



Major Field Exam in Russian Literature and Culture
Reading List (updated in 2023)

This reading list is **highly selective** and is meant for **consultation purposes only**. Its goal is to help students compile their individual reading lists for which they may choose primary and secondary sources not included below. Instructions regarding the composition of individual reading lists for the Russian major field exam can be found in the exam regulations posted on the Slavic Department's website.

Before 1700

Primary Sources

- Recommended editions

Dmitriev, L., D. Likhachev, eds. *Pamiatniki literatury drevnei Rusi*, 12 vols. Moscow: Nauka, 1978-88.

Likhachev, D., et al., eds. *Biblioteka literatury drevnei Rusi*, 19 vols. SPb: Nauka, 1997-2016.

Ol'shevskaia, L., S. Travnikov, eds. *Drevnerusskie Pateriki*. Moscow: Nauka, 1999.

- Individual works from the recommended editions above

“Khozhdenie Bogoroditsy po mukam.”

“Khozhdenie za tri moria Afanasiia Nikitina.”

Kievo-Pecherskii paterik.

Polotskii, Simeon. *Komediia pritcha o bludnom syne.*

“Povest' o boiaryne Morozovoi.”

“Povest' ob Ul'ianii Osorginoi.”

“Povest' o Frole Skobeeve.”

“Povest' o Gore-Zlochastii.”

“Povest' o Petre i Fevronii Muromskikh.”

“Povest' o Savve Grudtsyne.”

“Povest' o vziatii Tsar'grada turkami v 1453 godu.”

Povest' vremennykh let.

“Skazanie o Borise i Glebe.”

Slovo o polku Igoreve.

“Slovo o zakone i blagodati mitropolita Illariona.”

“Sud Shemiakin.”

Zadonschina.

“Zhitie Aleksandra Nevskogo.”

Zhitie protopopa Avvakuma.

“Zhitie Sergiia Radonezhskogo.”

“Zhitie Stefana Permskogo.”

Secondary Sources

Børtnes, J. *Visions of Glory: Studies in Early Russian Hagiography*. Oslo: Solum, 1988.

Bychkov, V., ed. *Khudozhestvenno-esteticheskaia kul'tura Drevnei Rusi*. Moscow: Ladomir, 1996.

Chizhevskii, D. *History of Russian Literature from the Eleventh Century to the End of the Baroque*. The Hague: Mouton, 1962.

Franklin, S. *Writing, Society and Culture in Early Rus, c. 920-1300*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002.

- Likhachev, D. *The Poetics of Early Russian Literature*, tr. C. Arden-Close. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2014.
- Likhachev, D. *Velikoe nasledie*, 2nd ed. Moscow: Sovremennik, 1979.
- Mann, R. *Lances Sing: A Study of the Igor Tale*. Columbus: Slavica, 1990.
- Martin, J. *Medieval Russia, 980-1584*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Miller, D. *Saint Sergius of Radonezh, his Trinity Monastery, and the Formation of the Russian Identity*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois UP, 2010.
- Panchenko, A. *Russkaia stikhotvornaia kul'tura XVII veka*. Leningrad: Nauka, 1973.

The Eighteenth Century

Primary Sources

- Recommended editions

Makogonenko, G., ed. *Russkaia literatura XVIII veka*. Leningrad: Prosveshchenie, 1970.

Makogonenko, G., I. Serman, eds. *Poety XVIII veka*, 2 vols. Leningrad: Sovetskii pisatel', 1972.

- Individual authors

Bogdanovich, Ippolit. *Dushen'ka* (1783).

Derzhavin, Gavriil. "Na rozhdenie v Severe porfirorodnogo Otroka" (1779); "Vlastiteliam i sudiiam" (1780); "Felitsa" (1782); "Na smert' kniazia Meshcherskogo" (1783); "Bog" (1784); "Osen' vo vremia osady Ochakova" (1788); "Vodopad" (1794); "Na vozvrashchenie grafa Zubova iz Persii" (1797).

Fonvizin, Denis. *Nedorosl'* (1782).

Kantemir, Antiokh. "Satira I. Na khuliashchikh uchenie. K umu svoemu" (1729); "Satira VII. O vospitanii. K kniazuiu Nikite Iur'evichu Trubetskomu" (1739).

Karamzin, Nikolai. *Bednaia Liza* (1792); *Pis'ma russkogo puteshestvennika* (1791-92; recommended edition: Eds. Iu. Lotman, B. Uspenskii. Leningrad: Nauka, 1984).

