

Qualifying Exam in Greek and Latin Literature

There are two parts to this exam:

- a two-hour written examination
- a one-hour oral examination, using the answers to the written examination as its point of departure.

In the written portion of this exam we are looking for the essays to show both breadth and depth of knowledge in Greek and Latin literature beyond the student's primary area of expertise (as demonstrated in the Author/Genre exam and/or the Significant Paper).

There will be 2 essay questions:

One essay will ask for range and detail over a large area, requiring that the student fit together many authors/genres/time periods. A prompt that requires the student to propose a course syllabus (that may, but does not have to, consider also material culture, philosophy, institutions), with a need to justify what has been chosen and what has not been chosen, is a good example of this type of question.

One essay will ask the student to demonstrate a mastery of facts and depth of knowledge. In this question the student will be asked to choose 3-5 authors, to provide pertinent factual information (as in 211-12-13 exams), and to discuss their connections (linguistic, thematic, generic, in terms of periodization, of what scholars say about them, etc.). The prompt will narrow the choices, for example, discuss the development of the genre of Latin historiography.

The oral segment of the qualifying exam will follow as soon as is practical after the written exam, usually no more than a few days.