

For students seeking the **MAT or MEd in English or English Language Arts**, here is the standard advice to follow to prepare for the comprehensive exam.

The comprehensive exam is composed of four pairs of two essay questions, and you choose to write on one from each of the four pairs of questions.

Each of the questions comes directly from the EH courses completed (as well as any JN or TH courses). So, test takers should review their coursework, and, if they're so inclined, contact their former professors to ask what sorts of questions to prepare for.

In order to pass the exam, test takers need to write four good, solid essays that address each question in its totality. Be sure to avoid surface-level grammatical and stylistic errors. Each of the four essays should be very solid and substantial, and each should treat all parts of the questions. It is highly recommended that each answer be multi-paragraph, in order to highlight the structure of the answer—try to avoid a simple information dump. Instead, provide an introduction that includes the thesis, followed by your supporting paragraphs, and conclude with your conclusion. Be specific. Most successful essays are approximately 700 words in length.