

A few words about written exams.

Each of your answers should take the form of a well-structured essay in which, in addition to demonstrating your knowledge of the works in question, you offer a clearly formulated thesis as well as a textual analysis of relevant passages. Taking time to outline your answer will help you organize your argument. The examiners will be looking for evidence of a capacity for original thought, a range of knowledge, and an ability to conceptualize the Russian literary tradition. The difference between the MA and the PhD exams has to do with: the depth of knowledge, the degree of sophistication in terms of theoretical approaches, the ability to draw wide-ranging conclusions from specific and concrete analysis of the texts.