

BA záróvizsga tételek anglisztika főszakosoknak (a szakot 2009 szeptemberében vagy utána elkezdőknek)

Topics in Literature

Unless otherwise indicated, you should present each topic with detailed reference to three (3) literary works from the given period.

1. Topics in early English literature

1. Old English literature
2. 14th-century English literature (Chaucer & romances)
3. 15th-century English literature: medieval drama (*Mankind*, *Everyman*, *The Second Shepherd's Play*)
4. 16th- and early 17th-century poetry (sonneteers and metaphysical poets)
5. Elizabethan and Jacobean drama (Marlowe, Kyd, Greene, Shakespeare, Jonson, Webster, Middleton)
6. Restoration and Augustan literature (Milton, Marvell, Dryden, Behn)
7. The genres of medieval and early modern English literature - (through the analysis of an Old English, a Middle English, and an early modern work)
8. The historical and cultural background of and/or modern adaptations of medieval and early modern English literature (through the analysis of an Old English, a Middle English, and an early modern work)

2. Topics in modern British literature

1. Discuss the concept of the Enlightenment and the rise of the novel in the 18th century with reference to three literary works!
2. Discuss the concept of Romanticism and the main features of romantic poetry! Please analyse at least three poems in detail.
3. Discuss the main features of Victorian literature and society with reference to at least three literary works!
4. Discuss the main features of modernism and modernist aesthetics with reference to at least three literary works!
5. Discuss post-1945 literature and the main features of contemporary fiction with reference to at least three literary works!
6. Explore British society through film: please discuss three films that depict modern Britain!
7. Comment on the main genres of British literature between 1700 and 2000, with special attention to poetry as an art form. Bring three literary works as examples!
8. Explain a major event in British history (between 1700 and 2000) that had a significant impact on British literature, through the analysis of three literary works as examples.

3. Topics in American literature

1. Define some of the basic concepts of Puritan ideology and illustrate their significance in three specific literary works.
2. Discuss changes in the concept of the American self in the 19th century. Locate your discussion within three specific works.
3. Describe American literary modernism between 1900 and 1940 and illustrate it through three examples.
4. Describe the function and portrayal of violence in American literature after WWII., with three examples.
5. Canadian culture and history – significant events of 19th- and 20th-century Canadian history with relevance to present day Canada (Describe an event or a process of 19th- or 20th-century Canadian history and analyse it from the aspect of its consequences concerning present day Canada, and illustrate it with three literary works as examples).
6. 20th-century American and Canadian society through film (Choose a film and analyse it from the aspect of social issues presented in it).
7. Please explain a major event in American history that had a significant impact on American literature, through the analysis of three literary works as examples.
8. Please comment on the main genres of American or Canadian literature, with special attention to the short story as an art form. Bring three literary works as examples.

4. Topics in postcolonial literatures

1. Please explore the versatile genres and cultural features of postcolonial literatures on the basis of three literary works!
2. Please explore the cultural and historical background of one of the following postcolonial cultures on the basis of two literary works: South Asian, African, Caribbean, Irish!
3. What is the role of Shakespeare in postcolonial studies? Please discuss postcolonial readings of his plays with reference to two specific examples (*The Tempest*, *Othello*, or *The Merchant of Venice*)
4. Please discuss the concept of orientalism and its cultural significance on the basis of three examples (these can be literary works or paintings).
5. Please explore the ways in which postcolonial writers rewrite classical literary works on the basis of two examples (Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*, or a poem by Derek Walcott).
6. To what extent can we regard Irish literature as postcolonial? Please discuss at least two literary works (a poem or drama by W. B. Yeats, *The Playboy of the Western World* by J. M. Synge or Brian Friel's *Translations*).
7. Explore the role of magical realism in postcolonial literature on the basis of two literary works (Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *Shame*, *Midnight's Children* or a selected short story from *East/West*)
8. Discuss the concept of diaspora literature and its main concerns with reference to three examples (the works of Monica Ali, Teju Cole, Zadie Smith, among others).

Topics in History/Culture

5. British history/culture

While discussing each of the following topics refer to at least two primary sources.

