

Summer 2026

Recommendations for Entrance Exam Preparation

Candidates seeking assistance with the entrance exam would do well to familiarize themselves with the practice of close reading literary texts. Making and defending claims based on evidence from the text--in your own clear and academic prose--is the core of analytic writing in our department. To hone your skills, we suggest acquiring and reading two kinds of texts: 1- a good introductory textbook on the reading and writing and 2- a guide to academic analysis.

A very good textbook which we often use in first-year courses is *Digging into Literature* by Joanna Wolfe and Laura Wilder. It is easiest to buy it in an ebook format. Its exercises in the “Now Practice on Your Own” sections are especially helpful. The second type of section in the book worthy of consultation is the set of sample papers. Read those over and think of yourself as writing a version of these on the exam. The book can be found here: <http://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/Digging-into-Literature/p/1319117287?srsId=AfmBOopCRA2G04ZVKO1qYSQbu3cMS7u4Dfq3uV70N5PWvk1G6-IAAAh7>

To plan your essay, familiarize yourself with the difference between summary and analysis. Here is a good guide for that, with good links within the document itself: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hEN7yoY1A8CZyvbNLZphLCqHSBX5s68lMiSrWDgYjFc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.by078b4t83cd>

For any questions in regards to preparation for the entrance exams, you may contact Dr. Jennifer Lewin: jlewin@staff.haifa.ac.il .