Humanities Divisional Board

Approved at the Faculty’s Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting of 30 May 2023

Honour School of Medieval and Modern Languages, and associated Joint Schools

Brief note about nature of changes

- Reduce length of online examination
- Change in options for Italian set texts
- Written exam from online to in-person

Effective date

For students starting FHS in MT2021
For first examination in 2023/24

Location of change

In Examination Regulations 2021-22
https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=hsofmodelang&srchYear=2022&srchTerm=1&year=2021&term=1

Detail of change

1.95 The mode of assessment of each paper and detailed examination arrangements will be as set out in the Course Handbook. Papers I, II, III, IV and V will normally be examined by a three-hour in-person unseen written paper; papers VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI will normally be examined by an unseen online written paper taken over an eight-hour a five-hour period; and papers XII, XIII and XIV will be examined as outlined below.

(…)

1.360 (3) D’Annunzio
1.361 (4 3) Verga
1.362 (5 4) Pirandello
1.363 (6 5) Montale
1.364 (7) Calvino

1.365 (8) Morante

(8) Ferrante

(...)

1.415 A: An unseen written paper completed within an eight-hour a five-hour timeframe. Three-hour unseen written paper.

Explanatory Notes

These are on-course changes

1.95 Amendment to FHS online open-book examinations from 8 to 5 hours is in response to:

- reports from the Board of Examiners and strong feedback from External Examiners;
- Student welfare is a concern: despite lengthy explanation both in written material and in drop-in sessions each year, students are still trying to write for the full 8 hours; and those with alternative arrangements think they are being disadvantaged (as extra time is inclusive in the 8-hour paper). Reducing to 5-hour in length, the students would still be expected to write as for a 3-hour paper, but with two hours preparation/planning instead of 5 hours.

1.360-65: Changes in optionality for set texts, aimed at improving the gender balance of authors on offer in paper. Also reflecting the specialisms of the teaching academics.

1.415 reversion to pre-covid Method of Assessment; there was only one year of online examination for this assessment in 2020, from 2021 the faculty reverted to in-person exams but the regulations were not amended, due to an oversight. The course handbooks and other information students receive, and have been receiving, specify the examination is a ‘Three-hour unseen written paper’.