

FINAL EXAMINATION TOPICS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students will be examined on one topic each from both sections A and B. (The topics will be picked randomly at the examination.)

A. LITERATURE, HISTORY AND CULTURE

Please bring a **printed list** of the literary works, social and political trends you have chosen to discuss.

1. British Literature and Culture

Discuss **three works** from the following list. You should be familiar with the relevant context of each (including intellectual, social, and artistic trends), but speak in most detail about the works themselves and their literary qualities. You may also consider their adaptation(s) and significance in the British and European cultural heritage.

- *Beowulf*
- Chaucer: 1 tale from the *The Canterbury Tales*
- Shakespeare: *Hamlet*
- John Donne: 'The Flea'
- Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver's Travels*
- William Wordsworth: 'Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey'
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
- Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
- Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*
- W. B. Yeats: 'Sailing to Byzantium'
- Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*
- Seamus Heaney: 'Punishment'
- Kazuo Ishiguro: *The Remains of the Day*
- Bernardine Evaristo, *Lara*

2. American Literature and Culture

Discuss **three works** from the following list. You should be familiar with the relevant context of each (including intellectual, social, and artistic trends), but speak in most detail about the works themselves and their literary qualities. You may also consider their adaptation(s) and significance in the American cultural heritage.

- Edgar Allan Poe: 'The Raven'
- Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*
- Herman Melville: 'Bartleby, the Scrivener'
- T. S. Eliot: 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*

- William Faulkner: *The Sound and the Fury*
- Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Sylvia Plath: 'Lady Lazarus'
- Toni Morrison: *Beloved*
- Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale*

3. Social and Political Trends in the United Kingdom and the USA

Discuss one topic **from each list**. Reflect on the historical, social, and political contexts that are important for their understanding.

British History:

- Anglicanism: Past and Present
- The British Empire: Curse or Blessing?
- Brexit: The Question of National Sovereignty
- Northern Ireland: Peace or Conflict?
- NHS (1948): The Birth and Role of the Welfare State
- Remembrance Day: The Legacy of the First and Second World Wars.

American History:

- The Great American Dream: Past and Present
- USA: The Land of the Free?
- USA: Republic or an Empire, or both?
- The Civil Rights Movement
- US Attitudes to Immigration
- First Amendment Rights in Danger: Past and Present.

Recommended Reading:

- Alexander, Michael. *History of English Literature*. New York and London: Palgrave and Macmillan, 2007.
- Bényei, Tamás (ed.). *Az angol irodalom története 6–7: Az 1930-as évektől napjainkig*. Budapest: Kijárat Kiadó, 2023.
- Bogdanor, Vernon (ed.). *The British Constitution*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Bollobás, Enikő. *Az amerikai irodalom története*. Osiris Kiadó, Budapest, 2005.
- Brown, Deborah M.S. et al. (eds). *Outline of U.S. History*. United States Information Agency, 2005.
- Carter, Ronald and McRae, John. *The Routledge History of Literature in English*. London and New York: Routledge, 2008.
- High, Peter B. *An Outline of American Literature*. New York: Longman, 1986.
- Hutcheon, Linda. *Theory of Adaptation*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2013.
- Johnson, Paul. *A History of the American People*. New York: Harper Collins. Longman, 1999.
- Karáth, Tamás and Halácsy Katalin (eds). *Az angol irodalom története 1: A középkor*. Budapest: Kijárat Kiadó, 2021.
- Kiss, Attila and Szönyi György Endre (eds). *Az angol irodalom története 2: A kora újkor*. Budapest: Kijárat Kiadó, 2021.
- Komáromy, Zsolt, Gárdos Bálint and Péti Miklós (eds). *Az angol irodalom története 3–4: 1640–1830*. Budapest: Kijárat Kiadó, 2021.
- Magyarics, Tamás and Frank, Tibor. *Handouts for U.S. History: A Study Guide and Workbook*. Budapest: Antal József Tudásközpont, 2018.
- McDowall, David. *Britain in Close-Up: An In-Depth Study of Contemporary Britain*. Harlow: Longman, 2003.
- Morgan, Kenneth O. (ed.). *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Ruland, Richard and Bradbury, Malcolm. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature*. New York: Penguin, 1992.
- The Constitution of the United States of America*.

B. LINGUISTICS

1. The verb phrase and the noun phrase in English with special reference to difficulties experienced by Hungarian learners of English

VP: syntactic roles and semantic classes of verbs, valency patterns, morphological processes, time and tense in English, cross-genre differences; NP: morphological processes, categorization of nouns, central and peripheral adjectives, adverbs and adverbials, pronouns, coordination and subordination, cross-genre differences.

2. The grammar of the clause in English with special reference to difficulties experienced by Hungarian learners of English

Ellipsis and structural condensation, concord rules, dependent and independent clauses, finite and non-finite clauses.

3. The following applied linguistics research areas and their relevance to TEFL

Bilingualism and bilingual education; SLA theories; individual differences in language learning; L2 assessment.

4. Contrastive linguistics and translation.

Grammatical and lexical contrasts in translation. Transfer operations.

Only for secondary school teachers:

5. Differences between British English and American English.

Describe the most important differences between British English and American English in orthography, phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary with examples.

Recommended reading:

- Biber, D., Leech, G. & Conrad, S. (2002). *Longman student grammar of spoken and written English*. Pearson Education.
- Csides, Cs. [unpublished manuscript]. *English phonetics and phonology: Theory and practice*.
- Ellis, R. (2015). *Understanding second language acquisition. 2nd edition*. Oxford University Press.
- Holmes, J. (2013). *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. Routledge.
- Klaudy, K. (2002). *Languages in translation. With illustrations in English, French, German, Russian and Hungarian*. Scholastica.
- Lightbown, P.M., & Spada, N. (2013). *How languages are learned* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- McArthur, T., Lam-MacArthur, J. and Fontaine, L. (eds.) (2018, 2nd ed.). *Oxford companion to the English language*. Oxford University Press. (Especially for topic 5)
- Nádasdy, Á. (2006). *Background to English pronunciation*. Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó.
- Paltridge, B., & Phakiti, A. (eds.). (2015). *Research methods in applied linguistics: A practical resource*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Roach, P. (1991). *English phonetics and phonology: A practical course*. Cambridge University Press.

Valid as of October 2023