

## English Literature 7171 Syllabus

*This subject may be taken at both the May/June and January examinations.*

### Rationale for the syllabus

The study of English Literature enables students to be introduced to drama, poetry and prose and provides an introduction to the writer's craft. In taking this course students will have the opportunity to read literature in English from various periods and cultures. The course encourages in-depth study of texts and critical and personal responses to what has been read. The course can make a key contribution to developing the spiritual, moral and social education of students. It can also serve to broaden students' awareness of a variety of cultures.

One main difference between this syllabus and the previous one is that Edexcel have produced a poetry anthology to accompany this examination. Candidates will be required to study a selection of twenty poems contained in the anthology. Additional copies of the *Edexcel Poetry Anthology* may be ordered from the Edexcel Publications Catalogue, Order Code UO 010980.

Another difference is that candidates are required to study one pre-1950 prose text and one post-1950 prose text. In other respects, the syllabus is similar to the previous one, and it will be apparent that the style of question used in the new examination is very similar to that which has been used in previous examinations.

### Aims

The following statement of aims describes the educational purpose of following an examination course in English Literature. Not all of these aims can be translated readily into assessment objectives.

The syllabus gives candidates the opportunity to:

- (a) engage with and respond to literary experience;
- (b) develop a critical appreciation of the writer's craft through close textual study and through wide reading;
- (c) explore through literature the cultures of their own and other societies;
- (d) explore literature as a means of emotional and intellectual growth.

### Assessment objectives and weightings

Candidates should be able to demonstrate:

		Section Weighting		
		A	B	C
AO1	a close knowledge of texts and the contexts in which they were written	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
AO2	the ability to communicate focused, sensitive, lively and informed personal response	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
AO3	some understanding and appreciation of authors' uses of the following as appropriate: characterisation, narrative, plot, setting and language	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%

## Scheme of Assessment

There will be one paper of two and a half hours consisting of four sections, A, B, C and D. Candidates must answer four questions, choosing one from Section A, one from Section B, one from Section C and one from Section D. All questions will be equally weighted. Candidates should not use substantially the same material in more than one answer. Candidates may not bring copies of any texts into the examination.

## Syllabus Content

Texts or authors marked \* in this syllabus have been newly selected for May/June 2003 and January 2004 and will also be selected for May/June 2004 and January 2005; other texts may also be chosen for a further year.

### Section A: Drama

Candidates must study one play from the list given. Four plays will be selected, two of which will be by Shakespeare. Three alternative questions will be set on each play. One question on each of these plays will consist of a substantial passage from the play with an invitation to candidates to write about the significance of the passage in the play.

Candidates must answer one question only from this section.

The following plays have been selected for May/June 2003 and January 2004:

- Shakespeare: *Macbeth*
- Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*
- R C Sherriff: *Journey's End*\*
- Tennessee Williams: *The Glass Menagerie*\*

### Section B: Poetry

Candidates must study the poems in the *Edexcel O Level Poetry Anthology*. The Anthology consists of a selection of twenty poems. The poems set in the Anthology are listed on page 5. Three questions will be set, requiring candidates to write detailed and extended examinations of poems they have studied. One question will be set on an unprepared poem not in the Anthology, which will be printed in the examination paper.

Candidates must answer one question only from this section.

### Section C: Prose Pre-1950

Candidates must study at least one book from Section C, Pre-1950 Texts. Five books will be selected, one of which will be a collection of short stories to be studied as a complete work. Two alternative questions will be set on each text.

Candidates must answer one question from this section.

The following books have been selected for May/June 2003 and January 2004:

- Thomas Hardy: *Far From the Madding Crowd*
- Nineteenth Century Short Stories \* edited by Mike Hamlin, Christine Hall and Jan Browne (Heinemann New Windmills)

- Aldous Huxley: *Brave New World*\*
- Jane Austen: *Northanger Abbey*\*
- F Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*\*

#### *Section D: Prose Post-1950*

Candidates must study at least one book from Section D, Post-1950 Texts. Five books will be selected, one of which will be a collection of short stories to be studied as a complete work. Two alternative questions will be set on each text.

Candidates must answer one question from this section.

The following books have been selected for May/June 2003 and January 2004:

- M Taylor: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- Gita Mehta: *A River Sutra*
- Nadine Gordimer: *July's People*
- Gerald Durrell: *My Family and Other Animals*\*
- John Wyndham: *The Chrysalids*\*

#### **Grade Criteria**

##### *Grade A*

Candidates will be able to:

##### AO1

- demonstrate evidence of very close reading of texts
- make use of close reference and apt quotations to support points made throughout
- make appropriate reference to the social, historical and cultural context of texts
- demonstrate an appropriate selection of material.

