The M.A. Comprehensive Exam Reading List
Historical and Systematic Areas

Part I: Ancient
Required:
Plato, *Republic*, and either *Theaetetus* or *Sophist*
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, and one of *Metaphysics* Bks I, VII; *Physics*, II, III chs. 1-3; or *De anima* Bks. 2-3
Choose one of the following:
Plotinus, *Enneads* 1.6 On Beauty, 3.7 On Time
Epicureanism, Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, #s 6, 8, 11, 14-17, 20-25
Stoics, Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, #s 33, 39, 40, 46, 55, 57-63, 65

Part II: Medieval Philosophy
Required:
Augustine *Confessions* I-XI, *De Trinitate* X-XI
Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* Part I, qq. 1-3 (sacred science, existence, simplicity of God); Part I, qq. 75, 76, 79, 84, (soul/body, knowledge) Part I-II 90-92, 94-5 (natural law)
Choose one of the following:
Anselm, *Monologion* and *Proslogion*
Boethius, *Consolation*
Avicenna, *The Metaphysics of “The Healing”*
Averroes, *Incoherence of the Incoherence* (section on the natural sciences)
Moses Maimonides, *Guide for the Perplexed* (selections in Hackett ed.)
Duns Scotus, *Philosophical Writings* (selections in Hackett ed.)
William of Ockham, *Philosophical Writings* (selections in Hackett ed.)

Part III: Modern philosophy
Required:
Descartes, *Meditations*
Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Prefaces, Introduction, Transcendental Aesthetic, Transcendental Logic, Transcendental Analytic, Books I-II; *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*
Choose one of the following:
Spinoza, *Ethics*
Leibniz, *Theodicy*
Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Book I, Parts I and III
Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Books 1 & 2
Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality & The Social Contract*
Part IV: 19th-contemporary
(Choose one author from Column A and one from Column B)

Column A:

Henri Bergson, Time and Free Will; Creative Evolution
Maurice Blondel, Action
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble
Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, Dialectic of the Enlightenment
Hannah Arendt, The Human Condition
Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex
Jacques Derrida, Speech and Phenomena; Writing and Difference
Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish
Michel Foucault, History of Sexuality, Vols. 1 and 2
Hans Georg Gadamer, Truth and Method
Jürgen Habermas, Theory of Communicative Action, Vol.1, chs 1-4; Between Facts and Norms, chs 1, 3, 5, and 9
Martin Heidegger, Being and Time (Intro., Part 1, Division 1), Letter on Humanism
Edmund Husserl, Cartesian Meditations; Logical Investigations 1, 2, 6
Soren Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling; Philosophical Fragments
Julia Kristeva, Desire in Language. A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art
Emmanuel Levinas, Totality and Infinity
Karl Marx, Paris Manuscripts; German Ideology I; Capital I, Book I, Parts I-III
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception
Friedrich Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morals; Birth of Tragedy
Paul Ricoeur, Time and Narrative, Vol 3, section 2; From Text to Action
Jean-Paul Sartre, Being and Nothingness, Parts I & III; Existentialism is a Humanism
Iris Marion Young, On Female Body Experience: 'Throwing Like a Girl' and Other Essays

Column B:

J. L. Austin, How to Do Things with Words and Sense and Sensibility
Donald Davidson, Truth and Interpretation
John Dewey, Experience and Nature; Art and Experience
Philippa Foot, Virtues and Vices and Other Essays in Moral Philosophy
Ian Hacking, Representing and Intervening: Introductory Topics in the Philosophy of Natural Science
Henry James, Pragmatism, The Will to Believe, chs. 1-3; Principles of Psychology, chs. 9-10, 15
Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions; Lakatos and Musgrave, Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge, pp. 1-25; 51-59; 59-76; 91-137; 197-229
Bernard Lonergan, Insight
Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue; Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry
John Stuart Mill, On Liberty; Utilitarianism
Martha Craven Nussbaum, Love's Knowledge
Charles Sanders Peirce, “The Fixation of Belief,” “The Essentials of Pragmatism,” “Evolutionary Love”
Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, chs. 1-8, 10; *Conjectures and Refutations*, “Science: Conjectures and Refutations”

W. V. O. Quine, *Word and Object; From a Logical Point of View*

John Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, Part I., chs. 1-3; *Political Liberalism*, chs. 2, 6-8

Bertrand Russell, *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism, The Problems of Philosophy*

Gilbert Ryle, *Concept of Mind; Dilemmas*

Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self*

Alfred North Whitehead, *Process and Reality*

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*

**Part V: Systematic areas:** (Choose 2 systematic areas, and answer questions on them, using those thinkers required and chosen in Parts I-IV on the exam.)

- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Ethics
- Natural theology/philosophy of religion
- Social/Political philosophy

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**Procedure and Criteria for Evaluation**

1. The examination is 75 minutes in duration. The faculty examining board will commit approximately 2/3 of that time to the separate historical parts, and 1/3 to the systematic part.

2. Students will be able to choose the order for the five parts of the exam.

3. Students shall be evaluated according to the following system:
   Distinction: outstanding in at least 4 of the 5 parts and competence* in the other.
   Pass: competence in all 5 parts.
   Fail: lack of competence in any one of the 5 parts.

*Competence in the historical parts shall include the ability to connect and compare texts within the historical period; competence in the chosen systematic areas shall include the ability to articulate common questions and explain and relate different responses across all historical periods.*