

ENTRANCE EXAM SYLLABUS FOR M.A. IN ENGLISH
(INCLUSIVE OF ALL TEN PAPERS OF B.A. OPTIONAL ENGLISH)

Unit-1

SEMESTER I

Paper- 1: Poetry, Short Stories, and Literary Terms and Forms

William Shakespeare : Why is my Verse so Barren of New Pride
That Time of Year Thou may'st in me Behold

Christopher Marlowe: The Passionate Shepherd to His Love

Ben Jonson : On my First Son

John Milton : On His Blindness

Thomas Gray : Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard

John Keats : Ode on a Grecian Urn
: Ode to Psyche

Robert Browning : The Laboratory

Kelly Curiel : The Room (Mock Epic Poem)

Short Stories

Edgar Allan Poe : The Black Cat

Kate Chopin : The Story of an Hour

James Thurber : Unicorn in the Garden

Isaac Asimov : "Some Day"

A K Ramanujan : A Crow's Revenge, The Dove's Egg, The Monkey and the Crocodile(Selections from *Folktales from India*)

Ruskin Bond : The Kite Maker

Literary Terms and Forms

a) Sonnet; Elegy ; Ode ; Pastoral Poetry ; Parable ; Fable ; Myth ; Legend ; Science Fiction

b) W.H. Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Appendix IV: The Study of the Short Story

Suggested Reading:

M. H. Abrams : *A Glossary of Literary Terms*
Cleanth Brooks : *Understanding Poetry*
David Daiches : *A Critical History of English Literature, Volume 1: From the beginnings to Milton.*

Unit-2

SEMESTER II

Paper- 2: Poetry, Essays, and Literary Criticism

Poetry

Jonathan Swift : A Satirical Elegy on the Death of a Late Famous General

William Blake : The Clod and the Pebble

Robert Burns : Green Grow the Rashes

William Wordsworth : We are Seven
Repentance

S.T.Coleridge : Work without Hope

George Gordon, Lord Byron: She Walks in Beauty

Alfred, Lord Tennyson : The Woman's Cause is Man's' [From "The Princess"]

Essays

Francis Bacon : Of Great Place
Hilaire Belloc : The Crooked Streets
J.B.Priestley : On Doing Nothing
Anna Quindlen : Homeless

Criticism Literary

W. H. Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Chapter I: Some Ways of Studying Literature
Appendix iii: The Study of the Essay
• Focus also on: Figurative and Metaphorical Language/
Symbolism / Imagery/Satire/Irony/Allegory

Suggested Reading:

C.M. Bowra : *The Romantic Imagination*
M.H. Abrams : *A Glossary of Literary Terms*
Addison and Steele : *The Spectator: Essays*

Unit-3

SEMESTER III

Paper- 3: Poetry, Fiction, and Literary Criticism

Poetry

John Donne : 'A Valediction Forbidding Mourning'
: 'The Funeral'
George Herbert : 'Easter Wings'
Thomas Carew : 'Song: Ask Me No More'
Andrew Marvell : 'Definition of Love'
Henry Vaughan : 'Peace'
John Dryden : 'Happy the Man'
Alexander Pope : 'The Riddle of the World'

Fiction

Charles Dickens : *Oliver Twist*

Literary Criticism

W.H. Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Chapter II: "Some Ways of Studying Literature"

Helen Gardner : *The Metaphysical Poets*: "Introduction"

Suggested Reading:

T S Eliot : "Metaphysical Poets"

E M Forster : *Aspects of the Novel*

Virginia Woolf : "Modern Fiction"

Unit-4 SEMESTER IV

/Paper- 4: Prose, Fiction, and Literary Criticism

Prose

Swami Vivekananda: Address at the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago in 1893.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: Letter from Birmingham City Jail

George Orwell : Shooting an Elephant

Fiction

Jane Austen : *Northanger Abbey*

Fiction

Thomas Hardy : *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Literary Criticism

W.H. Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Chapter 4: "The Study of Prose Fiction"

Suggested Reading:

Jane Austen : *Pride and Prejudice*

Percy Lubbock : *The Craft of Fiction*
D.H. Lawrence : *Why the Novel Matters*

Unit-5

SEMESTER V

Paper- 5: Drama and Literary Criticism

Drama

Henrik Ibsen : *An Enemy of the People*

Drama

Bernard Shaw : *Arms and the Man*

Literary Criticism

W.H.Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Chapter 5: The Study of the Drama

