

## 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