

1.1.2	<i>Lehramt:</i>	S II	60 mins. (4 <i>Teilgebiete</i> (TG))
		S I	30 mins. (2 TG)
		S I (Erweiterungsprüfung)	15 mins. (2 (1) TG)

1.2 Co-ordinating dates

1.2.1 *Magister:* The dates for the *mündliche Prüfung* in two or three subjects (this depends on the *Nebenfachregelung* / regulations for the subsidiary subjects concerned) is arranged by the candidate in consultation with the examiners (one per subject) which he or she has chosen.

1.2.2 *Lehramt:* The date for the *mündliche Prüfung* in each individual subject is fixed by the *staatliche Prüfungsamt*.
If you think the dates are uncomfortably close together, you can ask the *Prüfungsamt* whether any alternative dates are available, particularly where health reasons are concerned.
In this case it helps if you can find out beforehand whether your examiner can manage the same date(s).

2 Examiners

2.1 *Magister:* The examination committee should consist of three members, one for your main subject, and one for each of your two subsidiary subjects.
The *Vorsitzende(r)* is usually the examiner for your main subject.

2.2 *Lehramt:* The examination committee consists of three members, two from the faculty, one appointed by the *Prüfungsamt*.
The *Vorsitzende(r)* is appointed by the *Prüfungsamt*.

2.2.1 *Schriftliche Hausarbeit in English*

Normally, the chief examiner for the thesis is also the examiner for the oral exam. In this case you may be entitled to choose the second examiner.

2.2.2 *Schriftliche Hausarbeit in some other subject*

For the oral examination, you are entitled to choose one of the examiners from the faculty.

Eligible are: - all professors;
- some other members of staff for stipulated areas such as
Landeskunde and *Fachdidaktik* (see *Aushang* in C 3 bzw. N4).

2.2.3 *Distribution of topics*

For the 5 *Teilgebiete* (2 *Sprachwissenschaft*, 2 *Literaturwissenschaft*, 1 *Fachdidaktik* or *Landeskunde*) you are bound to have either a specialist in Linguistics or *Literaturwissenschaft* who will have been chosen by you. The second examiner for the other major area (normally Literature or Linguistics) will be appointed by the *Prüfungsamt*.

The fifth *Teilgebiet* (*Fachdidaktik* or *Landeskunde*) must somehow be examined by the Committee. If neither of the examiners is a specialist in *Fachdidaktik*, it is worth discussing with your two examiners, as soon as you know who they are, who is to take responsibility.

3 Contact with examiners

3.1 *Magister*

3.1.1 You *must* get written agreement from all the examiners you choose for your dissertation, written exams, and oral exams.

3.1.2 I expect students to provide me with a written *Konzeptpapier* (*Thesenpapier*) for the oral exams (one per topic).
The time to give me your *Konzeptpapier* for the oral exam is not less than *two* weeks before the exam.

3.2 *Lehramt*

3.2.1 I expect students to provide me with a written *Konzeptpapier* (*Thesenpapier*) for the oral exams (one per *Teilgebiet*).
The time to give me your *Konzeptpapier* is April or September. I cannot guarantee to read *Konzeptpapiere* received less than *two* weeks before the exam.

4 Language

4.1 *Magister*: Choice of language for the conduct of the oral examination is governed by the *MPO*.

4.2 *Lehramt*: In English, the oral examination must be held "*zu einem angemessenen Teil*" in the foreign language (LPO ' 20 (2)).
The usual distribution of languages is to relate the language to the individual examiners. This is something you should definitely clear with your individual examiners in advance.

5 Purpose

5.1 *Magister*

- 5.2** *Lehramt:* For *Lehramtskandidatinnen* and *-kandidaten* the purposes of the oral examination are explained in LPO ' 20. They include:
- *wesentliche Bereiche des Faches überblicken*
 - *sich zusammenhängend äußern*
 - *Verständnis für die Zusammenhänge aufbringen*
 - *den Bezug zwischen TG und Prüfungsfach darlegen*
 - *vertiefte Kenntnisse in dem TG nachweisen*
 - *Aufgaben und Probleme lösen*
 - to shew an understanding of methods

6 **Content / topics**

- 6.1** *Magister:* Your choice of topics is relatively free. Your topic is likely to be a sub-part of an area - for instance, in Semantics - one particular area or theory of semantics, such as Lexical Semantics; in Syntax one theory of syntax, such as HPSG etc.

- 6.2** *Lehramt:* Consider the relations between the followin units:
 - *Bereich - Teilgebiet - Schwerpunkt* (within a *Teilgebiet*) -
Veranstaltung - topic -

Your *Schwerpunkt* is likely to be a sub-area of a major linguistic or *fachdidaktische* area covered by a *Teilgebiet*:

e.g.

