

List of primary texts/authors for the State Exam 2025

Medieval Literature

1. Old English Poetry: *Beowulf*, *The Wanderer*.
2. The Gawain Poet: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.
3. William Langland: *Piers Plowman*.
4. Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*.
5. Medieval Mystery Plays: Anon., *The Wakefield Cycle*, *Secunda Pastorum*.
6. Medieval Morality Plays: Anon., *Everyman*.

Renaissance Literature

1. The Elizabethan Sonnet Sequence: Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*; Edmund Spenser, *Amoretti*; William Shakespeare, *The Sonnets*.
2. The Elizabethan Epic. Edmund Spenser: *The Faerie Queene*, Book Two.
3. Elizabethan Revenge Tragedy: Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*.
4. Elizabethan Heroic Tragedy. Christopher Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus*.
5. William Shakespeare, The Comedies: *As You Like It*.
6. William Shakespeare, The Tragedies: *Macbeth*.
7. Metaphysical Poetry: John Donne, *Songs and Sonnets*.
8. The Baroque Epic: John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

Enlightenment

1. Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*.
2. Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*.
3. Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*.
4. Laurence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*.

5. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*.

Romanticism

1. William Wordsworth. Poetry
2. S. T. Coleridge. Poetry
3. P. B. Shelley. Poetry.
4. John Keats. Poetry.
5. George Gordon Byron. Poetry

Victorian Literature

1. Charles Dickens. *Great Expectations*
2. Thomas Hardy. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
3. Robert Louis Stevenson. *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
4. Joseph Conrad. *Heart of Darkness*
5. Victorian Poetry: Alfred Tennyson and Robert Browning

20th-century British Literature

1. James Joyce. *Dubliners*
2. Virginia Woolf. *Mrs Dalloway*
3. Poetry: W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden
4. George Orwell. *1984*
5. William Golding. *Lord of the Flies*

American Literature (19th century)

1. Nineteenth-century American Poetry: Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.
2. Edgar A. Poe. “The Fall of the House of Usher”; “The Philosophy of Composition”.
3. Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The Scarlet Letter*.
4. Herman Melville. *Benito Cereno*.
5. Mark Twain. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
6. Henry James. “The Figure in the Carpet”; “The Art of Fiction”.
7. Kate Chopin. *The Awakening*.
8. Stephen Crane. *The Open Boat*.

American Literature (20th century)

1. Ernest Hemingway. *The Sun Also Rises*.
2. Francis Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*.
3. Eugene O’Neill. *Long Day’s Journey into Night*.
4. Zora Neale Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.
5. William Faulkner. *The Sound and the Fury*.
6. Tennessee Williams. *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
7. Kurt Vonnegut. *Slaughterhouse Five*.
8. Toni Morrison. *Beloved*.