Test-Taking Tips for the M.A. Exam

Productive Steps

1. Study the M.A. Assessment Rubric to understand what is expected
2. Study the texts on the M.A. Reading List, synthesizing the texts into your own thinking (Hint: Think about how you would teach the texts)
3. Begin studying early in your M.A. career; do not wait until a month or so before the exam

Pitfalls

Avoid writing an answer that

1. Lacks a thesis
2. Is unorganized
3. Relies solely on character/plot summaries, instead of analysis/argument
4. Does not address the stated question
5. Does not answer the entire question, especially in the afternoon extra-textual question.
6. Simply repeats information from an M.A. examiner’s course lecture
7. Simply repeats what everyone else in your study group is saying