Lomonosov, Mikhail. "Oda na vziatie Khotina" (1739); "Veчерnee razmyshlenie o bozhiem velichestve" (1743); "Ia znak bessmertii sebe vozdvignul" (1747); "Pis'mo o pol'ze stekla" (1752).

Radishchev, Aleksandr. *Puteshestvie iz Peterburga v Moskvu* (1790); "Vol'nost" (1790).

Sumarokov, Aleksandr. "Kritika na odu" (1747); "Dve epistoly. V pervoi predlagaetsia o russkom iazyke, a vo vtoroi o stikhotvorstve" (1747); "Ody vzdornye I, II" (1759); *Dmitrii Samozvanets* (1771); "Nastavlenie khotiashchim byti pisateliami" (1774).

Trediakovskii, Vasilii. "Oda torzhestvennaia o sdache goroda Gdanska" (1734).

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Alekseeva, N. *Russkaia oda*. Moscow: Nauka, 2005.

Gasparov, M. *Oчерk istorii russkogo stikha*. Moscow: Nauka, 1984.

Golburt, L. *The First Epoch: The Eighteenth Century and the Russian Cultural Imagination*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2014.

Gukovskii, G. *Russkaia literatura XVIII veka*. Moscow: Uchpedgiz, 1939.

Karlinsky, S. *Russian Drama from Its Beginning to the Age of Pushkin*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.

Khodasevich, V. *Derzhavin* (1931), tr. A. Britlinger. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007.

1800-1850

Primary Sources

- Anthologies

Andrew, J., ed. *Russian Women's Shorter Fiction: An Anthology 1835-1860*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.

Rydel, C., ed. *The Ardis Anthology of Russian Romanticism*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1984.

Leighton, L., tr. & ed. *Russian Romantic Criticism: An Anthology*. NY: Greenwood Press, 1987.

- Individual Authors

- Baratynskii, Evgenii. Selected lyrical poetry; “Eda” (1826).
Belinskii, Vissarion. “Literaturnye mechtaniia” (1834).
Bestuzhev-Marlinskii, Aleksandr. “Večer na bivuake” (1823); “Ammalat Bek” (1832).
Gogol', Nikolai. *Večera na khutore bliz Dikan'ki* (1831-32); *Mirgorod* (1835); *Arabeski* (1835); “Nos” (1836); “Shinel” (1842); *Revizor* (1836); *Mertvye dushi* (vol.1, 1842).
Griboedov, Aleksandr. *Gore ot uma* (1825). English translation by Betsy Hulick (NY: Columbia UP, 2020).
Lermontov, Mikhail. Selected lyrical poetry, including “Na smert' poeta” (1837); “Valerik” (1840); “Demon” (1829-39); “Kniaginia Ligovskaia” (1836); *Geroi nashego vremeni* (1840).
Nekrasov, Nikolai, ed. *Fiziologiiia Peterburga* (1845).
Odoevskii, Vladimir. “Sil'fida” (1837); “Kosmorama” (1840).
Pavlova, Karolina. *Dvoinaia zhizn'* (1848).
Pushkin, Aleksandr. Selected lyrical poetry; “Kavkazskii plennik” (1822); “Tsygany” (1824); “Mednyi vsadnik” (1833/37); *Evgenii Onegin* (1825-32); *Boris Godunov* (1825/31); *Povesti Belkina* (1831); *Pikovaia dama* (1834); *Kapitanskaia dochka* (1836).
Senkovskii, Osip. *Fantasticheskie puteshestviia Barona Brambeusa* (1833).
Somov, Orest. “O romaticheskoi poezii” (1823).
Zhukova, Mariia. “Baron Reikhman” (1837).
Zhukovskii, Vasilii. “Svetlana” (1813).

