

Humanities Divisional Board**Approved by Associate Head of Education on 16 August 2024****Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation**

Preliminary Examination in Modern Languages

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to modes of assessment

Effective dateFor students starting Prelims from **MT24**

and

For first examination from **2024-25****Location of change**In *Examination Regulations 2023/24*<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=peinmodelang&srchYear=2023&srchTerm=1&year=2023&term=1>**Detail of change****B**

(...)

~~4-27~~ The assessment for papers I, II, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XII will normally take the form of a three-hour written paper as detailed in the Course Handbook. Paper III will be certified, except for Spanish and Italian, where candidates will be required to take a three-hour written paper. Paper IV will be examined via a three-hour written paper, except for Spanish and Italian, where candidates will be certified.

The assessment will normally take the form of:

- Papers I, IIA, and IIB: in-person written examination;
- Papers III and IV: on-line written examination;
- Sole Papers in French, German, Russian & Spanish will take the form of:

- French: XI (certification), XII and XIII (online written examination)
- German: XI (certification), XII, XIII (online written examination)
- Russian: XI and XII (examined) XIII (online written examination)
- Spanish: XI (certification), XII and XIII: (online written examination)

Candidates taking beginners' papers will be assessed as follows:

- Beginners' German
 - German BI, BII/IIA & IIB: in-person written examination;
 - German BIII: by certification
 - German BIV: on-line written examination;
- Beginners' Russian:
 - Russian BI, BII/IIA & IIB: in-person written examination;
 - in-person written examination.

(...)

TABLE 18

1.83 German:

~~1.84~~ 'Deutsche Gesellschaft und Kultur seit 1890.' Reading comprehension (in German) on a passage which relates to the theme of the paper. One essay in German on a topic relating to the theme of the paper.

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Explanatory Notes

- Certification does not adequately prepare candidates for the full run of papers at FHS.
- There is the need to address the imbalance between examined papers (2) and literature papers (1) which could potentially discriminate against candidates whose strength is in literature rather than language (likely having lacked the benefit of appropriate language teaching in school); a candidate who was strong on language was more likely to be awarded a Distinction-level mark than a candidate who was strong on literature.
- The current examination structure, allows, in some circumstances, students to obtain a Distinction-level mark in their Further Subjects based on just one examined paper; therefore having two papers examined brings a greater robustness to the process and brings the number of papers examined into line with the number of papers examined in a Joint School.
- German: Updating of prescribed topic for language course in the post A' Level course