

Guidelines for the M.A. Comprehensive Qualifying Exam in Art History

Prospective M.A. candidates will take a comprehensive qualifying exam after they have successfully completed their required art history coursework (currently 30 hours). Generally, students should pass this exam before they receive approval of their M.A. thesis topic, but all students must share their current thesis topic idea with their advisor prior to scheduling this exam.

Scheduling of the comprehensive qualifying exam by the candidate and advisor should be done one semester in advance in order to provide sufficient preparation time for the student and faculty. Typically the exam will occur near the beginning of the student's third semester, but it may be offered at other times including during the summer. All candidates taking the exam in any one semester should take it at the same time. The exam will be administered over a two-day period with the first two parts, slide identification and essay, given on the afternoon of the first day, and the last two parts, consisting of two essays, given on the afternoon of the second day. The focus of the essays will move from broad to more specific through the two days. Half-hour breaks will be allotted between all sections of the exam.

The exam will consist of four parts as follows:

DAY ONE (1:00-4:30 p.m.)

Part I. (1:00-2:00 p.m.) General image identification—artist or ethnic group, title or function, movement or historical period, and date. Twenty-five works will be shown, counting 4 points for each work for a total of 100 possible points.

Note: Images will be selected from the numbered illustrations in two art history survey texts, as agreed upon by the student and advisor.

For students studying Western Art, one of these two texts typically will be the appropriate volume of the book the faculty uses for ARTH 145 and 146 (currently Adams, *Art Across Time*, 2nd edition, 2002). If the candidate emphasizes art before the 13th Century, then Adams vol. 1 would typically be selected as one of the two books. If the student emphasizes art during or after the 13th Century, then Adams vol. 2 would typically be selected as one of the two books. Other books that could be used in addition to or instead of Adams include the appropriate volumes of any other common survey texts, such as Gardner, Hartt, or Janson, etc., as agreed upon by the student and the advisor.

For students studying Non-Western Art, you will study one text of the appropriate Western volume, plus additional texts covering your emphasis. You must meet with Dr. Green to identify appropriate books from which to study.

Dates: Accuracy ranges for dating works shown in Section I:

20th century—in the correct decade

19th century—in the correct quarter century but a date within 15 years in either direction

14th-18th centuries—within 20 years in either direction

8th century B.C.-13th century A.D.—within the correct century

Before 8th century B.C.—within the correct half-millennium

Break (2:00-2:30 p.m.)

DAY ONE (continued)

Part II. (2:30-4:30 p.m.) General essay question. The two-hour general essay will be broad in scope to demonstrate the student's understanding of their chosen area broadly conceived (e.g., Non-Western Art, Western Art, etc.). The candidate will select one question from a list of three possibilities. This essay will be worth a total of 100 possible points.

DAY TWO (1:00-4:30 p.m.)

Part III. (1:00-2:30 p.m.) Specific essay question. The candidate will pick one question from a list of three possibilities at the beginning of the second day. These questions will be based on areas of course work the student has completed at BGSU, and preferably but not limited to their chosen area of focus (e.g., Non-Western, Western, Ancient, Modern, etc.). The questions will be more limited in scope and more specific in phrasing than the general essay questions from the first day. This essay will be worth a total of 100 possible points.

Break (2:30-3:00 p.m.)

Part IV. (3:00-4:30 p.m.) Specific essay question about the candidate's M.A. thesis topic. The candidate will select one question from a list of three possibilities. These questions may be related to areas of course work the student has completed, but they will all relate to the proposed M.A. thesis topic as it currently stands. The questions in this section will be the most limited in scope and the most specific in phrasing as compared to the other parts of the exam. This essay will be worth a total of 100 possible points.

SCORING

The candidate will receive an exam score according to the following scale:

Pass with honors:	90% or higher overall score
Pass:	75-89% overall score
Fail:	74% or lower overall score

If a student fails the exam on the first attempt, it may be repeated only once. Upon request all candidates will receive sample questions to help them prepare for this test.