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Cornwell, N., ed. *The Society Tale in Russian Literature*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1998.
Davidson, P., ed. *Russian Literature and Its Demons*. NY: Berghahn Books, 2010.
Eikhenbaum, B. “Literaturnyi byt” (1929); “Literatura i pisatel'” (1929).
Gukovskii, G. *Pushkin i russkie romantiki*, 2nd ed. Moscow: Intrada, 1995.
Ginzburg, Lidia. *O lirike*, 2nd ed. Leningrad: Sovetskii pisatel', 1974; *O psikhologicheskoi proze*. Leningrad: Khudozhestvennaia literatura, 1977.
Kahn, A., M. Lipovetsky, I. Reyfman, S. Sandler. *A History of Russian Literature*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2018.
Kurilov, A., ed. *Istoria romantizma v russkoi literature*, 2 vols. Moscow: Nauka, 1979.
Layton, S. *Russian Literature and Empire: Conquest of the Caucasus from Pushkin to Tolstoy*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994.
Lotman, Iu. *Izbrannye stat'i v trekh tomakh* (Tallinn: Aleksandra, 1992): “Simvolika Peterburga i problemy semiotiki goroda”; “‘Pikovaia dama’ i tema kart i kartochnoi igry v russkoi literature nachala XIX veka”; “Ideinaia struktura *Kapitanskoi dochki*”; “Teatr i teatral'nost' v stroe kul'tury nachala XIX veka”; “Dekabrist v povsednevnoi zhizni”; “O Khlestakove”; “Problema khudozhestvennogo prostranstva v proze Gogolia.”
Mann, Iu. *Dinamika russkogo romantizma*. Moscow: Aspekt Press, 1995.
Reifman, I. *How Russia Learned to Write: Literature and the Imperial Table of Ranks*. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 2016.
Todd, W. *Fiction and Society in the Age of Pushkin*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1986.
Tynianov, Iu. “Literaturnyi fakt” (1924); “O literaturnoi evoliutsii” (1927); *Pushkin* (1936).
Ungurianu, D. *Plotting History: The Russian Historical Novel in the Imperial Age*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007.

1850-1895

Primary Sources

- Anthologies

Kelly, C., ed. *An Anthology of Russian Women's Writing, 1777-1992*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1994.
Proffer, C., ed. *From Karamzin to Bunin: An Anthology of Russian Short Stories*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1969.

- Individual Authors

Aksakov, Sergei. *Semeinaia khronika* (1856).

Chekhov, Anton. *Step'* (1888), "Skuchnaia istoriia" (1889); "Palata no. 6" (1892); "Dama s sobachkoi" (1899); *Chaika* (1896); *Diadia Vania* (1898); *Tri sestry* (1900); *Vyshnevyyi sad* (1903).

Chernyshevskii, Nikolai. "Russkii chelovek na rendez-vous" (1858); *Chto delat'* (1863).

Dobroliubov, Nikolai. "Shto takoe obломovshchina?" (1859); "Luch sveta v temnom tsarstve" (1860); "Kogda zhe priidet nastoiashchyi den" (1860).

Dostoevskii, Fedor. *Bednye liudi* (1846), *Dvoinik* (1846); *Zapiski iz mertvogo doma* (1861); *Zapiski iz podpolia* (1864); *Prestuplenie i nakazanie* (1866); *Igrok* (1866); *Idiot* (1868); *Besy* (1872); *Podrostok* (1875); "Krotkaia" (1876); "Son smeshnogo cheloveka" (1877); *Brat'ia Karamazovy* (1880).

Fet, Afanasii. *Stikhotvoreniia* (1856).

Gertsen, Aleksandr. *Byloe i dumy* (1870).

Goncharov, Ivan. *Obyknovennaia istoriia* (1847); *Oblomov* (1859); *Obryv* (1869).

Khvoshchinskaia, Nadezhda. *Pansionerka* (1860).

Leskov, Nikolai. *Ledi Makbet Mtsenskogo uezda* (1864); *Soboriane* (1872); "Zapechatlennyyi angel" (1872); "Ocharovannyi strannik" (1873); "Levsha" (1881).

Nekrasov, Nikolai. Selected lyric poetry and "Moroz Krasnyi Nos" (1864); "Komu na Rusi zhit' khorosho" (1863-76); "O pogode," (1858-65).

Ostrovskii, Aleksandr. *Groza* (1860).

Pisarev, Dmitrii. "Bazarov" (1862).

Pisemskii, Aleksei. *Tysiacha dush* (1858).

Saltykov-Shchedrin, M. *Gospoda Golovlëvy* (1880).

Tolstoi, Lev. *Detstvo* (1856); *Kazaki* (1863); *Voina i mir* (1867); *Anna Karenina* (1877); "Smert' Ivana Il'icha" (1886); "Kreitserova sonata" (1889).

Tiutchev, Fedor. Selected lyrical poetry, including "O kak ubiistvenno my liubim," "Ne govori: Menia on, kak i prezhde, liubit," "Posledniaia liubov'" (all 1850); "Umom Rossiu ne poniat'" (1866).

