

British Literature after 1789

Reading List for the Comprehensive Examination

Master of Arts in English, Pittsburg State University

You must read all 10 items in the Core List. In consultation with your faculty mentors, also choose 25 more items in the Auxiliary List for a total of 35 items. The comprehensive exam will cover those 35 items. The Graduate Advisor, your two faculty mentors and you should each keep a photocopy of the list.

Core List (Read all 10 items.)

1. **Wordsworth:** "Ode: Intimations of Immortality," "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" "Sonnet Composed Upon Westminster Bridge 1802," "The World is Too Much With Us, Late and Soon," "Lucy Gray," "Three years she grew," "Nutting," "We Are Seven," "Resolution and Independence," "I wandered lonely as a cloud," "London, 1802," "It is a beauteous evening," "The Ruined Cottage," "The Solitary Reaper," "Surprised by joy," "Strange fits of passion have I known," "She dwelt among untrodden ways," "Expostulation and Reply"; *The Prelude* (Books I & II); Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*
2. **Brontë:** *Wuthering Heights*
3. **Dickens:** *Bleak House*
4. **Tennyson:** *In Memoriam*
5. **Eliot:** *Middlemarch*
6. **Shaw:** *St. Joan*
7. **Joyce:** *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*
8. **Yeats:** "The Wild Swans at Coole," "The Second Coming," "Sailing to Byzantium," "Byzantium," "Among School Children," "Lapis Lazuli," "Easter 1916," "Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop" "The Stolen Child," "Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen," "Leda and the Swan," "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death," "Under Ben Bulbin," "Adam's Curse," "No Second Troy," "A Prayer for My Daughter"
9. **Beckett:** *Waiting for Godot*
10. **Gordimer:** *July's People*

Auxiliary List (Choose 25 items as directed.)

11. Romantic Novels (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Wollstonecraft:** *Maria, or the Wrongs of Woman*
- ☐ **Godwin:** *Caleb Williams*

- ☐ **Scott:** *Heart of Midlothian* or *Waverley*
- ☐ **Shelley:** *Frankenstein* or *The Last Man*

12. Gothic Novels (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Radcliffe:** *The Mysteries of Udolpho* or *The Italian*
- ☐ **Lewis:** *The Monk*
- ☐ **Austen:** *Northanger Abbey* and **Peacock:** *Nightmare Abbey*
- ☐ **Stoker:** *Dracula*

13. Early Romantic Poetry (Check 2 boxes.)

- ☐ **Blake:** *Songs of Innocence*, *Songs of Experience*, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
- ☐ **Coleridge:** "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," "Kubla Khan," "Frost at Midnight," "Dejection: An Ode," "The Eolian Harp," "Christabel," "France: An Ode," "To William Wordsworth," "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison," "Limbo," "The Pains of Sleep," "Work Without Hope," "On Donne's Poetry," "Epitaph," "Phantom"
- ☐ **Anna Letitia Barbauld:** "A Summer's Evening Meditation," "The Rights of Woman," "To a Little Invisible Being Who Is Expected Soon to Become Visible," "Washing-Day," "Life" OR **Charlotte Smith:** "Elegiac Sonnets," "Written at the Close of Spring," "To Sleep," "To Night"

14. Later Romantic Poetry (Check 2 boxes.)

- ☐ **Byron:** "Vision of Judgment," "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," "She walks in beauty," "Prometheus," "Cain," "Beppo," "So we'll go no more a-roving," "January 22nd. Missolonghi"; *Don Juan* (selections); *Manfred*
- ☐ **Keats:** "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Ode to a Nightingale," "The Eve of St. Agnes," "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "Sleep and Poetry," "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," "Lamia," "Ode on Melancholy," "Endymion: A Poetic Romance" (Preface and Book 1), "Ode on Indolence," "To Autumn," "The Fall of Hyperion: A Dream," "Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art," "When I have fears that I may cease to be," "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles," "Sonnet to Sleep," "Why did I laugh to-night? No voice will tell," "To Homer"
- ☐ **Shelley:** "Ode to the West Wind," "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty," "Adonais," "Ozymandias," "To a Sky-lark," "Queen Mab," "The Two Spirits: An Allegory," "Mutability," "The Triumph of Life," "To Wordsworth," *Prometheus Unbound*
- ☐ **Felicia Hemans:** "England's Dead," "The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England," "Casabianca," "The Homes of England," "A Spirit's Return" OR **Letitia Landon:** 12-18 major poems, including the following: "The Proud Ladye," "Love's Last Lesson," "Revenge," "The Little Shroud"

15. Criticism and Essays (Check 3 authors, with at least one each from group.)

Group 1: (Check 3 boxes)

