Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair’s Action on behalf of QAC on 10 August 2021.

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation [if general]]
Master of Philosophy in Modern South Asian Studies

Brief note about nature of change: Addition of a specified word count for the Research Methods quantitative analysis assessment, and change of wording around the provision of assessment information for option units.

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2020-21
https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mopimodesoutasiastud&srchYear=2021&srchTerm=1&year=2020&term=1

Effective date
For students starting the MPhil from MT21, for first qualifying examination in 2021-22, and first final examination from 2022-23.

Detail of change
Amend citation reference 1.9, 1.14, 1.16, 1.19, 1.26, and 1.28 as follows:

1.3 First year examinations

1.4 During the first year, candidates for the MPhil complete the following:

1.5 (a) Core Course in Modern South Asian Studies

1.6 The course will be assessed by one take-home 5,000 word maximum essay. Essay questions will be issued on Monday of Week 1 of Michaelmas Term and should be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 1 of Trinity Term.

1.7 (b) Research Methods
1.8 Candidates will complete one of the following two courses in Research Methods:

1.9 (i) Research Methods for Area Studies: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home test in qualitative methods to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Michaelmas Term; and a 2,500 word maximum take-home test in quantitative analysis to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.

1.10(ii) Qualitative Research Methods in Humanities: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home test in qualitative methods to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Michaelmas Term; and a 2,500 word essay on Historical Methods or Literature and Language to be set by Monday of Week 4 of Hilary Term and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.

1.11(c) either a language or non-language track:

1.12(i) Language track

1.13 Candidates will complete an intensive language course in Hindi or a substitute core language as specified in the Course Handbook (teaching for some languages may not be available every year), based on knowledge of grammar, translation and reading comprehension to be assessed by a three-hour written examination at the end of Trinity Term of the first year.

1.14 Candidates will also be required to satisfy the examiners in one option paper from a list approved by the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee to be assessed by one three-hour written examination in Trinity Term. This list of options and methods of assessment will be published by the Course Director(s) in the Course Handbook at the beginning of each academic year. The availability of options in any one year will depend on teaching resources and the level of student interest. Students should select this paper in consultation with their supervisor. With special permission of the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee, candidates may choose a paper offered by another relevant Master’s degree in the University, subject also to permission by the relevant Graduate Studies Committee. Candidates will take the standard assessment for such options.

1.15(ii) Non-language track

1.16 Candidates will choose two option papers from a list approved by the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee each of which will be assessed by one three-hour written examination in Trinity Term. This list of options and methods of assessment will be published by the Course Director(s) in the Course Handbook at the beginning of each academic year. The availability of options in any
one year will depend on teaching resources and the level of student interest. Students should select two of these papers in consultation with their supervisor. Native speakers or advanced learners may substitute one option paper with an appropriate advanced language option (further details are provided in the Course Handbook). With special permission of the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee, candidates may choose papers offered by other relevant Master’s degrees in the University, subject also to permission by the relevant Graduate Studies Committee. Candidates will take the standard assessment for such options.

1.17. Each of the items of written work detailed above must be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform by the times and days specified for each paper. Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating it is the candidate’s own work.

1.18. To be permitted to progress to the second year of the MPhil course all candidates must pass the core course essay, the research methods course overall, and for students following the language track, the language examination. A candidate who fails the research methods course overall will be permitted to re-submit a new submission for the failed piece(s) of work within four weeks of publication of the failed mark, on a date specified by the Chair of Examiners. A candidate who fails the core essay or the language examination paper will be permitted to re-submit the essay or re-sit the paper on one further occasion, normally at the beginning of the September preceding the second year.

1.19. A candidate who fails any of the option papers will be permitted to re-sit the paper(s) re-take the assessment on one further occasion when next examined. If a student fails both option papers they will be required to resit re-take and pass both option papers before proceeding to the second year of the MPhil course.

1.20. Students are permitted to transfer from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies to the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies, or to transfer from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies language track to the non-language track. Applications for transfer must be sent to the Course Director(s) by noon of Monday of week 4 of Hilary Term in the first year of the course. Where a candidate transfers from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies language track, the first year core language examination will constitute an advanced language option.

1.21. Final year examinations

1.22. Candidates will complete a course in Advanced Research Methods.

1.23. Candidates will be required to present themselves for examination as specified for either the language or non-language track.

1.24 (a) Language track:

1.25. (i) Candidates will complete the intensive language course commenced in the first year progressing to an advanced level, in Hindi or a substitute core language as specified in the Course Handbook (teaching for some languages may not be available every year), based on knowledge of grammar, translation, reading comprehension and literary context, to be assessed by a
three-hour written examination at the end of Trinity Term.

1.26(ii) Candidates will choose one option paper from a list approved by the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee which will be assessed by one three-hour written examination in Trinity Term. This list of options and methods of assessment will be published by the Course Director(s) in the Course Handbook at the beginning of each academic year.

1.27(b) Non-language track:

1.28(i) Candidates will choose one option paper from a list approved by the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee, which will be assessed by one three-hour written examination in Trinity Term. This list of options and methods of assessment will be published by the Course Director(s) in the Course Handbook at the beginning of each academic year.

**Explanatory Notes**

Addition of a specified word count for the Research Methods quantitative analysis assessment, and change of wording around the provision of assessment information for option units.