Turgenev, Ivan. *Zapiski okhotnika* (1852); *Rudin* (1856); "Asia" (1858); *Dvorianskoe gnezdo* (1859); *Nakanune* (1860); *Otsy i deti* (1862); *Nov'* (1877).

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Bakhtin, M. *Problemy poetiki Dostoevskogo*, 2nd ed. Moscow: Sovetskii pisatel', 1963.

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Engelstein, L., S. Sandler, eds. *Self and Story in Russian History*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2000.

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Morson, G. *The Boundaries of Genre: Dostoevsky's Diary of a Writer and the Traditions of Literary Utopia*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981.

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1895-1956

Primary Sources

- Anthologies

- Adamovich, G. et al., eds. *Iakor'. Antologiiia russkoi zarubezhnoi poezii*. SPb: Aleteia, 2005.
- Bogomolov, N. et al., eds. *Ot simbolistov do oberiutov. Poeziia russkogo modernizma*. 2 vols. Moscow: Ellis Lak, 2000-2001.
- Gasparov, M., I. Koretskaia, eds. *Russkaia poeziia "serebriianogo veka," 1890-1917*. Moscow: Nauka, 1993.
- Gerasimov, Iu., Goncharova E., eds. *Literaturnye manifesty i deklaratsii russkogo modernizma*. SPb: Pushkinskii Dom, 2017.
- Livak, L., A. Ustinov, eds. *Literaturnyi avangard russkogo Parizha (1920-1926)*. Moscow: OGI, 2014.

- Individual Authors

- Annenskii, Innokentii. *Tikhie pesni* (1904); *Kiparisovy larets* (1910).
- Akhmatova, Anna. *Chetki* (1914); *Podorozhnik* (1921); *Anno Domini MCMXXI* (1921); "Rekviem" (1935-40); *Poema bez geroia* (1940-65).
- Andreev, Leonid. "Zhizn' Vasilliiia Fiveiskogo" (1903); "Krasnyi smekh" (1904); "Zhizn' cheloveka" (1907). *Babel'*, Isaak. *Konarmiiia* (1926); *Rasskazy* (1925-32).
- Bal'mont, Konstantin. *Goriashchie zdaniia* (1900); *Budem kak solntse* (1903).
- Belyi, Andrei. *Peterburg* (1913), ed. L. Dolgoplov. Moscow: Nauka, 1981.
- Blok, Aleksandr. *Stikhi o prekrasnoi dame* (1905); *Nechaiannaia radost'* (1907); *Skify* (1918); *Dvenadtsat'* (1918).
- Briusov, Valerii. *Chefs d'oeuvre* (1896); *Tertia Vigilia* (1900); *Urbi et Orbi* (1903).
- Bulgakov, Mikhail. *Belaia gvardiia* (1925); *Sobach'e serdtse* (1925); *Master i Margarita* (1940).
- Bunin, Ivan. *Listopad* (1901); *Sukhodol* (1912); "Mitina liubov'" (1925); *Temnye allei* (1946).
- Esenin, Sergei. *Radunitsa* (1916); *Sel'skii chasoslov* (1918); *Moskva kabatskaia* (1924); "Chernyi chelovek" (1925).
- Fadeev, Aleksandr. *Razgrom* (1926); *Molodaia gvardiia* (1946).
- Fedin, Konstantin. *Goroda i gody* (1924).
- Furmanov, Dmitrii. *Chapaev* (1923).
- Gazdanov, Gaito. *Vecher u Kler* (1930).
- Gippius, Zinaida. *Sobranie stikhov 1889-1903* (1904); *Zhivye litsa* (1925).
- Gladkov, Fedor. *Tsement* (1925).
- Gor'kii, Maksim. "Chelkash," "Starukha Izergil'" (1895); *Na dne* (1902); *Mat'* (1905).
- Gumilev, Nikolai. *Zhemchuga* (1910); *Chuzhoe nebo* (1912); *Koster* (1918).
- Il'f, Il'ia, Evgenii Petrov. *Dvenadtsat' stul'ev* (1928); *Zolotoi telenok* (1931).
- Ivanov, Georgii. *Rozy* (1931); *Otplytie na ostrov Tsiteru* (1937); *Raspad atoma* (1938).
- Ivanov, Viacheslav. *Kormchie zvezdy* (1903); *Cor ardens* (1912).
- Kaverin, Veniamin. *Skandalist* (1929); *Khudozhnik neizvesten* (1931); *Dva kapitana* (1940).
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- Kuzmin, Mikhail. *Kryl'ia* (1906); *Seti* (1908); *Forel' razbivaet led* (1929).
- Leonov, Leonid. *Vor* (1927); *Russkii les* (1953).
- Maiakovskii, Vladimir. *Oblako v shtanakh* (1915); *Prostoe kak mychanie* (1916); *Fleita pozvonochnik* (1916); *Voina i mir* (1917); "Klop" (1928).
- Mandel'shtam, Osip. *Kamen'* (1913); *Tristiia* (1922); *Shum vremeni* (1925).
- Merezhkovskii, Dmitrii. "O prichinakh upadka i o novykh techeniiaikh sovremennoi russkoi literatury" (1893); "L. Tolstoi i Dostoevskii" (1902); "Gogol' i chert" (1906).
- Nabokov, Vladimir. *Otchaianie* (1934); *Dar* (1937).
- Olesha, Iurii. *Zavist'* (1927); *Tri tolstiaka* (1928).
- Ostrovskii, Nikolai. *Kak zakalialas' stal'* (1934).
- Pasternak, Boris. *Sestra moia zhizn'* (1922); *Temy i variatsii* (1923); *Vtoroe rozhdenie* (1932); *Okhrannaia gramota* (1931).
- Pil'niak, Boris. *Golyi god* (1922).
- Platonov, Andrei. *Chevangur* (1927); *Kotlovan* (1930).
- Polevoi, Boris. *Povest' o nastoiashchem cheloveke* (1947).

