

**Humanities Divisional Board****Title of Programme**

Preliminary Examination in History and Modern Languages

**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 Modern Languages

(<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/peihandmodelang/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 Modern Languages, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/peihandmodelang/administratorview/>, amend the text of the clauses at citation references 1.11-1.16 inclusive, as follows:

<sup>1.11</sup>Each candidate shall offer subject 3 and any one of the subdivisions of subject 4. The lists of papers available will be published in the fourth week of the Hilary Term prior to candidates beginning their studies for the examination.

<sup>1.12</sup>3. ~~General~~ European & World History: any one of the periods specified for the Preliminary Examination in History.

<sup>1.13</sup>4. Any one of the following, as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History:

<sup>1.14</sup>(a) ~~A period of paper in~~ The History of the British Isles ~~as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History;~~

<sup>1.15</sup>(b) An Optional Subject ~~as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History;~~

<sup>1.16</sup>(c) Approaches to History or Historiography: Tacitus to Weber or Foreign Texts ~~as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History.~~

2. Ibid., delete the clause which corresponds with citation reference 1.17 in its entirety.