##### AO2

- demonstrate evidence of mature understanding of themes, technique, structure, character and events
- demonstrate a sophisticated appreciation of the writer's craft
- demonstrate appropriate use of technical vocabulary, particularly in relation to the poetry section
- demonstrate analytical interpretative skills.

##### AO3

- provide evidence of an informed personal response
- write in a focused way on the terms of the question
- make clearly identifiable points, all of which are appropriate to the question
- present accounts and arguments with clarity and conviction

- convey ideas coherently and with flair
- demonstrate a sophisticated use of standard English.

### *Grade C*

Candidates will be able to:

#### AO1

- demonstrate evidence of close reading of texts
- make use of some close reference or brief quotation
- demonstrate some insight into the social, historical and cultural context of texts
- demonstrate an appropriate selection of material.

#### AO2

- demonstrate evidence of recognition and appreciation of themes, characterisation and language
- demonstrate evidence of insight into the writer's craft.

#### AO3

- demonstrate evidence of a degree of informed personal response
- focus on the terms of the question
- make an identifiable number of appropriate points, some developed more fully than others
- convey ideas appropriately, clearly and coherently
- use English which is reasonably clear and accurate
- write in a lively and well informed manner.

### *Grade E*

Candidates will be able to:

#### AO1

- demonstrate evidence of a basic understanding of the text
- demonstrate some relevant material.

#### AO2

- demonstrate a very elementary understanding of themes, events and characters.

#### AO3

- demonstrate basic engagement with the terms of the question
- demonstrate some simple coverage of a small number of points
- write simple statements
- demonstrate basic evidence of enjoyment or personal response

- demonstrate a basic level of literacy.

**Source Material: Edexcel GCE O Level Poetry Anthology**

The Edexcel O level Poetry Anthology is a compulsory text for Section B of the GCE O level English Literature syllabus. The anthology consists of the following poems:

- William Shakespeare: *The Seven Ages of Man*
- William Blake: *The Tyger*
- Lord Byron: *When We Two Parted*
- John Keats: *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* (revised version)
- Henry Longfellow: *The Slave's Dream*
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson: *The Lady of Shalott*
- Rudyard Kipling: *If*
- D H Lawrence: *Mosquito*
- Elizabeth Daryush: *Children of Wealth in Your Warm Nursery*
- T S Eliot: *Preludes*
- W H Auden: *Night Mail*
- Louis Macneice: *Prayer Before Birth*
- Dylan Thomas: *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night*
- Gabriel Okara: *Once Upon a Time*
- Ted Hughes: *Six Young Men*
- Fleur Adcock: *The Telephone Call*
- Wole Soyinka: *Telephone Conversation*
- Grace Nichols: *Island Man*
- Carol Ann Duffy: *War Photographer*
- Simon Armitage: *Poem*

Copies of the anthology can be ordered, for a nominal fee, from the Edexcel Publications Catalogue, Order Code UO 010980. A list of the text contained in the anthology is also accessible on our website: [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

**Textbooks and other resources***Suggested reading list*

Apart from the set texts there are no books set specifically for this syllabus. Many English course books used in schools contain sections which relate to literature and which may be very useful.

Additional helpful guidance may be found in the books/series listed below.

The Internet offers sites on which background information on selected texts and authors is available. Teachers may also find relevant teaching material on these sites. A selection of such sites is listed below.

Edexcel is always willing to receive suggestions from teachers for books/sites to be included in the list.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title/Edition/ISBN</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
Richard Gill	Mastering English Literature (ISBN 0333625293)	Palgrave
A. Powling, J. O'Connor & G. Barton	New Oxford English 4 (ISBN 0 198311966)	Oxford University Press (OUP)
Letts Literature Guides	(Study guides on specific individual texts)	
York Notes	(Study guides on specific individual texts)	

### **Internet Sites**

[www.bbc.co.uk/education/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/gcsebitesize)

[www.englishresources.co.uk](http://www.englishresources.co.uk)

[www.novelguide.com](http://www.novelguide.com)

[www.teachit.co.uk](http://www.teachit.co.uk)

### **Contact Details**

For further information and for all general enquiries, please contact ICRU (the International Customer Relations Unit).

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