- ☐ **Wollstonecraft:** *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
- ☐ **Dorothy Wordsworth:** selections from her journals
- ☐ **Coleridge:** excerpts from *Biographia Literaria*
- ☐ **Shelley:** *Defence of Poetry*
- ☐ **Keats:** *Letters* (selections)

Group 2: (Check 3 boxes)

- ☐ **Carlyle:** *Sartor Resartus* (excerpts)
- ☐ **Ruskin:** *Modern Painters* (excerpts); *The Stones of Venice* (excerpts)
- ☐ **Newman:** *The Idea of a University* (excerpts)

- ☐ **Arnold:** from *Culture and Anarchy*
- ☐ **Pater:** *The Renaissance* (excerpts)
- ☐ **Mill:** *On Liberty* (excerpts) **or** *The Subjection of Women* (excerpts)

16. Victorian Poetry (Check 3 boxes.)

- ☐ **Browning:** "The Bishop Orders His Tomb," "Fra Lippo Lippi," "Andrea del Sarto," "My Last Duchess," "Porphyria's Lover"; Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came; from *The Ring and the Book*: Count Guido Franceschini, Giuseppe Caponsacchi, Pompilia, The Pope
- ☐ **Tennyson:** "The Lotus-Eaters," "Ulysses," "Mariana," "The Lady of Shalott," "Tithonus," "The Charge of the Light Brigade," "Maud; a Monodrama," "Locksley Hall," "Crossing the Bar"; from *Idylls of the King*: "The Coming of Arthur"
- ☐ **C. Rossetti:** *The Goblin Market*, "Song," "After Death," "Dead Before Death," "Cobwebs," "A Triad," "In an Artist's Studio," "Winter: My Secret," "No, Thank You, John," "Cardinal Newman," "Sleeping at Last," "In Progress"
- ☐ **Arnold:** "The Scholar Gypsy," "Dover Beach," "The Strayed Reveller," "The Buried Life," "The Scholar-Gipsy," "Thyrsis," "Rugby Chapel," "Isolation. To Marguerite," "To Marguerite — Continued," "Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse," "Memorial Verses," "Growing Old"
- ☐ **E.B. Browning:** *Aurora Leigh* (Books 1, 2, and 5), *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (selections)

17/18. Victorian Novel (Check 2 boxes.)

- ☐ **Brontë:** *Jane Eyre* **or** *Villette*
- ☐ **Dickens:** *Little Dorrit* **or** *Great Expectations*
- ☐ **Thackeray:** *Vanity Fair*
- ☐ **Eliot:** *The Mill on the Floss*
- ☐ **Hardy:** *The Return of the Native* **or** *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* **or** *Jude the Obscure*

19. Modernist Novel (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Lawrence:** *Sons and Lovers* **or** *The Rainbow* **or** *Women in Love*
- ☐ **Forster:** *A Passage to India*
- ☐ **Joyce:** excerpts from *Ulysses*
- ☐ **Conrad:** *Nostromo* **or** *The Secret Agent*

20. Woolf (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ *Mrs. Dalloway*
- ☐ *To the Lighthouse*
- ☐ *The Waves*

21. Shaw (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ *Pygmalion*
- ☐ *Heartbreak House*
- ☐ *Major Barbara*

22/23. Short Fiction (Check 1 box in each of the 2 groups.)

Group 1: Modern Authors (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Conrad:** *Heart of Darkness*
- ☐ **Joyce:** "Eveline," "Clay," "Ivy Day in the Committee Room," "The Dead", "Araby"
- ☐ **Mansfield:** "Bliss," "Miss Brill," "The Daughters of the Late Colonel," "The Garden Party," "The

Doll's House."

- ☐ **Maugham:** "Rain," "The Letter," "The Luncheon," "The 3 Fat Women of Antibes," "P&O"
- ☐ **Lawrence:** "The Horse Dealer's Daughter," "Rocking Horse Winner," "Odour of Chrysanthemums"

Group 2: Contemporary Authors (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **A. Munro:** Any book collection, such as *The Progress of Love* or *The Beggar Maid* or *The Moons of Jupiter*
- ☐ **Byatt:** *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*
- ☐ **Carter:** *The Bloody Chamber*

24/25. Other Non-Modernist Novels (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Maugham:** *Of Human Bondage* or *The Razor's Edge*
- ☐ **Orwell:** 1984 or *Animal Farm*
- ☐ **Waugh:** *Decline and Fall* or *Vile Bodies*
- ☐ **Mitford:** *The Pursuit of Love* or *Love in a Cold Climate*
- ☐ **Huxley:** *Brave New World*
- ☐ **Greene:** *Power and the Glory* or *Brighton Rock*

26/27. Late Victorian and Early Modern Drama (Check 2 boxes.)