(1) TG A1: *Theorien, Modelle, Methoden*

area: Grammar Theory

SPs: - HPSG
 - GB Theory
 etc.

(2) TG A3: *Anwendungsbereiche und interdisziplinäre Beschreibungsaspekte*

area: Psycholinguistics

SPs: - Speech Production
 - Speech Perception
 - Language Acquisition
 - Slips of the tongue
 etc.

(3) TG C2: *Curriculum Englisch*

area: F.L. syllabuses

SPs: - The task-based syllabus
 - History of the syllabus

- Criteria for structuring the syllabus
etc.

How big is a "topic" ?

Your topic is likely to be a sub-area of your *Schwerpunkt*. They are not likely to cover the extent of a *Veranstaltung*, but may cover, for instance, the theme of one or several meetings,

e.g.

(1) *Veranstaltung*:

topics: Sex and Gender:

- Gender and Perception
- The Acquisition of Gender

(2) *Veranstaltung*:

topics: HPSG:

- The semantics of HPSG
- Unification and HPSG

7 *Die mündliche Prüfung S I*

7.1 Time

There are 3 TG to be tested in 40 minutes. The fourth will have been covered by the *Klausur*.

7.2 Examiners

See under " 2.2.1 and 2.2.2. This leaves the following possible combinations for S I:

(a) If the *Klausur* is written in *Fachdidaktik*

- a linguist and
- a *Literaturwissenschaftler*

one of whom also examines another TG in Linguistics, Literature or *Landeskunde*

(b) If the *Klausur* is written in Linguistics or Literature

- a linguist and
- a *Literaturwissenschaftler*

one of whom also examines *Fachdidaktik* and another TG in Linguistics, Literature or *Landeskunde*

7.3 Language

In English, the oral examination must be held "*zu einem angemessenen Teil*" in the

foreign language (LPO ' 20 (2)).

In practice, the usual distribution of languages is to relate the language to the individual examiners. This is something you should definitely clear with your individual examiners in advance.

8 Die Erweiterungsprüfung S I

The *Erweiterungsprüfung* S I is technically a separate examination. Expect a clear break between two oral exams.

8.1 Time

Only 15 minutes are available for this examination. For this reason my own practice is to concentrate on one *Teilgebiet*, and to treat it in the same way as the *Teilgebiete* for the S II exam.

8.2 Distribution of examiners

The *Erste Staatsprüfung für die Lehramter für die Sekundarstufe II und für die Sekundarstufe I* requires 18 further "auf das Lehramt für die Sekundarstufe I bezogenen ... fachdidaktische" SWS of study. Based on these, you need to name 2 further TG for admission to the examination. Usually, for this *mündliche Prüfung Fachdidaktik*, I concentrate on one TG, which is then examined for 15 minutes, as are the TGs for S II.

Although you will normally have prepared and studied *Fachdidaktik* with one of your examiners, circumstances may occur under which neither of your examiners in Linguistics or Literature is also a *Fachdidaktiker*. In this case, if you do not write your *Klausur* in *Fachdidaktik*, then you will need to discuss with your examiners who is to take primary responsibility for the area.

Further, "*die oder der Vorsitzende des Prüfungsausschusses leitet die mündliche Prüfung; sie kann oder er kann selbst prüfen ...*" (LPO ' 20 (5)).

8.3 Language

As under ' 4.2.

9 Preparation

9.1 Preparing the topic

- Breadth or width?

9.2 Concentration

9.2.1 *Magister*: - Linguistics - Literature ?

For the *Magister* examination you do not have to cover any area which you have not personally chosen. Your examiner will normally be either an examiner in Linguistics OR an examiner in Literature. The question of achieving a balance in your preparation of different areas does not, therefore, arise.

9.2.2 *Lehramt*: - Linguistics- Literature - *Fachdidaktik* ?

My advice: Since you must expect *roughly half* the time in the oral examination to be spent on the area which is NOT your speciality, it makes sense to invest time and energy in the area in which you feel weakest. Two days invested in an area in which you already know a lot will bring you less new information than the same amount of time invested in an area in which you know less.

9.3 One *Konzeptpapier* per *Teilgebiet*

- prepare
- submit for comment
- discuss with your examiner.

And cf. my paper "*Das Konzeptpapier*".

9.4 Practice

You might find the following suggestions useful for preparing for the oral examination:

- practise speaking extensively (for perhaps up to 5 minutes) and coherently on a topic without assistance;
- practise marshalling your knowledge round a small number of points;
- practise formulating your comments clearly;
- practise responding flexibly to awkward or unexpected questions;
- run a trial / simulation / mock exam with a student in a similar situation.