Poplavskii, Boris. *Flagi* (1931); *Apollon Bezobrazov* (1932).
 Remizov, Mikhail. *Posolon'* (1907); *Vzvikhrennaia Rus'* (1927); *Po karnizam* (1929).
 Rozanov, Vasilii. *Legenda o velikom inkvizitore* (1906); *Uedinennoe* (1912); *Opavshie list'ia* (1913-15).
 Shklovskii, Viktor. *Zoo, ili pis'ma ne o liubvi* (1923); *Khod konia* (1923).
 Sholokhov, Mikhail. *Tikhii Don* (1929); *Podniataia tselina* (1932).
 Sologub, Fedor. *Stikhi* (1896); *Sobranie stikhov* (1904); *Melkii bes* (1905).
 Solov'ev, Vladimir. *Tri razgovora: o voine, progresse i kontse vseмирnoi istorii* (1900); "Tri svidaniia" (1898).
 Tolstoi, Aleksei. *Khozhdenie po mukam* (1922/1928).
 Tsvetaeva, Marina. *Lebedinyi stan* (1921); *Mólodets* (1924); *Posle Rossii* (1928); "Moi Pushkin" (1937).
 Vaginov, Konstantin. *Kozlinaia pesn'* (1928); *Trudy i dni Svistonova* (1929).
 Zabolotskii, Nikolai. *Stolbtsy* (1929); "Torzhestvo zemledelii" (1933).
 Zamiatin, Evgenii. *My* (1920); "Peshchera" (1920); "Ia boius" (1921).
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1956-1991

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 Aksenov, Vasilii. *Zvezdnyi bilet* (1961); *Ozhog* (1975).
 Aleshkovskii, Iuz. *Nikolai Nikolaevich* (1970).
 Bitov, Andrei. *Pushkinskii dom* (1971).
 Brodskii, Iosif. *Ostanovka v pustyne* (1970); *Konets prekrasnoi epokhi* (1977); *Novye stansy k Avguste* (1983).
 Chukovskaia, Lidiia. *Sof'ia Petrovna* (1940); *Spusk pod vodu* (1972).
 Dovlatov, Sergei. *Nashi* (1983); *Chemodan* (1986).
 Dragomoshchenko, Arkadii. *Nebo sootvetsvii* (1990).

Erofeev, Venedikt. *Moskva-Petushki* (1970).
 Erofeev, Viktor. *Zhizn' s idiotom* (1980); *Russkaia krasavitsa* (1982).
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 Ginzburg, Lidiia. *Chelovek za pis'mennym stolom* (1989).
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 Iskander, Fazil'. *Sozvezdie kozlotura* (1966); *Sandro iz Chegema* (1973).
 Kharitonov, Evgenii. *Pod domashnim arestom* (2005).
 Kibirov, Timur. *Obshchie mesta* (1990); *Kalendar'* (1991).
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 Limonov, Eduard. *Eto ia – Edichka* (1979).
 Maksimov, Vladimir. *Sem' dnei tvoreniia* (1971).
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 Okudzhava, Bulat. *Stikhotvoreniia* (2001).
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