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Humanities Divisional Board

Approved at the Faculty Board meeting of 28 January 2021

Approved by the Division 16 July 2021

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Honour School of Oriental Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

Changing mode of submission for thesis and take-home essays from in-person delivery to electronic submission.

Moving generic information out of the subject specific sections and into section B of the examination

Move to gender-neutral pronouns throughout

Removal of links to footnotes, as these are not visible in student view

Copy of changes to Egyptian reg changes sent previously are also included in this document

Location of change

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=hsoforiestud&srchYear=2020&srchTerm=1&year=2019&term=1>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2021

[And]

For first examination from 2022

Detail of change

A

1.1 1. The main subjects of the examination in the Honour School of Oriental Studies shall be Arabic, Chinese, Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Persian, Sanskrit, and Turkish, together with such other subjects as may be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

1.2 2. Every candidate in the examination shall be required to offer one of the main subjects listed above: candidates offering one of the above languages shall also be required to show an adequate knowledge of the literature and history of the civilization concerned, and candidates offering a history subject listed above shall also be required to show an adequate knowledge of the language concerned.

1.3 3. No candidate shall be admitted to examination in this school unless ~~he or she has~~ they have either passed or been exempted from the First Public Examination.

1.4 4. In the Class List issued by the examiners in the Honour School of Oriental Studies the main subject and (where appropriate) subsidiary language offered by each candidate who obtains Honours shall be indicated.

1.5 5. Any candidate whose name has been placed in the Class List, upon the result of the examination in any one of the subjects mentioned in clause 1, shall be permitted to offer ~~himself or herself~~ themselves for examination in any other of the subjects mentioned in the same clause at the examination in either the next year or the next year but one, provided always that ~~he or she has~~ they have not exceeded six terms from the date on which ~~he or she~~ they first obtained Honours in a Final Honour School, and provided that no such candidate shall offer any of the main subjects already offered by ~~him or her~~ them in the School of Oriental Studies.

1.6 6. The examination in this school shall be under the supervision of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, which shall make regulations concerning it subject always to the preceding clauses of this sub-section.

B

The Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies shall issue the handbook for the Honour School of Oriental Studies (with annexes for all main and subsidiary languages) no later than the Monday of first week of the Michaelmas full-term prior to the year in which candidates shall sit their Final Honour School examinations. The handbook shall include, amongst other information, course details, lists of set texts and regulations regarding the submission of dissertations and long-essays.

Choice and availability of options. It cannot be guaranteed that teaching will be available on all Further and Special Subjects in every academic year. Similarly, the choice of subject for the dissertation will necessarily depend upon availability of a suitable supervisor. Candidates should therefore consult with their tutors about the availability of teaching when selecting their optional and dissertation subjects.

1.7 Candidates, except in the case of Arabic, proposing to offer a Special Subject not included in the lists below must obtain the approval of the board both for their subject and for the treatises or documents (if any) which they propose to offer with it.

1.8 Except in the case of Arabic, Chinese and Japanese, if the candidate so desires and the board thinks it appropriate, such a Special Subject may be examined in the form of a dissertation.

1.9 All dissertation titles must be approved by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. Applications for approval must be made by Monday Week 0 of Hilary Term in the year of the exams.

1.10 For the submission of all dissertations, ~~two typewritten copies and~~ an electronic copy in PDF format in a memory stick or CD, of the dissertation and a signed declaration form certifying that the dissertation is the candidate's own work must be ~~sent to the Chair of Examiners, Honour School of Oriental Studies, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford~~ posted to an electronic submission platform not later than 12 noon on Friday of the tenth week of the Hilary Term preceding the examination by the date specified in the relevant subsection of the course handbook. Instructions and links to the submission site will be made available by the academic administration team. The dissertation must not bear the candidate's name, but only the examination number. Dissertations previously submitted for the Honour School of Oriental Studies may be resubmitted. No dissertation will be accepted if it has already been submitted, wholly or substantially, for another Honour School or degree of this University, or for a degree of any other institution. The dissertation shall not exceed 15,000 words.

1.11 All applications for approval by the board must be sent to the Secretary of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oriental Institute, on the date published in the course handbook and must be accompanied by ~~two copies~~ a copy of a list of the treatises or documents (if any) offered.