10 Procedure

10.1 *Magister*

10.1.1 Division of time among examiners

The division for the oral *Magister* examinations is:

- main subject: 60 mins.
- subsidiary subjects: 30 mins. each

10.1.2 Beginning the examination

The usual procedure is for the examiner in the main subject to begin, while one of the other examiners takes the minutes.

Which of the subsidiary subjects follows, is a matter of negotiation. The examinee may also be consulted.

10.1.3 Division of time by the individual examiner

You will normally have prepared *two* topics for the oral examination. Your examiner may devote roughly equal time to each topic, or the time may be weighted in favour of one topic, which then functions as a kind of *Schwerpunkt*.

10.1.4 Postponement

A postponement of the oral exam in case of illness is a matter for negotiation between you and your examiners and the *Magister-Prüfungsamt*.

10.2 *Lehramt*

10.2.1 Division of time among examiners

For S II the oral exam lasts 60 minutes and covers 4 *Teilgebiete* (the fifth has been the subject of the *Klausur*). This works out at about fifteen minutes for each *Teilgebiet*.

The *Vorsitzende(r)* decides "*im Benehmen mit den Prüferinnen und Prüfern die Dauer der Prüfung in den Teilen*" (LPO ' 20 (4)).

You will be confronted by one of the two cases:

(a) Each examiner covers two TG:

In this case you can expect each examiner to have roughly half of the time (i.e. about 30 minutes) at his/her disposal.

(b) One examiner covers three *Teilgebiete*, the other only one.

This happens when one examiner is responsible for e.g. two TGs in Literature and one in *Landeskunde*, the other examiner for two linguistic TGs, and you write your *Klausur* in one of these, leaving only one linguistic TG for the oral exam.

Our practice in Bielefeld in these cases is not to divide the time strictly according to the *Teilgebiete*, but for the examiner with 3 TGs to take up *less* time (say 35-40 minutes) and the one with only *one* TG to receive slightly *more* time (say 20-25 minutes).

10.2.2 Beginning the examination

The usual procedure here is for the *Vorsitzende(r)* to ask the examinee who he/she would prefer to begin the examination with.

10.2.3 Division of time by the individual examiner

You will normally have prepared one major topic (SP) per *Teilgebiet*. Your examiner may devote roughly equal time to each *Teilgebiet*, or the time may be weighted in favour of one *Teilgebiet*, which then functions as a kind of additional SP.

10.2.4 Postponement

There is a limit on how long the examination can be delayed IF your application for a *Referendariat* is to reach the *Regierungspräsidium* in time to be processed for the following year. The deadline is usually the second week in December.

11 Strategies and tactics

In advance:

- dress
- deportment

In the exam itself:

- turn-taking
- think about what to do if you don't know the answer to a question
- think about what to do if you don't understand a question
- time

12 Evaluation

12.1 *Magister*

12.2.1 *Lehramt* (1):

Some guidance as to what the examiners are supposed to be looking for has already been given under "Purpose" (' 5). However, the following is a list of aspects frequently commented on in the *mündliche Prüfung*:

- the ability to express oneself well
- *Abstraktionsfähigkeit*
- *Reflexionsfähigkeit*
- *Begründungen*, evidence
- broad knowledge of the area
- the ability to summarise concisely ("*auf den Punkt bringen*")
- factual knowledge
- flexibility - the ability to adjust to unexpected questions
- *Position beziehen / Eigenständigkeit*
- to shew "*wie ich mit Fragestellungen umgehe*"
- *welche Schwerpunkte ich setze*
- knowledge of:
 - relevant issues
 - the main positions in the debate
 - arguments
 - evidence
 - the sources
- grasp of questions and hypotheses
- understanding of methodology
- knowledge of data - experiments - results
- the relation of the topic to its context / background knowledge
- understanding of how your chosen issues relate to the area (*Bereich*) as a whole

12.2.2 *Lehramt* (2):

Since this was written, advice for the examiners has been circulated by the Ministry. It relates to LPO ' 20, and proposes the following major categories for evaluation:

1. *Sachkenntnisse*
2. *Begrifflichkeit*
3. *Reflexion*
4. *Diskussion*
5. *Präsentation*

13 Other points

- What happens to your *Konzeptpapier* after it has been handed in ?
 - When it comes to me, I:
 - check it for coherence
 - check it for completeness (identify any gaps)
 - check the relationship of the topic to its context
 - look for evidence of clear structure

- ask whether the topics are clearly distinguished from neighbouring areas in other subjects, such as *Allgemeine Didaktik*, Linguistics etc.

- In selecting my questions, I tend to begin at the edges, check formulations, definitions, etc.

13.1 *Lehramt*:

- How much influence does the *Vorsitzende(r)* have over your final mark ?

As an individual, not excessive - more in *Fachdidaktik*. The examination is a *Kollegialprüfung*; the mark is agreed on by all the examiners present.

And now -

Good luck !