

## Humanities Divisional Board

### Title of Programme

Preliminary Examination in History and English

**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 English  
(<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/peihistandengl/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**

1. *Examination Regulations* on-line, Prelim in History and English, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/peihistandengl/administratorview/>, after citation reference 1.2, insert a new clause as follows:

‘3. Lists of the papers available in this examination will be published in the fourth week of the Hilary Term prior to candidates beginning their studies for the examination.’

2. Ibid., delete the text of the clauses at citation references 1.4-1.8 inclusive and substitute:

‘1. The *History of the British Isles*: any one of the periods specified for the Preliminary Examination in History.

2. One of the following, as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History:

- (a) One of the Optional Subjects
- (b) *Approaches to History*
- (c) *Historiography: Tacitus to Weber*.’

3. Ibid., citation reference 1.9, delete the clause in its entirety.

4. Ibid., amend the text of the clause at citation reference 1.22 as follows:

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