

The M.A. Language Exams: What Every Classics Student Should Know!

What do the examiners expect?

- That you will have read the M.A. Reading List, both in English and in the Latin and/or Greek
- That you will complete a significant portion of each of the four passages on the M.A. language exam (20-25 lines each, 2 hours total for the exam)
- That you will ***not*** commit egregious errors* related to:
 - (1) agreement
 - (2) voice
 - (3) mood
 - (4) basic case usage
 - (5) proper English translation of Latin and Greek proper names
 - (6) proper scansion of Latin hexameters (which will allow you to distinguish between the short “a” of the feminine nominative, neuter nominative and accusative plural and the long “a” of the feminine ablative singular)

*Errors of this type can prove “fatal” and result in the necessity to retake the examination.

To prepare for the examinations, students should set aside time for the M.A. Reading List, reading a significant number of pages in the original language each day. Students should practice writing out translations from 20-25 line passages (1/2 hour per passage); this will give you a sense of the time constraints as well as the length of the passages to be tested.

Questions? Talk to one of the examiners:

Dr. Anderson, Dr. Leitao, Dr. McIntosh, Dr. Pappas or Dr. Smith.

To schedule a practice exam, please see Dr. Gillian McIntosh.