- ☐ **Gilbert:** *Iolanthe*
- ☐ **Wilde:** *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- ☐ **Yeats:** *Cathleen ni Houlihan* AND *On Baile's Strand* AND *The Death of Cuchulain*
- ☐ **Pinero:** *Trelawny of the Wells* or *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*
- ☐ **Barrie:** *What Every Woman Knows* or *Dear Brutus*
- ☐ **Galsworthy:** *Justice*
- ☐ **Synge:** *The Playboy of the Western World*
- ☐ **O'Casey:** *Juno and the Paycock*
- ☐ **Maugham:** *The Constant Wife* or *The Circle*
- ☐ **Coward:** *Private Lives* or *Hay Fever*

28/29. Modern Poetry (Check 2 boxes.)

- ☐ **Hopkins:** "God's Grandeur," "The Windhover," "Pied Beauty," "No Worst, There is None," "Spring and Fall," "Thou art indeed just, Lord," "That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire," "Felix Randal," "As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame," "I Wake and Feel the Fell of Dark, Not Day," "My Own Heart Let Me More Have Pity On," "Carrion Comfort," "Hurraging in Harvest"
- ☐ **Hardy:** "The Ruined Maid," "Tess's Lament," "A Commonplace Day," "In Tenebris I, II, III," "Are You Digging on My Grave?," "The Convergence of the Twain," "Channel Firing," "The Darkling Thrush," "Last Words to a Dumb Friend," "Hap," "In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations,'" "Domicilium," "I Look Into My Glass," "Wessex Heights," "The Strange House"
- ☐ **World War I poetry:** Brooke: "The Dead," "The Soldier"; Thomas: "The Private"; Owen: "Dulce et decorum est," "Anthem for Doomed Youth," "Futility," "Strange Meeting," "Disabled," "Insensibility"; Sassoon: "Glory of Women," "Their Frailty," "Repression of War Experience," "Base Details," "Counter-Attack," "Blighters," "They"; Read: "The Happy Warrior"; Rosenberg: "Break of Day in the Trenches," "Louse Hunting," "Dead Man's Dump"; Gurney: "The Silent One," "The Bohemians," "Strange Hell"; Blunden: "1916 Seen from 1921"; Graves: "When I'm Killed," "1915," "The Next War"
- ☐ **Graves:** "Ogres and Pygmies," "Ulysses," "To Juan at the Winter Solstice," "The White Goddess," "Warning to Children," "Sick Love" (alternate title: "O Love in Me"), "The Cool Web," "Flying Crooked" "Down, Wanton Down!" "A Slice of Wedding Cake" (alternate: "Bitter Thoughts on Receiving a Slice of Cordelia's Wedding Cake"), "The Persian Version"

- ☐ **Auden, Spender, MacNeice, Day-Lewis:**
Auden: "In Memory of WB Yeats," "The Shield of Achilles," "Musee des beaux arts," "September 1, 1939," "Petition," "Funeral Blues" [Stop all the clocks], "Consider this and in our time," "Spain," "In Memory of Sigmund Freud," "In Praise of Limestone," "Lullaby," "Law like Love," "Our Hunting Fathers," "As I walked out one evening," "Ode to Terminus"; **Spender:** Icarus (called "Airman"), "What I Expected," "The Express," "The Pylons," "An Elementary School Classroom (in a Slum)," "Auden's Funeral," "Louis MacNeice," "In Railway Halls"; **Louis MacNeice:** "Snow," "Carrickfergus," "Sunlight on the Garden," "Meeting Point," "Soap Suds," "An Eclogue for Christmas"; **Day-Lewis:** "Sheepdog Trials in Hyde Park" & "Walking Away"

30. Contemporary Novel (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **McEwan:** *Amsterdam* **or** *Atonement*
☐ **Murdoch:** *The Unicorn*, **or** *The Sea, The Sea*, **or** *A Severed Head*
☐ **Brookner:** *Hotel du Lac*
☐ **Rushdie:** *Midnight's Children*
☐ **Lodge:** *Nice Work*
☐ **Pym:** *Excellent Women*
☐ **Fowles:** *The French Lieutenant's Woman* **or** *The Magus*
☐ **K. Amis:** *Lucky Jim*
☐ **Ackroyd:** *Chatterton* **or** *Hawksmoor*
☐ **Barnes:** *Flaubert's Parrot*
☐ **Carter:** *Heroes and Villains* **or** *Nights at the Circus*
☐ **Winterson:** *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* **or** *Passion*

