

HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Title of Programme

Master of Philosophy in Modern South Asian Studies

Brief note about nature of change: Further to earlier submission for approval, this is an addition to include two new language papers for Urdu.

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2014

For first examination from 2015-16

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014, page 521.

Detail of change

(xii) Modern South Asian Studies

A. Qualifying Examination Candidates must pass a qualifying examination in Modern South Asian Studies not later than the end of the third term after that in which the candidate's name is first entered on the register of M.Phil students. Unless exempted by the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies candidates will be required to offer the following papers:

1. A language examination in Hindi (Beginners or Advanced), Brajbhasha and Old Hindi Texts I, or a substitute core language, based on knowledge of grammar, translation and reading comprehension. (Teaching for some languages may not be available every year).
2. A general methodological paper on the history and culture of South Asia, to be assessed by three-hour examination.

Candidates, who will submit a take-home essay in their first year of the course to partially fulfil the requirements of (c) in the Final Examination, must enter for this paper in their first year. The mark for such essays will not be moderated until the candidate's final year of the course. ~~Any failed Final Examination papers may be retaken on one occasion only, at the same time in the following academic year.~~

B. Final Examination

1. All candidates must offer:

(a) one of the following language papers in Hindi (Advanced), Hindi and Urdu, Literary Hindi, Literary Hindi and Urdu, Bengali, Brajhasha & Old Hindi Texts, Sanskrit, Tibetan or Persian, based on knowledge of grammar, translation and reading comprehension. (Teaching for some languages may not be available every year).

(b) a thesis of not more than 20,000 words on a topic selected by the candidate in consultation with his or her supervisor and approved by the Faculty Board. { [HYPERLINK "http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml" \l "univ-9780199202669-note-97"](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml) }. ~~Applications for approval of the thesis subject must reach the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oriental Institute, on or before Monday of nought week of Hilary Term in the second year of the course. Three typewritten copies of the thesis must be delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford not later than noon on Friday of the third week of the Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken.~~

(c) three papers ~~from (i)–(xvii) below~~ from a list published in the Course Handbook. Instead of one of ~~these papers~~ the papers on the list, a candidate may offer a paper on a subject ~~not included in the list below~~, with the approval of the board. Teaching for some optional subjects may not be available in every year.

The papers can be assessed either by a three hour examination paper at the end of the second year or a take-home examination paper. The method of examination will be published in the course handbook. Candidates are required to submit two essays of no more than 5000 words each, on topics selected by the candidate from a list on the take-home examination paper. The list of topics will be published after 12noon on the last Friday of term in which teaching for the paper is completed. Candidates will be contacted with details of how to collect or access the questions. The essays must be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by 12 noon on the Friday of noughth week of the term following that in which formal teaching for the Optional Subject is completed. When a paper assessed by essay is taught in the first year of the course, candidates must enter for the paper in the first year. Candidates are not allowed to enter for papers already chosen as unit 1 in the Qualifying Examination and I(a) in the Final Examination.

~~Optional Subjects Courses marked with an asterisk are assessed by three-hour examination at the end of the second year. Others may be assessed either by three-hour examination at the end of the second year or on the basis of two essays of not more than 5,000 words each, on topics selected by the candidate from a list on the take-home examination paper, to be collected from the Faculty Office after 12 noon on the last Friday of term in which teaching for the paper is completed. The essays must be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by 12 noon on the Friday of noughth week of the term following that in which formal teaching for the Optional Subject is completed. When a paper assessed by essay is taught in the first year of the course, candidates must enter for the paper in the first year. Candidates are not allowed to enter for papers already chosen as unit 1~~

in the Qualifying Examination and I(a) in the Final Examination. The Optional Subjects are:

~~(i) Brajhasha & Old Hindi Texts I (ii) Brajhasha & Old Hindi Texts II (iii) Advanced Hindi (iv) Urdu Literary Texts (v) History and Civilisation of Tibet and the Himalayas (Paper (iii) in the MPhil in Oriental Studies (xi) *Tibetan and Himalayan Studies*) (vi) The Social Anthropology of a Selected Region: South Asia (Paper (i) in the MPhil in Social Anthropology) (vii) Societies and economies in India 1600–1800 (viii) Aspects of social change in South Asia, c. 1860 to the Present (Advanced Option (ii) in the MSt in Global and Imperial History) (ix) Islamic History in South Asia (x) Scientific knowledge systems and their history in India (xi) History and Politics of South Asia (Paper (e) in the MPhil in Politics) (xii) Gender and Society in India, c. 1800 to the present (xiii) Material and visual culture of South Asia (xiv) Approaches to the history of Hinduism in India (xv) Shaivism (xvi) History of Medicine in South Asia (xvii) Gender and experience in Hindi Literature (xviii) History of Afghanistan c. 1900 to the present (xix) Any other subject approved by the faculty board Teaching for some optional subjects may not be available in every year.~~

~~3. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.~~

~~4. A candidate who fails the examination will be permitted to retake it on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the initial attempt. Such a candidate whose thesis has been of a satisfactory standard may resubmit the same piece of work, while a candidate who has reached a satisfactory standard on the written papers will not be required to retake that part of the examination.~~

Explanatory Notes

These changes reflect the recent growing interest in Urdu among applicants for the MPhil course. They do not involve any addition to the present teaching offering overall (which will be reconfigured by reducing Hindi teaching to accommodate increased Urdu teaching). These changes are additional language options for students and do not change the current syllabus.

