

## ORAL EXAMS

This page gives you some general information on the oral exam. It is indispensable, however, that you **see me well in advance to talk about your exam.**

	No. of topics	Length	Language
B.A.	2	30 mins.	at least one topic in English
M.A. (one subject)	3	45 mins.	at least two topics in English
M.A. (two subjects)	3	45 mins.	at least two topics in English
M.Ed.	2	40 mins.	at least one topic in English

(1) Topics should (but need not) be based on seminars or lectures you have taken. Examples: Oscar Wilde, Restoration Comedy, Point of View in Fiction, Metaphor, The Ballad ...

(2) Amount of reading per topic: about five novels or seven plays of medium length and difficulty or an equivalent number of texts.

(3) Aim for diversity, including different genres and periods (this needs to be negotiated).

(4) You may put an emphasis on a particular text or on a particular aspect of your topic. If you pick Restoration Comedy as a topic, you may focus on gender roles, the theory of comedy, Restoration politics, etc. (see sample topics).

(5) Hand in a sheet with the relevant information (one for each topic), following the examples given below. This should be done at least two weeks before the exam.

## **SAMPLE EXAM SHEETS**

Name of student

E-mail of student

Type of exam (B.A., M.Ed. ...)

Place, date and time

Examiner: Burkhard Niederhoff

### **Topic: Restoration Comedy**

#### **Plays**

William Wycherley, *The Country Wife* (1675)

George Etherege, *The Man of Mode* (1676)

Aphra Behn, *The Rover* (1677)

Sir John Vanbrugh, *The Provoked Wife* (1697)

William Congreve, *The Way of the World* (1700)

**Emphasis:** Gender roles

**Language:** English

(Note: No. of plays has been reduced from seven to six because of the difficulty of some of the plays, e.g. *The Way of the World*.)

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Name of student

E-mail of student

Type of exam (B.A., M.Ed. ...)

Place, date and time

Examiner: Burkhard Niederhoff

### **Topic: The Writings of Margaret Atwood**

#### **Texts**

*Survival* (1972)

*The Journals of Susanna Moodie* (1970)

*Surfacing* (1972)

*Lady Oracle* (1976)

*Alias Grace* (1996)

**Emphasis:** *Surfacing*

**Language:** English

(Note: In this topic, different genres – essay, poetry and fiction – are combined.)

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Name of student

E-mail of student

Type of exam (B.A., M.Ed. ...)

Place, date and time

Examiner: Burkhard Niederhoff

**Topic: Point of View in Fiction**

**Texts**

Wayne Booth, "Types of Narration" (1961)

G rard Genette, "Mode" and "Voix" in "Discours du r cit" (1972)

Franz Stanzel, *Theorie des Erz hlens* (1979)

Seymour Chatman, "A New Point of View on 'Point of View'" (1990)

Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* (1742)

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Master of Ballantrae* (1889)

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916)

**Language:** English

(Note: There is no special emphasis here as the topic in itself establishes a rather narrow focus. Only three novels are required because there is a substantial amount of theoretical reading, which counts as the equivalent of two novels.)