M.A. PROGRAM IN ENGLISH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM PART II READING LIST
Last updated in 2020

BRITISH LITERATURE

PRE-1800

Medieval:
Beowulf
*The Dream of the Rood*
Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*; “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale”
*The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell*
*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Marie de France (Lanval, Bisclavet)
Malory, *The Death of Arthur*

Early Modern:
Shakespeare, *Macbeth* or *King Lear*; *As You Like It*
Marlowe, *The Jew of Malta* or *Dr. Faustus*; “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
Jonson, *Volpone*
Spenser, *Amoretti and Epithalamion*
Sidney, *Defense of Poesy*
Middle and Rowley, *The Changeling*
Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
Elizabeth I, “The Golden Speech” and “Speech to the Troops at Tilbury”

Late 17th – 18th Century:
Behn, *Oroonoko*
Wycherly, *The Country Wife*
Pope, *Rape of the Lock*
Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*; Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2
Swift, *A Modest Proposal*
Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative*
Johnson, *Rambler* no. 4 (“On Fiction”)
Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*
Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling*

POST-1800

Romantic – Early 19th Century:
Blake, "The Tyger"; "The Chimney Sweeper"
Wordsworth, “Preface” to *Lyrical Ballads*; “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey,”
Coleridge, “Rime of the Ancient Mariner”; “Kubla Khan”
Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”; “Ode to a Nightingale”; “To Solitude”
Byron, *Child Harold’s Pilgrimage*
Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Shelley, “A Defense of Poetry”; *Prometheus Unbound*

**Victorian:**
Carlyle, “Signs of the Times”
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Gaskell, *North and South* or *Cranford*
Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapters 1 and 2
Dickens, *Bleak House* or *Our Mutual Friend*
Rossetti, “Goblin Market”
Arnold, “Dover Beach”
Darwin, *The Descent of Man*, Part 1
Stoker, *Dracula*
Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**20th-Century Anglophone:**
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* or *The Secret Agent*
Joyce, *Ulysses* or *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; “Araby” and “The Dead” from *Dubliners*
Mansfield, “The Garden Party”; “Daughters of the Late Colonel”; “Bliss”
Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* or *To the Lighthouse*
Yeats, “Easter, 1916”; “The Second Coming”; “Sailing to Byzantium”
Forster, *A Passage to India*
Lawrence, “Rockinghorse Winner”; “The Prussian Officer”; “The Odour of Crysanthemums”
Tutuola, *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*
Beckett, *End Game*
Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Coetzee, *The Life and times of Michael K.*
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*

**AMERICAN LITERATURE**

PRE-1800

*Winnebago Trickster Cycle*
*Cabeza de Vaca, Relación*
John Smith, *General History of Virginia*
Mary Rowlandson, *Sovereignty & Goodness of God*
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*
Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative*

POST-1800

**Early 19th Century:**
- William Apess, “Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man”
- Emerson, “The Poet”
- Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”; “The Black Cat”
- Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”; “My Kinsman, Major Molineux”
- Douglass, *Narrative of the Life*
- Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”; *Benito Cereno*
- Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (sels)
- Thoreau, *Walden*, Ch. II
- Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”; “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed”
- Dickinson, #s 49, 67, 124, 199, 202, 216, 225, 241

**Late 19th Century:**
- Rebecca Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills*
- Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* Chapter 1 & 2
- Jose Marti, “Our America”
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
- Zitkala-Sa, *American Indian Stories*
- Stephen Crane, *Maggie*
- Sui Sin Far, "Mrs. Spring Fragrance"
- Abraham Cahan, *Yekl*

**20th Century:**
- Gertrude Stein, “The Gentle Lena”
- Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*
- Robert Frost, “Mowing”; “Mending Wall”
- Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*
- T.S. Eliot, “Prufrock”; “The Hollow Men”
- Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”; “Mother to Son”; “Weary Blues”
- William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”; “Barn Burning”
- Carlos Bulosan, *America Is in the Heart*, Ch. 16
- Zora Neale Hurston, “How It Feels to be Colored Me”
- Ralph Ellison, “Prologue” & Chapter 1 of *Invisible Man*
- Sylvia Plath, “Daddy”
- Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
- Joan Didion, “Slouching Toward Bethlehem”
- Luis Valdez, *Actos*
- Maxine Hong Kingston, “No Name Woman”
Louise Erdrich, “Fleur;” “Dear John Wayne”
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
Tim O’Brien, “How to Tell a True War Story”
Lorna Dee Cervantes, “Visions of Mexico”
Junot Diaz, “How to Date a Brown Girl (Black Girl, White Girl, or Halfie)”