

# Final B.A. oral

## overview

### 1 Topics

- You will choose two unrelated topics for your oral examination. Talk to your potential examiner about what counts as unrelated as early as possible.
- The topics have to be confirmed by your first examiner, and will be entered in the official form when you register for the examination with the Prüfungsamt.
- There must be no overlap between the topics of your oral and the topic of your B.A. dissertation.
- The first examiner in your oral may not be the supervisor of your B.A. dissertation, and vice versa.

### 2 Reading list

- For each topic you will have to select a monograph, often a book-length introduction to the research area in question. The general concepts, ideas, methods, and controversies addressed in this book will be used as the basis for a large part of the discussion.
- For each topic you will have to select a piece of original research, i.e. an article published in a scientific journal or a book chapter from an edited volume. This article/chapter defines an area of specialisation inside your more general topic. I will expect you to have understood the precise goal, methodology, main results, and relevance for the discipline of the study reported on.
- Please hand in copies of your two research articles/book chapters, preferably as a PDF.
- Your reading list must reach me at least 4 weeks before your examination (earlier is better), and must be okayed by me.

### 3 Procedure

- You will first be asked whether you are healthy and generally able to proceed with the examination. If you answer this question in the negative, the examination will be re-scheduled once you have handed in a medical certificate.
- The examination takes 30 minutes and is worth 6 CP. Half an hour is not a lot of time, so questions often focus on fundamental concepts and problems, rather than highly specialised issues.
- Each topic will be discussed for about 15 minutes, and you will be given the choice of which topic to start with.
- A second examiner will be present and take the minutes. During the examination itself, they are normally a passive observer (i.e. they do not ask any questions), but they will determine your final grade together with me.
- Try to make your immediate answers clear and concise. Once you have provided a direct answer to the question, you can elaborate and, for example, show connections to other concepts or problems. *Within certain limits* it is usually a good thing if you talk more than your examiner — don't talk for the sake of talking, though!
- You will be expected to know and correctly use specialised linguistic terminology whenever possible.
- You should be prepared to deal with one or two simple datasets (tables or graphs) taken from your background reading or elsewhere.