Format of French MA exams

The exam will consist of two parts: a written portion followed by an oral defense.

**Written Portion.**

The written exams will be divided into the following lists:

Exam 1 (Monday): Medieval-Renaissance-17th century

Exam 2 (Wednesday): 18th century + Francophone

Exam 3 (Friday): 19th+20th/21st century

Students will have 24 hours to complete each of the three exams (with 24 hours in between). Students are allowed to consult and cite from relevant texts, incorporate secondary material, etc., use a dictionary, etc. They will electronically send each exam to the French faculty.

The written exam will be taken over three periods of 24 hours. Each exam will consist of two essays:

* One question about a specific theme, text, or author; and
* One broader “bridge” question that spans across the entire list

Each essay will contain an option; i.e., you will choose from one of two options for each essay. (ex.: students choose *either* the 18th century question *or* the Francophone question. Then the student will have his/her choice between two bridge questions and will be expected to cover *both* the 18th century *and* the Francophone list when answering this question)

**Oral Defense**

The week after students complete the written portion of the exam, they will have an oral defense of 60 minutes. Though admission to the oral defense normally takes place automatically after the written portion, the faculty reserves the right to ask a student to rewrite any portion of the exam before moving on.

The defense will consist of

* Follow-up questions about the student’s essays
* A discussion focusing on various themes, texts, and context central to each of the lists.

Directly following the oral exam, faculty will either give the student a grade of “pass”, or they will ask the student to rewrite one or more portions of the written exam.

**Timing of the Exam**

The written exams will be spread out over finals week (i.e., MWF of finals week), followed by an oral defense the next week. Students will be exempted from administering and grading the final exams for the courses they are TAing. The oral defense will take place **no later than a week** after the last written exam. Students wishing to take the exam at another (earlier) point during their final semester must make arrangements with faculty and are responsible for maintaining all teaching responsibilities and attending courses.

**Coursework**

Students taking the MA exam will complete shorter final projects in **each** of their classes. Details and timing of the assignments should be worked out with the instructor of each class.