

Literature/ Culture Component

Format

The Literature component of the exam is based on four excerpts from literary texts, two of which will be drawn by a student on the day of the exam. The texts are accompanied by a set of 5 questions as specified below. The students will be expected to choose one of these excerpts and answer the questions in a written form.

The texts will each come from one of the following four periods/literary and cultural traditions: English Medieval and Renaissance Literature; English Literature of the Enlightenment and Romantic Literature; Victorian, Modernist and Postmodernist English Literature; American Literature from the Nineteenth Century to the Present.

The texts could belong to any of the following genres: prose, epic, poetry, drama.

Word limit:

Prose – up to 350 words

Poetry – up to 30 lines

Drama – up to 350 words

The author will have been covered in the lectures and/or the seminars. If the excerpt comes from a novel, the work itself will have been discussed in the respective literature seminars during the course of study.

Five types of questions will be attached to each excerpt.

1. Questions focused on context: history, culture, genre, and/or tendency.
2. Questions focused on content: the position and the status of the excerpt within the work.
3. Questions focused on themes and ideas.
4. Questions focused on narrative techniques, imagery, rhyme, rhythm etc.
5. Questions focused on intertextual links and/or metatextual techniques.

Each of these may include subquestions designed to guide the students in their answers.

The students will be expected to write a coherent analytical response in which they should dwell on as many of the abovementioned questions as they can. The students will make their own choice as to whether they will structure their answer as a complete essay or as separate answers to each of the questions (i.e., in five mini essays). The answer to each question should not be less than 150-200 words. No conclusion is required when the responses to the five questions are integrated in an essay.

Learning objectives and expected outcomes

Our goal in this component goal is an integrated assessment of students' knowledge and skills acquired during the course of studies. These include the knowledge-based abilities to:

- think critically about the thematic content and the rhetorical strategies of literary texts
- discuss a literary text's form in relation to themes and ideas; attend to features of its style
- make meaningful links between text and context exhibiting sufficient and solid knowledge of the period-specific aspects of the literature in question and the history of English and American literature and culture
- add a broader intertextual and/or metatextual perspective to their analysis
- construct coherent written responses to specific questions
- confine oneself to statements that are relevant to the question at hand (no sweeping generalizations and empty rhetoric)
- use appropriate tone and language for an academic audience; apply appropriately the relevant stylistic terminology
- use a reasonably wide range of vocabulary and structure
- handle, with few or no mistakes, basic sentence elements such as complete sentences, verb/subject agreement, verb tenses, mechanics of quotations, and parallelism

Evaluation Benchmarks:

Context	20 points
Content	10 points
Themes and ideas	20 points
Form	20 points
Intertextual links and metatextual techniques	10 points
Accuracy, range of vocabulary and Structure	10 points

Total: 90 points

Selected bibliography:

Students are recommended to use all the reference material included in the respective course description. The descriptions and the bibliographies are available at the Department's website

<http://eas.uni-sofia.bg/>

A. English Medieval and Renaissance Literature

Medieval Literature:

1. Mincoff, Marco. *A History of English Literature* SV 820.9 MIN
2. Beadle, Richard. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Theatre* SV 792.0942
3. Brown, Peter (ed.). *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture* SVR 820.9001 COM
4. Godden, Malcolm. *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature* SV 829.0920
5. Pulsanio, Philip et al. (eds.). *A Companion to Anglo-Saxon Literature* SV 829.0922
6. Veldhoen, N. H. G. E. *Companion to Early Middle English Literature* SV 820.900120 VEL
7. Wallace, David et al. (eds.) *The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature* SVR 820.9001 CA

Renaissance Literature:

1. Mincoff, Marco. *A History of English Literature* SV 820.9 MIN
2. Hamilton, Donna B. (ed.) *A Concise Companion to English Renaissance Literature* SV 820.9003
3. Hattaway, Michael. *Renaissance and Reformations: An Introduction to Early Modern English Literature* SV 820.9003 HAT
4. Hattaway, Michael. *A Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture* SV 820.9003 HAT
5. Hattaway, Michael. *The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama* SV 822.309 CAM
6. Loewenstein, David et al. (eds.). *The Cambridge History of Early Modern English Literature* SVR 820.9003 CAM

B. English Literature of the Enlightenment and Romantic Literature

• Literature of the Enlightenment

1. Eagleton, Terry. *The English Novel: An Introduction*. London: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
2. Folkenflik, Robert, ed. *The English Hero: 1660-1800*. Cranbury: Associated University Presses, 1982.
3. McKeon, Michael. *The Origins of the English Novel 1600-1740*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins

- University Press, 1987.
4. Novak, Maximillian. *Daniel Defoe: Master of Fictions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
 5. Rawson, Claude. *Henry Fielding: Novelist, Playwright, Journalist, Magistrate*. Cranbury: Associated University Presses, 2010.
 6. Ray, William. *Story and History*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1990.
 7. Rogers, Pad, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Alexander Pope*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
 8. Smith, Frederick, ed. *The Genres of Gulliver's Travels*. Cranbury: Associated University Presses, 1995.
 9. Watt, Ian. *The Rise of the Novel*, London: Chatto and Windus, 1957.