Main Subjects

1.27 Arabic

~~1.28 Arabic Handbook. The Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies shall issue annually the Handbook by Monday of Week 1 of the first Hilary Full Term of candidates' work for the Honour Schools. The Handbook will include, amongst other things, lists of set texts.~~

~~1.29 Choice and availability of options. It cannot be guaranteed that teaching will be available on all Further and Special Subjects in every academic year. Similarly, the choice of subject for the dissertation will necessarily depend upon availability of a suitable supervisor. Candidates should therefore consult with their tutors about the availability of teaching when selecting their optional and dissertation subjects.~~

1.30 Either, for Arabic and Islamic Studies

1.311. Arabic unprepared translation into English and comprehension.

1.322. Composition in Arabic.

1.333. Oral.4

1.344. Arabic literature.

1.355. Islamic history, 570-1500.

1.366. Islamic religion.

1.377. A Further Subject, chosen from a list published in the course handbook.

1.388. and 9. A Special Subject (to be examined in two papers, as outlined below), chosen from a list published in the course handbook.

1.3910. A dissertation.

1.40Notes:

1.41 (i) Candidates for all Special Subjects will be examined by means of a timed paper, and by means of an extended essay, which shall not exceed 6,000 words (including footnotes but excluding bibliography), and shall be on a topic or theme selected by the candidate from a question paper published by the examiners on the Friday of the fourth week of Michaelmas Term in the year of examination. Candidates will be contacted with details of how to ~~collect or~~ access the question paper. Essays should be typed ~~or word-processed~~ in double-spacing and should conform to the standards of academic presentation prescribed in the 'Guidelines for writers of Theses' in the course handbook. Essays (two copies) shall normally be written during the Michaelmas Term in the year of examination and must be ~~delivered by hand to the Examination Schools (addressed to the Chair of Examiners, Honour School of Oriental Studies, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford)~~ submitted not later than 12 noon on the Friday before the beginning of Hilary Full Term of the year of examination. ~~Candidates delivering essays will be required to complete a receipt form, which will only be accepted as proof of receipt if it is countersigned by a member of the Examination Schools staff. Each essay must be accompanied by a sealed envelope (bearing only the candidate's examination number) containing a formal declaration signed by the candidate~~ confirming that the essay is ~~his or her~~ the candidate's own work. The University's regulations on Late Submission of Work will apply.

1.42 (ii) Any candidate may be examined viva voce.

1.43 **or, for Arabic with a Subsidiary Language**, Papers 1-6 and 10 above (A dissertation is to be approved by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. See the 'Guidelines for writers of theses' under Arabic and Islamic Studies above for notes concerning the preparation and submission of a dissertation) and 11, 12, 13: three papers from one of the following languages:

1.44 Akkadian.

1.45 Aramaic and Syriac.

1.46 Armenian.

1.47 Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies).

1.48 Early Iranian.

1.49 Hebrew.

1.50 Hindi/Urdu.

1.51 Persian.

1.52 Turkish.

1.53 Chinese

~~1.54 The Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies shall issue the handbook for the Honour School of Oriental Studies (Chinese and Chinese with a subsidiary language) no later than the Monday of first week of the Michaelmas full term prior to the year in which candidates shall sit their Final Honour School examinations. The handbook shall include, amongst other information, course details, lists of set texts and regulations regarding the submission of dissertations and long essays.~~

1.55 *Either, for Chinese only,*

1.56 The following papers will be set:

1.57 1. Modern Chinese I.

1.58 2. Modern Chinese II.

1.59 3. Oral.4

1.60 4. Classical I.

1.61 5. Classical II.

1.62 6. Modern China.

1.63 7. Dissertation on a subject approved by the Board of the Faculty.3*

1.64 8. Special Option I: Texts and Essays

1.65 9. Special Option II: Texts and Essays

1.66 9-10. Special Option III: Extended Essay

1.67* This will be in the same area as that chosen in Special Options I or II or Linguistics (if available).

1.68 The options for Special Option I and II together with the relevant texts will be set out in the handbook for the year prior to the year of the examinations.

1.98 Hebrew

1.99 *Either, for Hebrew only,*

1.100 Candidates for **Course I** will be required to offer seven papers and a dissertation. Candidates for **Course II** will be required to offer seven papers and a dissertation, and an oral examination. Candidates for **Course II** are required to spend a year abroad as stated in the Special Regulations for Honour School of Oriental Studies.

1.101 1. (for **Course I**): Hebrew composition and unprepared translation.

1.102 (for **Course II**): Essay in modern Hebrew and unprepared translation.

1.103 2. Prepared texts I: Biblical texts.

1.104 3. Prepared texts II: Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew texts.

1.105 4. Prepared texts III: Modern Hebrew literature.

1.106 5. History, Culture and Society.

1.107 6. and 7. Two optional papers in Jewish Studies paper c. Not more than one paper from Section V of the course handbook.

1.108 8. Dissertation (Refer to Section B, Special Regulations for the Honour School of Oriental Studies).

