

## Humanities Divisional Board

### Title of Programme

Honour School of History and Politics

**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 Politics  
[\(http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandpoli/administratorview/\)](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohistandpoli/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 Politics and substitute those appended to the end of this notice.

### **Honour School of History and Politics**

#### **A**

1. The examination in the Honour School of History and Politics shall consist of such subjects in History and Politics as the Board of the Faculty of History and the Social Sciences Board shall from time to time 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 Board, which shall appoint a standing joint committee to make proposals for regulations concerning the examination. Such proposals shall be submitted to the 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 Politics, 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 Politics from 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.
6. Except where indicated a paper cannot be substituted. Candidates shall offer seven papers from the following options, which must include the compulsory substitute thesis based on original research, as specified under Regulation B8 below. Certain combinations of papers in History and in Politics will be illegal, or subject to advice about duplication of material; these will be specified in the Handbook for this School.

## B

B1., B2. Each candidate may offer:

*either* one paper in the History of the British Isles, and one paper in European & World History,  
or two papers in European & World History,

as specified for the Honour School of History, provided that:

- (a) one paper may be replaced by a compulsory thesis in History;
- (b) no candidate may offer a paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History similar to one already offered in the Preliminary Examination; illegal combinations will be specified by the History Board.
- (c) candidates who have not offered a paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History before the nineteenth century in the First Public Examination are required to choose at least one such period in the Honour School of History and Politics. The list of papers satisfying this provision is given in the Handbook for History and Politics.

B3., B4. Each candidate shall offer any two of the five 'core subjects' in Politics, as specified for the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (i.e. 201, 202, 203, 214, and 220). A thesis as specified in Regulation B8 below may not be substituted for a Politics core subject.

B5., B6., B7. Each candidate shall offer one of the following combinations:

- (i) one Special Subject in History (examined in two papers) and one of subjects 201–229 in Politics which is not offered under Regulation B3 above;
- (ii) one Further Subject in History and two of subjects 201–229 in Politics which are not offered under Regulation B3 above;
- (iii) one Further Subject in History, one of subjects 201–229 in Politics which are not offered under Regulation B3 above, and one Special Subject in Politics.

Provided that one of the optional papers in Politics in any of these combinations may be substituted by a compulsory thesis from the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

B8. Each candidate must offer a thesis in place of *either* a Politics option in any of the combinations as specified under Regulation B5-6-7 above or a paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History, as specified under Regulation B1-2 above.

- (a) A thesis offered in place of a Politics optional paper shall be either a substitute thesis or a supervised dissertation submitted in accordance with the regulations prescribed for Politics in the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.
- (b) A thesis in History in place of a paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History shall be submitted in accordance with Regulation B6, *A Thesis based on Original Research*, for the Final Honour School of History. In

this case, a candidate must also offer a paper satisfying the requirements specified in Regulation B1-2(c) above which has not been satisfied in the First Public Examination, *unless* he or she is a Senior Student, as defined by the Regulations for Senior Student Status, or has passed the First Public Examination in a course other than History and Politics, History, or any other joint school with History.

- B9. All candidates must offer a substitute thesis or supervised dissertation, but may not offer more than one substitute thesis or supervised dissertation in place of a paper.