

Department of English – University of Mysore
Syllabus for PhD Entrance Exam – September, 2011

Undertaking Research leading to the Award of PhD in English

In order to be eligible to undertake research that will lead to a PhD, prospective candidates are expected to write an entrance exam for 80 Marks and go through an interview process for 20 Marks. For the rest of the norms and regulations regarding enrollment and registration for research leading to PhD, candidates are requested to browse through the UoM website.

I. Objectives

The entrance exam and the interviews will examine and assess whether candidates:

- Have sufficient knowledge on subject-related ten areas which have been divided into ten Units here below;
- Are capable of critically analysing literary concepts and ideas, and
- Have the intellectual acumen to argue and articulate vis-à-vis areas chosen for research.

II. Syllabus in Ten Units

The subject-wise thrust areas accommodated within the Ten Units here below may be construed as reliable variables that could measure the capacity of prospective candidates and validate their aptitude to undertake research in the Dept. of English.

Unit I: Chaucer and the Renaissance:

- 1.1 The Canterbury Tales
- 1.2 Chaucer's narrative inspiration and his contribution to English Literature
- 1.3 Cultural and artistic features of the English Renaissance
- 1.4 Poetry, Drama, and Prose until Shakespeare
- 1.5 Contribution of Philip Sydney, Edmund Spenser and John Milton
- 1.6 The End of the Renaissance

Unit II: Shakespeare's Plays and Sonnets and the Metaphysical School

- 2.1 Diversity in Shakespeare's Plays and Sonnets
- 2.2 Shakespeare's Content and Art
- 2.3 Language and Thought in Shakespeare's Comedies and Tragedies
- 2.4 Last Plays of Shakespeare
- 2.5 The Metaphysical School

Unit III: The Restoration Period and the Augustan Age

- 3.1 Characteristics of the Restoration Literature
- 3.2 Dryden and Lyrical Poetry
- 3.3 Satire and the Satirical Spirit
- 3.4 The Neo-classical School of Poetry
- 3.5 Johnson and the Survival of Classical Dogma/Tradition

Unit IV: The Romantic and the Victorian Era

- 4.1 The Change in Literary Thought: Causes, Influences, and Characteristics
- 4.2 The Romantic Imagination: Poetry
- 4.3 Realism: The Victorian Novel

- 4.4 Prose: Intellectualism: Science and Political Literature
- 4.5 Victorian Poetry
- Unit V: The Modern Age
 - 5.1 G.M.Hopkins and W.B.Yeats as Precursors
 - 5.2 Imagism and Art as Visual Language: Ezra Pound
 - 5.3 Tradition and Modernity: T.S. Eliot and Seamus Heaney
 - 5.4 New Experiments in Poetry: W.H.Auden, Ted Hughes, and others
 - 5.5 Fiction: Joseph Conrad, E.M.Forster, James Joyce, Virginia Wolf, and D.H. Lawrence
- Unit VI: Literary Criticism
 - 6.1 Aristotle and Poetics
 - 6.2 Mathew Arnold and Functions of Criticism
 - 6.3 T.S. Eliot: Tradition and the Individual Talent / Metaphysical Poets
 - 6.4 Contemporary Theories: Structuralism, Deconstruction, Postcolonialism, and Feminism
 - 6.5 Myths as Archetypes, and Phenomenological and Psycho-analytic Criticism
- Unit VII: American Literature
 - 7.1 Post-war Unique American Style: Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, and Henry James
 - 7.2 Fiction: Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville and others
 - 7.3 Poetry: Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Wallace Stevens, and William Carlos Williams and others
 - 7.4 Drama: Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee
 - 7.5 Contemporary Black- American Literature: Toni Morrison, Alice Walker
- Unit VIII: New Literatures
 - 8.1 Australian: Patrick White, A.D.Hope, Judith Wright and Others
 - 8.2 Canadian: Margret Atwood, E.J Pratt and A.J.M. Smith
 - 8.3 African: Frantz Fanon, Chinua Achebe, N'Gugi and Others
 - 8.4 Caribbean: Wilson Harris, George Lamming, Derek Walcott
- Unit IX: Indian Writing in English
 - 9.1 Poetry: Toru Dutt, Kamala Das, A.K. Ramanujan, Nissim Ezekiel,
 - 9.2 Drama: Vijay Tendulkar, Mahesh Dattani and Girish Karnad
 - 9.3 Fiction: Then and Now
 - 9.4 Indian Poetics and Indian Contribution to Contemporary Critical Theories
 - 9.5 Dalit Literature and Dalit Aesthetics
- Unit X: English: Language and Linguistics
 - 10.1 Language as a Miracle / Properties of Human Language
 - 10.2 Phonological, Morphological, Semiotic, Semantic, Syntactical, and Graphic Features of Language
 - 10.3 ELT: Language-related Theories, Methods, Approaches, and Techniques
 - 10.4 Language and Narratology/ Language and Discourse Analysis
 - 10.5 Code-switching as a Linguistic and literary Device
 - 10.6 Sociolinguistics and Cultural Categories of Linguistics