

## Humanities Divisional Board

### Title of Programme

Preliminary Examination in History and Economics

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

### Effective date

**For students starting from MT 2017**

**For first examination from 2017-18**

### Location of change

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

#### **Detail of change**

Delete all regulations for the Preliminary Examination in History and Economics and substitute those appended to the end of this notice.

### **Preliminary Examination in History and Economics**

#### **A**

1. T  
The Preliminary Examination in History and Economics shall be under the joint supervision of the Divisional Board of Social Sciences, and the Board of the Faculty of History and shall consist of such subjects as they shall jointly by regulation prescribe.
2. T  
The lists of specific papers available will be published by the two Boards at the dates defined in the regulations for the Preliminary Examinations in History and in Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

#### **B**

Every candidate shall offer four papers, as follows:

1. Introductory Economics, as specified for the Preliminary Examination in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.
2. European & World History: any one of the periods specified for the Preliminary Examination in History.
3. Optional Subject: any one of an approved list of subjects, as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History.

*or*

Industrialization in Britain and France 1750-1870, which is available only for candidates for this examination.

4. O  
One of the following subjects, as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History:

- (a) Approaches to History;
- (b) Historiography: Tacitus to Weber;
- (c) Foreign Texts;
- (d) Quantification in History.

Candidates who fail one or more of papers 1, 2, 3, or 4 above may resit that paper or papers at a subsequent examination.