjects 1 to 3 and 5 to 6 of Course II of the Honour School of English Language and Literature (as specified in the regulations for the Honour School of English Language and Literature).

(v) and (vi) Two additional subjects, consisting of either:

(a) Special Subject from the Honour School of History (which comprises a three hour paper and an extended essay, constituting two papers), or

(b) Two of the following:

1. One paper in European & World History from the Honour School of History;
2. One Further Subject from the Honour School of History;
3. One additional subject chosen from papers 1 to 6 of Course I or Course II of the Honour School of English Language and Literature, except paper 4 of Course II. Candidates must offer all Course I or all Course II English subjects.'
4. Ibid., delete the text of the clause at citation reference 1.23 and substitute:  
  
'The lists of Further and Special Subjects and of Outline and Theme papers in the History of the British Isles and European & World History available for the following year will be published by the History Faculty Board in fourth week of the Hilary Term prior to candidates beginning their studies for the Honour School.'