- **Romantic Literature**

1. Abrams, M.H. *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1953.
2. ---. *Natural Supernaturalism. Tradition and Revolution in Romantic Literature*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co, 1971.
3. Day, Aidan. *Romanticism*. New York: Routledge, 1996.
4. Klancher, Jon, ed. *Concise Companion to the Romantic Age*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2009.
5. McCalman, Iain. *Oxford Companion to the Romantic Age*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
6. McGann, Jerome. *The Romantic Ideology. A Critical Investigation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

C. Victorian, Modernist and Postmodernist English Literature

• Victorian Literature

1. Sanders, Andrew. *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994
2. Adams, James Eli. *A History of Victorian Literature*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell: 2009.
3. Levine, George. *How to Read the Victorian Novel*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell: 2008.
4. *The Cambridge Companion* series on individual authors (available at BASRC).
5. Additional materials available on *The Victorian Web* <http://www.victorianweb.org/>

• Modernist Literature

1. Bradshaw & Dettmar (eds.). *The Blackwell Companion to Modernist Literature & Culture*, 2006.
2. Carter, Ronald & McRae, John. *The Routledge History of Literature in English*, 1997.
3. Baldick, Chris. *The Oxford English Literary History*, Vol. 10: The Modern Movement 1910-1940, 2004.
4. Whitworth, Michael H. *Reading Modernist Poetry*, 2010.
5. Marcus, Laura & Nicholls, Peter. *The Cambridge History of Twentieth Century English Literature*, 2004.

D. American Literature from the Nineteenth Century to the Present

1. Bercovitch, Sacvan (ed. et.al.) *The Cambridge History of American Literature*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Bigsby, C.W.E. *An Introduction to 20th c. American Drama*. Cambridge University Press. Volumes 1 & 2
3. Brooks, Cleanth, R. W. B Lewis, and Robert Penn Warren. *American Literature: the Makers and the Making*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1973.
4. Chase, Richard. *The American Novel and its Tradition*. New York: Doubleday, 1957

5. Danova, Madeleine. *Writers, Books, Readers. Twentieth-century American Literature*. Sofia: Polis, 2002.
6. Elliot, Emory (ed.et.al.) *Columbia Literary History of the United States*, 1988.
7. Lauter, Paul (ed. et. al.) *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. 4th edition,
8. Mathiessen, F.O. *American Renaissance. Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman*, 1941.
9. Reynolds, David. *Beneath the American Renaissance. The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville*. New York: Knopf, 1988
10. Sollors, Werner & Greil Marcus, ed. *A New Literary History of America*. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.
11. Sundquist, Eric. *American Realism: New Essays*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982
12. Walcutt, Cl. *American Literary Naturalism: A Stream Divided*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1956.

Online resources:

Outline of American Literature

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/outlines/literature-1991/>

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 8th edition

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/naal8/>

The Heath Anthology of American Literature, 5th edition

http://college.cengage.com/english/lauter/heath/4e/students/toc_5e/index.html

The Cambridge History of English and American Literature

<http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge/chapterindex.html>

The Literary Encyclopedia and Literary Dictionary

<http://www.litencyc.com>

E. British Society and Culture

1. Harvie, Christopher and H. C. G. Matthew. *Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
2. Higgins, M., C. Smith and J. Storey (eds.). *The Cambridge Companion to Modern British Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.
3. Morgan, Kenneth O. *Twentieth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
4. Paxman, Jeremy *The English: A Portrait of a People*. Penguin, 1998.
5. Ward, Paul. *Britishness since 1870*. London: Routledge, 2004.

F. Cultural History of the US

1. Fossum, Robert and John Roth (Eds). *American Ground: Vistas, Visions and Revisions,,* New York: Paragon House, 1988.

2. Tindall, George and David E. Shi (Eds). *America: A Narrative History*. Norton, 2009.
3. Bigsby, Christopher (Ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
4. Additional materials available at the official blog of the discipline: <http://chusasu.edublogs.org/>