1.109 9. (for **Course II**) Oral.4

1.110 **Or, for Hebrew with a subsidiary language**, Papers 1-4 and 8 above, and three papers from one of the following additional subjects: Akkadian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies), Egyptology, Persian and Turkish.

1.111 Japanese

~~1.112 The Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies shall issue the handbook for the Honour School of Oriental Studies (Japanese and Japanese with a subsidiary language) no later than the Monday of first week of the Hilary Full Term prior to the year in which candidates shall sit their Final Honour School examinations. The handbook shall include, amongst other information, course details, lists of set texts and regulations regarding the submission of dissertations and long essays.~~

1.113 *Either, for Japanese only,*

1.114 The following papers will be set:

1.115 1. Modern Japanese I.

1.116 2. Modern Japanese II.

1.117 3. Oral.4

1.118 4. Classical Japanese.

1.119 5. Dissertation on a subject approved by the Board of the Faculty.3

1.120 6. Special text option I. 4-

1.121 7. Special subject option I.4-

1.122 8. Special text option II.4-

1.123 9. Special subject option II.4-

1.124 10. Either Special Text option III or Special subject option III.4-

1.125 **Or, for Japanese with a subsidiary language**, Papers 1-7 above and papers 11, 12, and 13 below in Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan.

1.126 11. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan Texts (Subsidiary).

1.127 12. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan History and Culture (Subsidiary).

1.128 13. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan Language (Subsidiary).

1.129 **Jewish Studies**

1.130 The following papers will be set.

1.131a. One paper on one of the following languages: Biblical and Rabbinic, Medieval Hebrew, Modern Hebrew or Yiddish. Papers for Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew, Medieval Hebrew and Modern Hebrew are the same papers for subsidiary languages under Hebrew a(1), (b)1 and (c)1. Refer to section on Subsidiary Languages. Teaching for some language options may not be available in every year.

1.132b. *History, Culture and Society*

1.133c. Five options, of which at least one must be chosen from each of sections I, II, and III. At least three must be chosen from papers which require study of set texts in the original language. Not more than one paper may be chosen from section V. The list of options will be published in the course Handbook by Monday in the Week 1 of Michaelmas Term in the year preceding the examinations.

1.134 Papers in section V will be examined in the form of two essays not exceeding 5,000 words in total. The subjects will be published at 10 a.m. on Monday of second week in the term in which the final examination is to be offered, and must be ~~handed in to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford~~ submitted no later than 12 noon on Monday of third week. Candidates will be contacted with details on how to ~~collect or~~ access the

question paper. A signed statement declaring that the essays are the candidate's own work should be submitted ~~separately in a sealed envelope bearing his or her candidate number, to the Chair of Examiners (forms are available from the Faculty Office, Oriental Institute)~~ in addition to the essays

1.135d. A dissertation (see the regulations for dissertations set out under B, SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE HONOUR SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES).

1.136 Special subjects may be offered instead of one of the five options in (c) above subject to the approval of the Oriental Studies Board.

1.137 Some options may not be available in every year.

1.138 Candidates may obtain from the Oriental Institute information about which options may be offered for examination the first Monday of Michaelmas Full Term of the academic year preceding that in which the papers will be set.

1.139 Applications for the approval of options must be submitted by the deadline published in the course handbook.

1.140 **Persian**

1.141 The following papers will be set. Candidates will be required to offer ten papers.

1.142 *Either, for Persian only,*

1.143 1. Unprepared translation from Persian.

1.144 2. Translation into Persian and essay

1.145 3. Oral.

1.146 4. Persian literature: 1000 – 1400

1.147 5. Persian literature: 1400 – 1900

1.148 6. Persian literature: 1900 – the present

1.149 7. Themes in Iranian history

1.150 8. and 9. Optional subjects in Iranian and Middle Eastern History and Culture. The list of available optional subjects will be available in the Course Handbook

1.151 10. Dissertation

1.167 **Turkish**

~~1.168~~ *Turkish Handbook*. The Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies shall issue annually the Handbook for the Honour Schools of Oriental Studies (Turkish and Turkish with a Subsidiary Language) by Monday of Week 1 of the first Hilary Term of candidates' work for the Honour School. The Handbook will include, amongst other things, lists of the set texts prescribed for particular papers.

1.169 The following papers will be set:

1.170 ***Either, for Turkish only,***

1.171 1. Unprepared translation from Ottoman and modern Turkish.

1.172 2. Translation into Turkish and essay in Turkish.

1.173 3. Oral.4

1.174 4. Ottoman historical texts.

1.175 5. Turkish political and cultural texts, 1860 to the present.

