GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- General knowledge of literary history.
- Understanding of the historical, social and political development of English speaking countries, as reflected in the writing of the period.
- Students will submit a reading list

Students are expected to give a survey of the periods and genres listed below. Students are expected to show deeper understanding of the topics covered in the literature and background study courses and they should be able to illustrate their answers by examples from their reading.

Each topic should be represented at least by one title on the reading list; the reading list should include minimally 25 titles. Students are allowed to consult their reading journals during the twenty-minute preparation for the exam.

EXAMINATION TOPICS

*English Literature*

1) **Elizabethan Theatre:** William Shakespeare

2) **Britain in the 18th-century and its literature**
   The development of the novel: D. Defoe, J. Swift, S. Richardson, H. Fielding, L. Sterne
   Other writers of your choice

3) **19th-century poetry**
   Romantic poetry: W. Blake, R. Burns, W. Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, Lord Byron, P.B. Shelley, J. Keats
   Other writers of your choice

4) **The Victorian Era, its values and problems**
   Other writers of your choice

5) **Changes in Britain at the turn of the century**
   Late Victorian and Edwardian novel: T. Hardy, O. Wilde,
   Other writers of your choice

6) **Britain at the beginning of the 20th century and the Irish question**
Poetry: T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats
Other writers of your choice

7) **Britain between the wars, the decline of the Empire and its reasons**

**Novel:** G. Greene, E. Waugh, E. Bowen, A. Powell, A. Huxley, G. Orwell
Other writers of your choice

8) **Post-war Britain and its novelists** *(this topic should be based on your reading experience).*

Angry Young Men (K. Amis, J. Braine, A. Sillitoe...)
W. Golding, L. Durrell, M. Spark, I. Murdoch, D. Lessing, C. P. Snow,
University novel: M. Bradbury, D. Lodge

**Postmodern literature and postcolonial literature:**
M. Spark A. Carter, J. Winterson, A. Brookner
Other writers of your choice

9) **20th-century drama:**

O. Wilde, G.B. Shaw, S. O’Casey, J.M. Synge
*After World War II:* J. Osborne, A. Wesker, P. Shaffer, A. Ayckbourn, T. Stoppard
*The Theatre of the Absurd:* S. Beckett, H. Pinter
Other writers of your choice

**American Literature**

1) **American Renaissance and Explorations of “American” Self, Transcendentalism.**
Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau

2) **The Birth of Modern Poetry**
E.A. Poe, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson

3) **E. A. Poe – the representative of the Dark Romanticism**
Flowering of narrative (N. Hawthorne and H. Melville)

4) **Realism and regionalism, national voices in the Post Civil War Era of Reconstruction**
Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sherwood Anderson, Willa Cather, Luisa May Alcott
Other writers of your choice

5) **Naturalism in American fiction (relevance to socio-political issues of the era)**
Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser, Jack London, Frank Norris, Sinclair Lewis, John Steinbeck,
Pearl, S. Buck, Erskine Caldwell
Other writers of your choice

6) **Writers of the Twenties and Thirties**
*Lost Generation:* Francis Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway.
John Dos Passos, John Steinbeck, Thomas Wolfe, Henry Miller
*Southern writers:* William Faulkner, Eudora Welty
Other writers of your choice
7) The Twentieth-Century. African American writers
Other writers of your choice

8) Contemporary American fiction and drama
This topic is based on your own reading experience. Be ready to discuss the contemporary writers from your reading list. Focus on 2 – 3 authors and set their works in the cultural and historical contexts.
(J.D. Salinger, Norman Mailer, John Irving, John Cheever, John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, William Styron, Kurt Vonnegut, E.L. Doctorow; Jewish-American Writers: Saul Bellow, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth etc.).
American Theatre
Eugene O’Neill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller,
The Theatre of the Absurd - Edward Albee

Recommended reading:
· BARNARD, R. Stručné dějiny anglické literatury, Brána, Praha, 1997
· GOWER, R. Past into Present, Longman, 1990
· HILSKÝ, M. Současný britský román, Torst, 1995