

**MPLS Divisional Board**

**Approved on** behalf of Education Committee in Trinity Term, by Chairs action of MPLS Education Committee in Hilary Term 2024 and Earth Sciences Teaching Committee on October 31st 2023.

**Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation**

Honour School of Earth Sciences

**Brief note about nature of change:**

1. The removal of the Interdisciplinary paper. This would Increase the weighting of the coursework elements by removing the 3rd year Fieldwork and Interdisciplinary paper and reassigning the 40 points to reflect new weightings as: essay (75) and mapping/practical projects (115).
2. Change the submission deadline for the mapping/practical project from Thursday week 0 Hilary Term to Tuesday of week 1 Hilary Term.

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2022-23, Honour School of Earth Sciences (ox.ac.uk)*

**Effective date**

**For students starting course on 2022-23 (FHS Part A1 2023-24)**

**For first FHS Part A2 examination from 2024-25**

**Detail of change****Part A2**

<sup>1.17</sup>A candidate shall be required to offer:

<sup>1.18</sup>(i) a report on an individual mapping or practical project, to be submitted by ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday of Week ~~0~~ 1 of Hilary Term of year 2 of the Final Honour School; and

<sup>1.20</sup>(iii) ~~seven~~ **six** papers to be taken in Trinity Term of year 2 of the Final Honour School.

**Explanatory Notes**

The removal of the Interdisciplinary paper has been introduced following feedback from students, examiners and tutors. The two main reasons for this change are:

1. To better reflect the weighting (towards the final grade) with the substantial amount of work and time spent on the essay
2. Address the issues of inclusivity of the Interdisciplinary paper for students who may be unable to complete all aspects of the field classes.

Currently the submission deadline for the mapping/practical project is in week 0 of Hilary Term this forces students to return to Oxford early, causing additional logistical and financial problems for many. The complexity of the independent mapping/ practical projects requires hard copy submissions owing to the inclusion of notebooks, associated documents from the data collection period (e.g. fieldwork) as well as an A0 poster and a thesis. In order for students to print the materials, the department has decided to move the deadline to Tuesday of week 1 of Hilary Term. This deadline will allow students time to return to Oxford towards the end of week 0 (as required by their colleges) and still have time, if needed, to print the materials for submission.