Suggested Reading:

Christopher Innes : *Modern British Drama, 1890-1990*

George Bernard Shaw: *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*

Unit-6

SEMESTER V

Paper- 6: Poetry, Fiction, and Practical Criticism

Poetry

A.D. Hope : *Australia*

David Diop : *Africa*

Chinua Achebe : *Refugee Mother and Child*

Margaret Atwood : *'They are Hostile Nations'*

Derek Walcott : *'Dark August'*

- Sri Aurobindo : 'The Stone Goddess'
- A.K. Ramanujan : 'Small Scale Reflections on a Great House'
- Nissim Ezekiel : 'Very Indian Poem in Indian English'
- Kamala Das : 'My Grandmother's House'
- Arun Kolatkar : 'The Bus' (From *Jejury*)

Fiction

Rabindranath Tagore: *Gora*

Practical Criticism

(Two unknown prose passages)

Suggested Reading:

- William Walsh : *Introduction to Commonwealth Literature*
K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar: *Indian Writing in English*

Unit-7

SEMESTER V

Paper- 7: Poetry, Drama, and Literary Criticism

Poetry

- Walt Whitman : 'A Noiseless Patient Spider'
- Emily Dickinson: 'Hope is the Thing with Feathers'
- Robert Frost : 'Leaves Compared with Flowers'
- Wallace Stevens : 'Of Modern Poetry'
- Langston Hughes: 'I, Too'
- Donald Hall : 'My Son, My Executioner'
- Sylvia Plath : 'Mirror'

Gary Soto : 'Behind Grandma's House'

Drama

Arthur Miller : All My Sons

Literary Criticism

M. H. Abrams : *A Glossary of Literary Terms*
(Criticism - Theoretical; Practical; Impressionistic; Judicial; Mimetic; Pragmatic;
Expressive; Objective; Textual; New Criticism)

W.H. Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Chapter 6: The Study of Criticism and Valuation

Suggested Reading:

Arthur Miller : "Tragedy and the Common Man"

Cleanth Brooks: *Understanding Poetry*

Unit-8

SEMESTER VI

Paper- 8: Drama and Literary Criticism

Drama

Shakespeare : *Othello*

Shakespeare : *Taming of the Shrew*

Literary Criticism

Johnson : *Preface to Shakespeare*

Suggested Reading:

A.C. Bradley : *Shakespearean Tragedy*

Wilson Knight: *The Wheel of Fire*

Unit-9

SEMESTER VI

Paper- 9: Poetry and Literary Criticism

Poetry

G. M. Hopkins : God's Grandeur

W. B. Yeats : When you are Old

D. H. Lawrence: Piano

T. S. Eliot : Preludes

W.H. Auden : Lullaby

Seamus Heaney: Mid-Term Break

Literary Criticism

W.H. Hudson : *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*
Chapter 3 : On the Study of Poetry
Appendix ii: On the Treatment of Nature in Poetry

Practical Criticism (Unknown Poems)

Suggested Reading:

Frazer Ed: *Faber Book of Modern Verse* (Introduction)
The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry, Volume 1 (Introduction)

Unit-10

SEMESTER VI

Paper-10: Growth of English Language and Characteristics of Modern English

Identifying the Origin of Words

Growth of English Language

- The Origin of Language.
- The Nature and Function of Language.
- The Descent of the English Language.
- The Indo-European Family of Languages.
- English as part of the Germanic Family.
- Characteristics of Old English.
- Effects of the Norman Conquest on the English Language.
- Latin Influence on the English Language.
- Influence of French on the English Language.
- Greek Influence on the English Language.

- Influence of the Bible on the English Language.
- Shakespeare's Influence on the English Language.

Modern English

- Standard English.
- English as World Language.
- Influence of the Radio on the English Language.
- Influence of Television and Cinema on the English Language.

Suggested Reading:

Albert C. Baugh: *A History of the English Language*

C. L. Wrenn : *The English Language*

F. T. Wood : *An Outline History of the English Language*

N.Krishnaswamy and S.K.Verma: *Modern Linguistics – An Introduction*