

English Department Guide To Undergraduate State Final Exams

NOTE: This guide has been compiled to provide you with information on the content and process of the state final exams. It is recommended that you closely study the guidelines and contact professors of particular disciplines if you have any questions.

General Information

There are two core exams to complete:

- KAN/SZA – Comprehensive exam in English studies
- KAN/SZB – Comprehensive exam in English linguistics

Each exam has a different structure, process, and grading criteria. Overall, the goal of the exams is to allow students apply their knowledge of the various disciplines in practice. We encourage students to registers for both exams at once.

KAN/SZA – Comprehensive exam in English studies

During the exam, students are to:

- Show knowledge of the role of English culture in global contexts
- Demonstrate an ability to analyze complex cultural phenomena using novel approaches
- Display knowledge of broader theoretical concepts
- Present a clear, persuasive and original argument based on the analysis.
- Respond critically and quickly to comments and questions from examiners, integrating their questions and observations into own argument
- Communicate clearly and professionally in standard English without errors of grammar or register.
- Speak in a way that indicates ease with the material and organized thought.

Prior to the exam

Students receive a text by email three days prior to the scheduled date of the exam. During the exam, they must complete the following:

Task

Discuss the text in relation to some of the broader issues and concepts you learnt about during your studies (among these, identification, exoticization, projection, transnational commonality, ignorance, cultural intelligence).

Exam process

Exam materials: Selected text, student's notes
Exam length: 15- 30 minutes
Exam format: Oral dialogue with the members of the committee
Grading criteria:

Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Argument	Demonstrates an ability to analyze complex cultural phenomena using novel approaches and presents a clear, persuasive and original argument based on the analysis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient
Supporting details, examples	Presents evidence that is accurate and relevant to the argument, and in sufficient amounts.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient
Application of broader concepts	Displays an understanding of broader theoretical concepts, and connects these persuasively to the specific question	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient
Response to questions from examiners	Responds critically and quickly to comments and questions from examiners, integrating their questions and observations into own argument	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient
Fluidity	Communicates clearly and professionally in standard English without errors of grammar or register. Speaks in a way that indicates ease with the material and organized thought.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient

KAN/SZB - Comprehensive exam in English linguistics

During the exam students are to:

- locate, analyze and describe selected grammatical, lexical, stylistic or phonological items in a sample text
- provide a detailed analysis of specified pieces of language from the point of view of one of the individual areas of linguistics, i.e. phonology and phonetics, grammar, lexicology and stylistics.
- provide a theoretical explanation of individual linguistic items under discussion
- answer supplementary questions from other areas of linguistics related to the analyzed items

Prior to the exam

Students will each choose one piece of paper (a question) containing an English text (up to 100 words), and 3–4 tasks referring to the text 20 minutes before the exam so that they can get acquainted with the text and prepare their answers. They will choose their questions at random from a large number of texts.

Exam process

Exam materials:	selected text, student's notes
Exam length:	15 minutes
Exam format:	individual performance combined with an oral dialogue with the members of the committee

Grading criteria:

Grade 1 criteria:

- the student shows an excellent knowledge of the subject matter
- is able to provide a systematic explanation or analysis of a particular linguistic phenomenon under discussion
- is able to support his or her arguments by suitable examples from the text

Grade 2 criteria:

- the student shows a good knowledge of the subject matter
- is able to identify the linguistic phenomenon under discussion in the text without being prompted
- may feel unsure about certain arguments

Grade 3 criteria:

- the student shows rather disjointed, though still acceptable knowledge of the topics covered
- although the student needs a guidance of an examiner in the process of the exam, he/she answers most questions correctly
- is able to make his/her way through the material under analysis