

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved on 16 June 2023

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Honour School of History

Brief note about nature of change:

Replace 9 day take-home paper with 3-hour examination, and change timing of assessment

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2021/22*

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=hschoofhist&srchYear=2022&srchTerm=1&year=2021&term=1>

Effective date

For students starting FHS from MT2023

And

For first examination from 2024/25

Detail of change

^{1.7}2. No candidate shall be admitted to examination in this School unless ~~she or he~~ **they has have** either passed or been exempted from the Preliminary Examination or has successfully completed the Foundation Certificate in History at the Department for Continuing Education.

(...)

1.17 B1. History of the British Isles: any one from a list of Outline and Theme papers defined by the Faculty Board. No candidate may offer a period similar to one offered when passing the Preliminary Examination. Illegal combinations will be specified by the Board.

1.18 The History of the British Isles is taken to include the history of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and of other territories in so far as they are specifically connected with the History of Britain.

1.19 Candidates will be examined by means of a **three-hour written examination** ~~three essays of no more than 2,000 words each, under titles from a question paper published by the examiners on the Wednesday of eighth week of the Trinity Term in the first year of the Final Honour School. The essays must be submitted electronically by noon on Friday of ninth week of that term using the approved online submission system. Detailed procedures governing this process will be published by the Board.~~

Explanatory Notes

The current system of a nine-day take home exam has proved untenably stressful for many students, unwieldy, and disruptive of teaching, and it has not had noticeable impact on the gender gap. The Faculty wish to move to a three-hour invigilated exam, since current advances in A.I. have left them doubtful whether the integrity of the assessment process can be sustained in an open-book exam requiring three 2000 word essays.

The assessment is moved to Trinity term of the final year; in large part this is to give students from less advantaged backgrounds the chance to reach their full potential, as there is good evidence that they need the full three years to achieve this. The fact that there is sufficient time for revision and assessment in Trinity of the final year, which cannot be found elsewhere in the degree schedule, is also a consideration.