

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved at the Faculty Board meeting of 9 June 2022; approved by Education Committee 6 February 2023

Degrees of Master of Philosophy in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Changes to two programmes:

MPhil in Islamic in Studies and History: reducing the number of assessments in their final year from 6 to 5 papers

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2022-23*

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

Pulled from publication in April 2023; not entirely sure why, so here's re-submission

Effective date

For students starting from MT2022

And

For first examination from 2023/24

Detail of change

(ix) Islamic Studies and History

(...)

^{1.122}A. *Qualifying Examination*

^{1.123}Each candidate will be required, unless exempted by the Board of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, to pass a Qualifying Examination, in the form of a written examination, in Arabic or Persian or Turkish or Ottoman Turkish or any other language approved

by the Faculty Board not later than the end of the Trinity term of the first year. The content of the examination shall be of such nature as to satisfy the board that the candidate is capable of using pre-modern texts in the respective language.

1.124 **B. Final Examination**

1.125 The Final Examination shall consist of the following ~~six~~ five papers (1-~~65~~).

1.126 (1) A written language examination in Arabic, or Persian, or Turkish or Ottoman Turkish, or any other language approved by the Faculty Board. This written examination will take place at the end of Trinity term of the second year.

~~1.127 (2) Islamic History. This written examination will take place at the end of Trinity term of the second year.~~

1.128 ~~(3)~~ (2) Islamic Studies and History: Candidates are required to submit paper consisting of an two essays of not more than ~~5000~~ 2,500 words in length (excluding bibliography but including footnotes). The question paper will be published by the examiners by ~~12 noon on Friday of eighth week of Hilary Term of the second year~~ Monday of noughth week of Michaelmas Term of the second year. The paper must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of the following week.

1.129 ~~(4) and (5)~~ (3) and (4) Two option papers which will be examined either as a written examination paper at the end of Trinity term or by means of a take-home research paper of up to 5,000 words. A list of options and how they will be assessed will be available in the course handbook. All candidates must obtain the approval of the course coordinator for the papers they wish to take.

1.130 The assessment for at least one of these option papers ~~must~~ requires the student to demonstrate the ability to use Arabic, Persian, or Turkish primary sources.

1.131 ~~(6)~~ (5) A thesis of 25,000 words on a subject approved by the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Faculty Board.

~~1.132~~

Explanatory Notes

The change would serve to reduce the density of examinations at the end of the second year, about which students on course in previous years had raised concerns with the Faculty. Reducing the amount of examinations taken in the final year would enable students to focus more on their thesis research in their second year. Combining the current examinations in Islamic History and Islamic Studies into one examination has the welcome effect of increasing the relative weighting of the other examination components