31. Expatriate and Post-Colonial Contemporary British Novel (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Atwood:** *Cat's Eye*, *Lady Oracle*, **or** *The Robber Bride*
☐ **Rhys:** *Wide Sargasso Sea*
☐ **Coetzee:** *Disgrace*, **or** *Life and Times of Michael K*
☐ **White:** *Voss*
☐ **Hulme:** *The Bone People*
☐ **Ondaatje:** *The English Patient*
☐ **Naipaul:** *In a Free State*

32. Contemporary drama (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Pinter:** *The Birthday Party* **or** *The Homecoming*
☐ **Osborne:** *Look Back in Anger*
☐ **Shaffer:** *Equus* **or** *Amadeus*
☐ **Orton:** *Entertaining Mr. Sloan* **or** *Loot*
☐ **Churchill:** *Cloud Nine* **or** *Top Girls*
☐ **Bond:** *Lear*
☐ **Hare:** *Plenty*
☐ **Stoppard:** *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*
☐ **Ayckbourn:** *Absurd Person Singular*
☐ **Friel:** *Dancing at Lughnassa*

33/34. Contemporary Poetry (Check 2 boxes.)

- ☐ **Larkin:** "Toads," "Church Going," "Mr. Bleaney," "An Arundel Tomb," "The Whitsun Weddings," "Home Is So Sad," "MCMXIV," "Talking in Bed," "A Study of Reading Habits," "Ambulances," "Toads Revisited," "Dockery and Son," "High Windows," "Annus Mirabilis," "Sad Steps," "The Explosion," "This Be the Verse," "Aubade"

- ☐ **Thomas:** "Fern Hill," "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night," "After the Funeral," "A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London," "The Force that Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower," "The Hand that Signed the Paper," "After the Funeral," "The Hunchback in the Park," "The Conversation of Prayer," "In My Craft or Sullen Art," "Over Sir John's Hill," "Poem in October," "Light breaks where no sun shines"
- ☐ **Hughes:** "Thought-Fox," "Pike," "Pibroch," "Wodwo" and **10 other poems chosen from the following:** "Wind," "Relic," "Examination at the Womb Door," "River," "Walt," "View of a Pig," "Out," "Crow Hears Fate Knock on the Door" (from *Crow*), "Flounders"; four poems from *Gaudete*: "Collision with the earth has finally come," "I see the oak's bride," "The grass-blade is not without", "Your tree—your oak"; "Thistles," "Full Moon and Little Frieda," "A Childish Prank" (from *Crow*), "February 17th" "Telegraph Wires"
- ☐ **Heaney:** "Requiem for the Croppies," "The Tollund Man," "Death of a Naturalist," "Digging," "Casualty," "The Skunk"; from *Station Island*: "VII" and "XII," "Personal Helicon," "Bogland," "North," "Singing School" (1-6)
- ☐ **Muldoon:** "Hedgehog," "Identities," "The Weepies," "Cuba," "The Boundary Commission," "Anseo," "Why Brownlee Left," "Truce," "Immram," "The Sightseers," "Quoof," "The Frog," "Aisling," "The Coney," "Meeting the British"
- ☐ **Stevie Smith:** "No Categories!," "Mr. Over," "Not Waving But Drowning," "The Celts," "Thoughts About the Person from Porlock," "Pretty," "My Hat," "Souvenir de Monsieur Poop," "Pad, Pad," "Scorpion," "The New Age," "Our Bog is Dood," "Deeply Morbid," "Nor We of Him to Her"
- ☐ **Walcott:** "Origins," "A Far Cry from Africa," "Ruins of a Great House," "The Castaway," "The Flock," "Forest of Europe," "Crusoe's Island," "The Schooner Flight," "Tales of the Islands," "Names," "The Sea is History," "Homecoming: Anse La Raye," "The Star-Apple Kingdom," "The Fortunate Traveller," "The Season of Phantasmal Peace"

35. Twentieth-Century Prose (Check 1 box.)

- ☐ **Brittain:** Selections from *Testament of Youth*
- ☐ **Woolf:** *A Room of One's Own*
- ☐ **Forster:** Selections from *Aspects of the Novel* **and** *Abinger Harvest*
- ☐ **Orwell:** "Politics and the English Language," "Shooting an Elephant," "Marrakech," "Such, such were the joys ...," "A Hanging," "Shooting an Elephant," "My Country Right or Left"
- ☐ **Graves:** Selections from *Goodbye to All That* **and** *The Lost Weekend*
- ☐ **Rebecca West:** Selections from *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* **and** *The Meaning of Treason*
- ☐ **Martin Amis:** Selections from *Visiting Mrs. Nabokov*, *The War Against Cliché*, **and** *Experience*