

**Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division**

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (04/09/2020)**

**Regulations for the Degrees of Bachelor of Civil Law and Magister Juris**

**Brief note about nature of change:** Introduction of half-options to the degrees

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2019*,

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

**Effective date**

**For students starting from MT 2020**

**For first examination from 2020-21**

**Detail of change**

**1. Amend citation 1.6 and 1.7 as follows:**

<sup>1.6</sup>6. Students shall follow a course of instruction comprising ~~four~~ options chosen from the lists set out in the Handbook for BCL and MJur students:

(i) BCL candidates select four options from List I.

(ii) MJur candidates select either four options from List I, or three options from List I and one option from List II.

Candidates may, in place of either one or two options, complete two or four half-options from List III. Not all options will be available in every year.

~~<sup>1.7</sup>7. Options shall appear under two lists: BCL candidates must choose four options from List I; MJur students must choose either four options from List I or three options from List I and one option from List II. The form of assessment for each option will be specified in the subject description appearing in the Handbook, and examination conventions. No candidate may offer a subject which they have previously offered in the Final Honour School of Jurisprudence or Diploma in Legal Studies.~~

**2. Amend citation 1.10 as follows:**

~~1.10~~10. For both the BCL and the MJur, candidates may substitute a dissertation for one full option.

**3. Delete citation 1.11 and renumber:**

~~1.11~~11. The examiners may award a merit for work of particularly high quality in the whole examination or a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

~~1.12~~112. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners may enter for the failed elements on one further occasion only, usually within one year of the initial failure. Candidates who fail the dissertation may resubmit by the deadline in clause 10. in the following year.

**Explanatory Notes**

Students on the BCL and MJur are required to take four options to complete their degree. For a number of years, and encouraged during the last Divisional Review, the Faculty has considered the introduction of half-options, both as a means of covering subjects which can profitably be studied at postgraduate level but which do not amount to a full option, and with a view to increasing the overall number of subject areas covered by students.

Half-options will be introduced to the degree from 2020-21 onwards and will carry the weight of half a current option. Students will be permitted to take either two half-options in place of one 'full' option, or four half-options in place of two 'full' options. This choice will be optional, and students may take four 'full' options and zero half-options (current model).