

Humanities Divisional Board**Title of Programme**

Honour School of History and Modern Languages

Brief note about nature of change: Curriculum reform in undergraduate History degrees.

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2018

For first examination from 2019-20

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* on-line, Honour School of History and Modern Languages (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohandmodelang/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. Lists of Further and Special Subjects were removed some time ago, and the detailed menus for the History of the British Isles and European & World History are also being removed, which will provide flexibility to make changes to those menus and to rotate the Theme papers.

Detail of change

1. *Examination Regulations* on-line, Honour School of History and Modern Languages, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/hsohandmodelang/administratorview/>, citation references 1.4-1.6, amend text as follows:

~~'4. The examination shall always include a period of General History selected by the candidate from periods to be named from time to time in the Regulations of the Honour School.'~~

~~5. The examiners shall indicate in the lists issued by them the language offered by each candidate obtaining Honours or satisfying the examiners under the appropriate regulation.~~

~~6. The examiners in the Honour School shall be under the joint supervision of the Boards of the Faculties of History and Modern Languages, which shall appoint a standing joint committee to make proposals for regulations concerning the examination. Such proposals shall be submitted to the boards of the two faculties which shall make regulations concerning the examination and which, in case of difference of opinion, shall hold a joint meeting at which the matter in dispute shall be resolved by the vote of the majority.~~

6. The lists of specific papers available in this School from the Honour Schools of History and of Modern Languages will be published by the relevant Faculty Boards at the dates defined in the regulations for those schools.'

2. *Ibid.*, citation reference 1.15, delete the existing clause in its entirety and substitute:

'Certain combinations of papers within or between the two parent schools will be illegal, or subject to advice about duplication of material; these will be specified in the Handbook for this School.'

3. *Ibid.*, citation reference 1.24, delete the existing clause in its entirety and substitute:

'An Outline or Theme paper in European & World History as specified for the Honour School of History (except for candidates offering Celtic, who shall offer a paper in The History of the British Isles as specified for the Honour School of History). No candidate may offer a period similar to one offered when passing the Preliminary Examination. Illegal combinations will be specified by the History Board.'

4. *Ibid.*, citation references 1.34-1.39 inclusive, amend the text as follows:

1.34 7, 8, 9. *Either (a) a Special Subject as specified for the Honour School of History (two papers, paper (b) of which shall be examined by extended essay) and one of the items (b), (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) below.*

1.35 *or (b) any three of the following four items:*

1.36(i) ~~Any period of~~ An Outline or Theme paper in The History of the British Isles as specified for the Honour School of History; (except for candidates offering Celtic, who may offer ~~one period of General a paper in European & World History~~ as specified for the Honour School of History);

1.37(ii) A Further Subject as specified for the Honour School of History;

1.38(iii) Any one of the Papers IV, V, IX, X, XI, XII not already offered, as specified for the Honour School of Modern Languages; except that a candidate who has chosen a Special Subject (Paper XII) at clause B6 above may not choose another such Special Subject.

1.39(iv) An Extended Essay as specified for the Honour School of Modern Languages or a thesis based on original research as specified in Regulation B6 ~~VI~~ for the Honour School of History, ~~except Cl. sub-clause 5-~~ of that regulation should read 'beginning of Trinity Full Term of the academic year preceding that in which the candidate spends a year abroad'.

5. Ibid., delete the clauses which correspond with citation references 1.40-1.45 inclusive.
6. Ibid., move the clauses which correspond with citation references 1.16-1.22 inclusive to follow the existing clause with citation reference 1.45. Amend the clauses as follows:

'Optional Additional Thesis

1.16 In addition to the compulsory papers ~~listed below~~ for this School, candidates who so desire may offer an optional additional thesis in accordance with Regulation ~~VII-B7~~ An Optional Additional Thesis of the Honour School of History *q.v.*, modified as follows:

1.17 (a) the subject shall, to the satisfaction of the examiners, fall within the scope of the Honour School of History and Modern Languages; or

1.18 ~~(b) the prizes listed in that regulation with the addition of the Sir John Rhys Prize;~~

1.19 ~~(eb)~~ theses must be submitted to the Chair of the Examiners, Honour School of History and Modern Languages, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

1.20 ~~(ec) Cl.10 Sub-clause 10.~~ The Final Honour School Examiners will arrive at a formal degree result [...] all papers awarded a mark below 50 will be

included.’ read ‘The Final Honour School Examiners will arrive at a formal degree result for candidates who submit an Optional Additional Thesis by taking the marks awarded for the 2 language papers and the oral examination, together with the highest seven marks out of the eight content papers submitted, except that the Optional Additional Thesis may not substitute for a mark lower than 50. Thus, the papers to be included are determined by the following procedures:

^{1.21}(i) In the event that the Optional Additional Thesis is awarded a mark below 50, it will be disregarded and the formal degree result will be determined solely by the marks awarded for the compulsory papers.

^{1.22}(ii) In the event that the Optional Additional Thesis is awarded a mark of 50 or above, the content paper awarded the lowest mark of 50 or above (which may be the Optional Additional Thesis) will be disregarded. All other content papers awarded a mark of 50 or above, and all content papers awarded a mark below 50, together with the marks awarded for the 2 language papers and the oral examination, will be included.’