1. Written Examination (4 hours; date set by Prüfungsamt)
You should display your skill in understanding texts in an individual, systematic, coherent, convincing, and comprehensible way. A central passage from one of the texts discussed in the Hauptseminar of the current semester provides the basis for your analysis. Three to five key questions serve as a guideline on writing the essay. You are expected to provide answers to each of these questions and you may add perspectives of your own. It is required to use core concepts of literary analysis and major ideas of the cultural context concerning the text in question.

For example, a sophisticated interpretation of a passage from Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe demands knowledge of the structure of first-person narratives, Puritanism and colonialism. A pertinent analysis of a passage from Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream would profit from detailed information on the genre of comedy and contemporary conventions of the gendered theatrical performance of plays. In order to prepare for the written exam, it is essential to at least study the basics of literary analysis and the relevant chapters in a literary and cultural history (see bibliography in Michael Meyer, English and American Literatures, 2005).

Each essay should be well structured, including an introduction, which discusses the nature of the questions and the directions of possible answers (e.g. with reference to major positions in secondary sources), and a comprehensive conclusion, which evaluates the relevance of the text to its contemporary era or to our age. A scholarly essay discusses and does not summarize the text or arguments from secondary material. You should not spend more than 45 minutes finding and structuring arguments in order to have more than two hours for writing your essay and 45 minutes at the end for rereading and correcting your text since language counts 50% of the grade. You have to pass both in language and in content.

2. Oral Examination (GS, HS: 10 minutes; RS: 15 minutes; Prüfungsamt sets dates for exams)
You pick texts of your own choice and should be able to discuss major approaches, for example answering questions about the voice, style, structure, class, race, gender, the psychology, sociology, or politics of a text. The texts of the oral exam have to be different from those dealt with in the written exam. Please do not list texts typically taught and read at school, such as Shakespeare’s Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, and Midsummer Night’s Dream, Wilde’s Importance of Being Earnest, Shaw’s Pygmalion, Huxley’s Brave New World, Orwell’s Animal Farm and 1984, Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird, Priestley’s An Inspector Calls, Miller’s Death of a Salesman and The Crucible, Tennessee Williams’ Streetcar Named Desire, Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men, Salinger’s Catcher in the Rye, Willy Russell’s Educating Rita, Golding’s Lord of the Flies, Bernard Mc Laverty’s Cal, or Atwood’s Handmaid’s Tale.
There are thousands of other interesting texts: refer to books read in courses, check suggestions of works on websites, in literary histories, the book reviews in contemporary newspapers or journals. Students have the right to choose between 2 out of 5 genres as major topics:

1) two novels or 15 short stories AND
2) four dramas or 15 poems or 15 essays.

If you prefer to discuss 3 novels, you may reduce the number of other texts to 2 dramas, 7 poems (of medium size), or 7 essays. The texts of one genre can be taken from a single era, the texts of the other genre have to be taken from different ages and nations. For example, you could combine two twentieth century novels with four dramas across the ages, the first from the 16th or 17th centuries (e.g. by William Shakespeare, Ben Jonson), the others from the 19th and the 20th centuries (e.g. by G. B. Shaw, Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, Caryl Churchill, Sarah Kane, Sam Shepard, Wendy Wasserstein, etc.). The novels and dramas have to be written by different authors, the stories, poems, and essays at least by 5 different authors. Take care to document the sources of your short stories, poems, and essays.

Any text cannot be picked by more than three students. So please hand in more titles than you need in case that the titles you have chosen have already been taken by three other students. Please hand in your first choice of titles via email at least three months before your examination, and the approved list as a hard copy at least four weeks before the examination.

For each of the two major topics (not each individual text!), you need to note four texts of scholarly secondary material:


2) One relevant book or two comprehensive articles (of more than 10 pages each) in a companion, a handbook or a major treatise on the work, period, or the field in question, which help you to position the text in its historical and literary context (such as Shakespeare Handbuch, ed. by Ina Schabert, Stuttgart: Kröner, 2000; A Companion to Romanticism, ed. by Duncan Wu, Oxford: Blackwell, 1998; Elleke Boehmer, Colonial and Postcolonial Literature: Migrant Metaphors, Oxford and New York: OUP 1995; Barbara Korte, The Short Story in Britain, Tübingen: Francke, 2003) AND

3) One relevant scholarly book (no Notes on… or Student’s Guide to…) or 2 significant scholarly articles on individual primary texts, picked from journals, handbooks, or quality editions, e.g. by St. Martin’s Press or Norton, or from major collections of articles, such as Essays in Criticism or Casebooks.

Your list of titles should include 1 or 2 topics or questions or quotes (from the primary text or secondary material) that you prepared for each text as a guideline for the exam, which, however, may give rise to other questions as well. Not more than three of you can pick the same texts. You can choose the same general topic (such as ethics, race, class, style) but you have to specify different questions or quotes from those of your peers. You are entitled to decide upon the opening question of your oral exam and prepare
an answer of about two minutes in length. Indicate the various approaches you use in your questions or
topics (race, class, gender, ideology, aesthetics, psychology, history, etc.). It is recommended to pay
attention to similarities and differences between texts, and to account for the differences in terms of
literary (artistic) and cultural (e.g. social, political, philosophical) developments.

**STAATSEXAMEN FACHDIDAKTIK SEKUNDARSTUFE I (Michael Meyer)**

Oral Examination (*GS, HS*: 10 minutes; *RS*: 15 minutes; language: German)

You are entitled to pick two topics, which have to be approved of by the examiner at least four weeks
before the beginning of your exam. The first topic is general and more comprehensive, the second
specifically directed at teaching English in *Sekundarstufe I*, for example:

1) Constructivism in teaching and learning English, *Handlungsorientierter Unterricht*, task-based
instruction, psychology and motivation in the English language classroom, second language
acquisition (*if that topic has not been chosen for linguistics!*), learner strategies in languages,
intercultural learning, electronic media, literary texts in the classroom, or assessment and
evaluation, **AND**

2) Grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking, listening, story-telling, one volume of a
textbook for a specific level in secondary education, etc.

Any topic cannot be picked by more than three students. So please hand in more topics than you need in
case that the ones you have chosen have already been taken by three other students. Please hand in your
first choice of topics via email about three months before your examination, and the approved list as a
**hard copy at least four weeks before the examination.**

You have to specify three sources for each topic:

1) One comprehensive book on your special topic **AND**

2) Two comprehensive articles (of at least 10 pages).

You are not expected to simply summarize but to discuss the basic concepts and theories of your topics as
well as examples of learning and teaching in the language classroom or beyond.

*Please hand in a hard copy of your complete list of titles of both literature and teaching English as a
foreign language with your name, phone number, type, date and time of exam to me by email at least four
weeks before the date of your oral exam. Further information on secondary sources and preparing for
exams, see Meyer: English and American Literatures* (Tübingen: Francke, 3rd ed, 2008)