

Notification of changes to Examination Regulations for the University Gazette

QAC/(21)05

Social Sciences Division

Approved at the meeting of Divisional Quality Assurance Committee and EdC on [date]

Preliminary Examination in Human Sciences

Brief note about nature of change: Replace preliminary examinations 'The Biology of Organisms including Humans' (Paper 1) and 'Genetics and Evolution' (Paper 2) with 'Ecology and Evolution' (Paper 1) and 'Physiology and Genetics' (Paper 2). This reframing of assessment will not change the substantive content of the FPE.

Effective date: With effect from 1 October 2021.

Location of change,

In *Examination Regulations 2020-21*

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

Amend citations 1.8 – 1.15 as follows:

~~Subject 1. The Biology of Organisms including Humans~~

Paper 1. Ecology and Evolution

~~1.8 Principles of mammalian physiology: the cell, body fluids, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, reproduction, hunger and thirst, movement, the senses, and the integrative organization of the central nervous system.~~

1.8 Principles of ecology: ecological systems from global to local, plant and animal communities and numbers, biotic interactions, the impact of humans on the biosphere.

~~1.9 Principles of ecology: ecosystems, plant and animal communities and numbers,~~

~~biotic interaction, the impact of man on the environment.~~

1.9 Principles of evolution illustrated by examples from human and other organisms. Mechanisms of evolutionary change: selection and adaptation, evolution of sex, altruism, kin selection and co-operation. Alternative models of evolution, emphasising changing perspectives in evolutionary biology.

1.10 Principles of Human Evolution, including a theoretical and practical introduction to palaeoanthropology and major evolutionary trends during the ca. seven million years of hominin evolution.

1.11 ~~1.10~~ One three-hour paper will be set.

Subject 2. Genetics and Evolution

Paper 2. Physiology and Genetics

~~1.11 Principles of genetics and evolution illustrated by examples from human and other organisms.~~

1.12 Principles of mammalian physiology: the cell, body fluids, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, reproduction, hunger and thirst, movement, the senses, and the integrative organization of the central nervous system.

~~1.12 Mechanisms of evolutionary change: selection and adaptation, evolution of sex, altruism, kin selection and co-operation. Alternative models of evolution.~~

1.13 The genetic material—its nature, mode of action, and manipulation: the chromosomal basis of heredity; molecular genetics; mapping the human genome; sex determination; mutation at the level of the gene and the chromosome.

1.14 Mendelian inheritance; genetic variation in populations and its maintenance; quantitative variation and its genetic basis.

1.15 One three-hour paper will be set. Candidates must submit exercises which will be made available to the examiners, showing the extent to which each candidate has pursued a satisfactory course of practical work. ~~Candidates shall submit notebooks containing reports, initialled by the demonstrators, of practical work completed during their course of study. These notebooks shall be available to the examiners at any time after the end of the first week of the term in which the examination is held, and shall be taken into consideration by the examiners. A practical examination may be set for candidates whose record of practical work is not satisfactory.~~

Replace 'Subject' with 'Paper' as above in Subjects 3-5.

Explanatory Notes

The purpose of this regulation change is to reconstitute the two Prelims papers

which cover the more biological contents of the course. Currently these papers are Paper 1: The Biology of Organisms including Humans which covers Physiology and Ecology and Paper 2, which covers Genetics and Evolution. Reframing these papers as 'Ecology and Evolution' and 'Physiology and Genetics' respectively would produce a more contemporary and coherent content. The pairing of Ecology with Evolution and Physiology with Genetics is both better in line with the framing of these disciplines in Oxford's new Biology degree, and with the new framing of genetics and physiology in cell biology. The regulation change would not require a change to the course content, simply within which paper the content sits.