1.176 6. Modern Turkish literary texts.

1.177 7., 8., 9. Three papers from a list of options published in the course handbook.

1.178 10. A dissertation.3

1.179 ***or, for Turkish with a subsidiary language,*** Papers 1-6 and 10 above (A dissertation is to be approved by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. See the 'Guidelines for writers of Theses' under Arabic and Islamic Studies above for notes concerning the preparation and submission of a dissertation) **and**

1.180 11., 12., 13. Three papers on one of the following languages: Arabic, Armenian, Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies), Early Iranian, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Persian.

1.201 **Armenian**

1.202 The following papers will be set:

1.203 *either*

1.204 **A. Classical Armenian 7**

1.205 1. Classical Armenian prose composition and unprepared translation.

1.206 2. Prepared religious texts.6

1.207 3. Prepared historical and other texts.6

1.208Or

1.209 **B. Modern Armenian**

1.2101. Modern Armenian prose composition and unprepared translation.

1.2112. Prepared texts from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries.6

1.2123. Prepared texts from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.6

1.213 Papers 2 and 3 will include questions on the subject-matter and grammar of the texts offered, and Paper 3 will also include questions on Armenian language, literature, and history.

1.245 **Hebrew** (for candidates offering Arabic, Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies) or Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Persian or Turkish as main subject).

1.246 Candidates taking Arabic, Persian or Turkish may offer *either* (a) Biblical and Rabbinic *or* (b) Medieval *or* (c) Modern Hebrew. Candidates taking Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies) may offer *either* (a) Biblical and Rabbinic *or* (b) Medieval Hebrew. Candidates taking Egyptology may offer only Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew. Biblical texts will be set from *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (ed. Elliger and Rudolph).

1.247 The following papers will be set:

1.248 (a) Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew:

1.2491. Prose composition and unprepared translation.

1.2502. Prepared texts I: Biblical texts.6

1.2513. Prepared texts II: Rabbinic texts.6

1.252 Papers 2 and 3 may contain general and grammatical questions.

1.253 (b) Medieval Hebrew:

1.2541. Unprepared translation.

1.2552. Prepared texts I.6

1.2563. Prepared texts II.6

1.257 Papers 2 and 3 may contain general and grammatical questions.

1.258 (c) Modern Hebrew:

1.2591. Prose composition and unprepared translation.

1.2602. Prepared texts I.6

1.2613. Prepared texts II.6

1.262 Papers 2 and 3 may contain general and grammatical questions.

1.273 **Japanese** (for candidates offering Chinese as main subject)

1.274 The following papers will be set:

1.2751. Japanese Prescribed Texts.6

1.2762. *Either* Unprepared translation, Prose Composition, and Grammatical Questions, *or* any Special Subject set for paper 8 of the syllabus in Japanese only [see the list of Special Subjects for Paper 8 set out under SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE HONOUR SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, REGULATIONS CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS, MAIN SUBJECTS, **Japanese, Japanese only**]

1.2773. Essay questions on Japanese Culture.

1.278 **Korean** (for candidates offering Chinese and Japanese as main subject)

1.279 The following papers will be set:

1.2801. Korean texts.6

1.2812. Korean History and Culture.

1.2823. Korean Language.

1.303 **Tibetan** (for candidates offering Chinese, Japanese or Sanskrit as main subject)

1.3041. Tibetan prose composition and unprepared translation.

1.3052. Prepared texts, with questions-6

1.3063. Questions on Tibetan culture and history.

1.307 Turkish (for candidates offering Arabic, Classics (in the Honour School of Classics and Oriental Studies), Hebrew or Persian as main subject).

1.308 The following papers will be set:

1.309 1. Turkish prose composition and unprepared translation.

1.310 2. *Either (a)* Additional Turkish: Late Ottoman and modern Turkish literary texts.6

1.311 *Or (b)* Additional Turkish: Modern Turkish literary texts:6

1.312 *Either (a)* Additional Turkish: Political and cultural texts, 1860 to the present.6

1.313 *Or (b)* Additional Turkish: Political and cultural texts, 1920 to the present.6

Explanatory Notes

During the Covid19 pandemic there was a university-wide move to electronic submission for dissertation and take-home essays. This move was welcomed by both the academic body and students and it was agreed to make this a permanent change for all Oriental Studies submissions.

It was agreed to move generic information on submission instructions, declaration of availability of handbooks and restrictions to subjects in some years out of the subject-specific sections and into the top section of the regulations. This makes the regulations shorter without losing content.

The change to gender-neutral pronouns will be implemented in all exam regulations when the opportunity arises.