

Humanities Divisional Board

Title of Programme

Preliminary Examination in History and Politics

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

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2017

For first examination from 2017-18

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* on-line, Preliminary Examination in History and Politics (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/peihistandpoli/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.

Detail of change

1. *Examination Regulations* on-line, Prelim in History and Politics,
<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/peihistandpoli/administratorview/>,
insert a new clause after clause 2 (citation reference 1.2):

‘3. The lists of specific papers available will be published by the two Boards at the dates defined in the regulations for the Preliminary Examinations in History and in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Certain combinations of papers in History and in Politics will be illegal, or subject to advice about duplication of material; these will be specified in the Handbook for this examination.’
2. Ibid., delete the existing clause which corresponds with citation reference 1.4 and substitute:

‘1. One paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History as specified for the Preliminary Examination in History. For the First or Second Public Examination in History and Politics candidates are required to choose at least one paper in the History of the British Isles or European & World History covering a period before the nineteenth century. The list of papers satisfying this provision is given in the Handbook for History and Politics.’
3. Ibid., delete the existing clauses which correspond with citation references 1.8-1.11 inclusive, and substitute:

‘4. Introduction to the Practice of Politics, as specified in the Handbook for History and Politics.’
4. Ibid., amend the existing clause which corresponds with citation reference 1.12 as follows:

‘Candidates who fail one or more of papers 1, 2, 3, or 4 above may resit that ~~subject or subjects~~paper or papers at a subsequent examination.’