Sources of information for the BA exam

1. Information meeting

✓ At the beginning of each semester, the English Linguistics staff invite interested students to an information-meeting on the exams in English Linguistics. This meeting is intended to clarify organisational issues and the examination procedure, to communicate our expectations, and to alleviate potential concerns/fears that are related to the exam.

2. Exam-related information on the departmental website

✓ The staff publish all the necessary information concerning the 2nd year exams. On the departmental website.

We expect students to make use of these sources of information rather than flood the staff members with exam-related e-mails.
The BA-EXAM Procedure

STEP 1: Requirements:

✔ Students who want to take an exam in English Linguistics are expected to attend at least 1 cours/cours-séminaire/séminaire in English linguistics in their 3rd year. If they want to take two exams (which is possible if no exam in English Linguistics was taken in the 2nd year), they must have attended 2 cours/cours-séminaire/séminaire in English linguistics in their 3rd year.

✔ In addition, students taking an exam must have written at least one satisfactory paper in English linguistics before they sit the exam(s). This paper should be written on a topic that is related to a 3rd year BA seminar (see special requirements for papers).

STEP 2: Application

✔ Choose an examiner (P. Ronan, D. Smyk-Bhattacharjee, N. Zein, A. Langlotz)

✔ Students can choose to take either a written exam (4hrs.) or an oral exam (30 mins.). The requirements are the same for the written

✔ For their application the students must follow the official procedure defined by the Décanat de la faculté des lettres. Please check the deadlines carefully.


✔ To apply for the BA exam, students must arrange an office hour with their examiner two weeks before the official application deadline at the latest. Students must bring the following materials to this meeting:

a. The official application form.

b. The dossier linguistique: this dossier consists of the topic chosen from the pool of possible BA examination topics (see below).

✔ At the meeting, the students are to make a definite choice of their topic (following the list of possible BA exam topics). Note that the topic must correspond to the topics that are offered by your examiner.

✔ The examiner signs the form and the dossier linguistique to accept the candidate.
STEP 3: Exam preparation:

- On the basis of their topic and the corresponding reading matter, the examinees have to formulate **5 relevant thesis statements** or **essential research questions**. These thesis statements constitute a specialization and an orientational guideline for the examiner to specify more detailed examination questions. They thus constitute the common ground between the students' core interests and the examiner's choice of examination questions.
- The 5 thesis statements/research questions have to be submitted 3 weeks before the exam at the latest.

STEP 4: Exam

- Students will receive the official dates (and place) for the written/oral exam from the Décanat de la faculté des lettres.
- The 4h written exam consists of one essay. Following your area of specialization, 2 essay topics will be provided. The candidate must deal with one.
- For the 30mins. oral exam 3 questions will be provided. **2 have to be answered.** The candidates have 30 mins. before the exam to prepare their answers.
- The examinees are **not supposed to use any aids** beyond the ones provided.
- **NOTE:** The examination questions test the following competences:
  - a) Factual knowledge/definition
  - b) Comprehension
  - c) Application/analysis
  - d) Critical reflection/synthesis
- Examiners set up the exam questions according to this scale of competences.

STEP 5: Marking

- The exam is corrected and marked (written) or evaluated (oral). A grade will be given with quarter grades being possible. The exam is marked/evaluated according to the following criteria (NOTE that we do not look for perfection but for what can be expected in an exam situation):
  - a) Precision: the student answers the questions precisely and is able to provide straightforward definitions and explanations.
  - b) Depth and/or range: the student covers an appropriate range of issues in depth.
  - c) Insight: the student demonstrates good comprehension of the examination topic
  - d) Language and conversational skills: the student has an appropriate command of English and communicative competence.
- Each exam is double-checked by an expert.
**STEP 6: Retake**

- In case of failure the exam can be retaken once. Preferably, the exam is to be retaken in the following exam session. A 2\textsuperscript{nd} failure means final failure. The details on retakes can be taken from the website of the *Faculté des lettres*. 
# University of Lausanne
## Pool of BA examination topics (examples!!!)

The following lists exemplify the pool of potential BA examination topics for the BA in English Linguistics. Students are expected to choose one topic. The examiners make sure that the texts are available for download (PdFs) or for copying from a reference library. Note that alternatives to the suggested reading list may be arranged with the examiner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA Topics in English Linguistics</th>
<th>Note that the amount of reading differs per topic as a function of the difficulty of the texts. As a rule of thumb the reading list comprise approximately 2 books and 5-8 articles. However, the distribution of books vs. articles varies according to the topic.</th>
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Holmes, J. and Marra 2002. ‘Over the edge? Subversive humour between colleagues


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