1. Outline the course of English constitutional development with special attention to the following stages: Magna Carta, the development and privileges of the British Parliament, the significance of the Bill of Rights, and Tony Blair's constitutional reforms.
2. Discuss the significance of the English and Scottish reformations and their intrusions into Ireland. Pick and elaborate on the exemplary faith and work of one of the following: William Wilberforce, Daniel O'Connell, John Henry Newman, Kier Hardie or Desmond Tutu.
3. Elaborate on the main contributions of two of the following British thinkers/politicians to Liberalism. (John Locke, John Stuart Mill, William Ewart Gladstone, Isaiah Berlin)
4. In what ways did two of the following British thinkers/politicians contribute to Conservatism? (Edmund Burke, Benjamin Disraeli, Michael Oakeshott, Roger Scruton)
5. Talk about the major components of British colonial empire in its greatest extension (1920) and its diversity (dominions, colonies and mandates).
6. Decolonisation: discuss the reasons for the disintegration of the British Empire and elaborate on two (post-1945) examples.
7. Describe the historical origins of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the significance of the Good Friday Agreement, and its present-day relevance.
8. Discuss the origins of British Euroscepticism and outline the different British attitudes towards Europe since World War II.

6. American history/culture

In your discussion of the following topics refer to at least two primary sources

1. US Constitution: explain the Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, Federalism and Anti-Federalism by citing examples.
2. Amendments to the US Constitution: elaborate on the historical and current significance of the first and second amendments.
3. The USA: A country of immigrants? Discuss the changing attitude to immigration before the New Immigration in the 1880s, between 1880 and WWI, between the Quota Acts (1921, 1924) and the end of WWII, during the Cold War and since 9/11/2001.
4. Pick and elaborate on the ideas and influence of one of the following North-American political philosophers/theorists: John Rawls, Robert Nozick or Russel Kirk.
5. Discuss and compare the legacies of two US presidents of your choice.
6. Provide a definition for the Cold War and elaborate on the significance of the Vietnam War.
7. Define the term "War on Terror" and discuss two examples of participation of the USA in its major conflicts (9/11 and its aftermath).
8. The Civil Rights Movement in the sixties and its present cultural relevance.

1. English phonology

1. Basic phonological regularities (aspiration, L-darkening, R-dropping, Yod-dropping, voice-assimilation).
2. Structure dependent regularities: Trisyllabic Laxness.
3. Regular sound values of single vowel graphemes and digraphs.
4. Letter-to-sound correspondence rules: free position rules, covered position rules, overriding rules.
5. Vowel- shift: regular types and environments.
6. Pre-R developments: breaking, broadening and the carrot-rule.

2. English syntax

1. Syntactic structure and the representation of syntactic constituents.
2. Structural positions: specifiers, heads, complements and adjuncts.
3. The structure of the Noun Phrase and its constituents.
4. The structure of the Verb Phrase and its constituents.
5. The complex sentence: types of complementisers.
6. Basic transformations: wh-questions and yes-no questions.

3. Semantics

1. Reference, inference, context.
2. Lexical relations (synonymy, homonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, hyperonymy, lexical fields) and semantic shifts (metaphor and metonymy).
3. Entailment, presupposition, implicature.
4. Approaches to the study of sentence meaning.
5. Speech as action.
6. Theories of meaning interpretation (semantic traits and statuses, componential analysis, prototype theory).

4. Pragmatics

1. Austin's Speech Act Theory.
2. Searl's indirect speech acts.
3. Gricean pragmatics.
4. Theories of politeness.
5. Cross-cultural pragmatics.
6. Pragmatic markers.

5. English applied linguistics

1. Bilingualism
2. Various language learning contexts
3. Psycholinguistics
4. Individual differences in language learning
5. Language and computers
6. Various research methods in Applied Linguistics

6. Varieties of English

1. Dialectology and sociolinguistics (basic concepts: e.g. dialect, regional variety, sociolect, accent, RP, standard, non-standard, register, idiolect, rhotic, non-rhotic, pidgin, creole, lingua franca, ESL, EFL, etc.)
2. Lowland Scots and Scottish English.
3. Irish English.
4. American English I (orthography and pronunciation).
5. American English II (morphology, syntax, and lexicon).
6. Australian English.

7. Lexicology and lexicography

1. Basic concepts: lexicology – lexicography; lexeme – word; dictionary – encyclopaedia; entry – headword; corpus.
2. The history of English lexicography.
3. Inflection and derivation. Types of word formation processes.
4. Multiword expressions. Compounds: primary and verbal compounds; endocentric and exocentric compounds.
5. Sense relations: homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, polysemy. Meanings in dictionaries.
6. Typology of dictionaries. The structure of a dictionary entry. New types of dictionaries: crowdsourced, collaborative, aggregators.

8. Origins and development of the English language

1. Language change: types of phonological, lexical, semantic, morphological and syntactic change.
2. Language relatedness, language families, the Indo-European language family.
3. Old English: phonology, morphology and syntax.
4. Middle English: spelling changes, phonology and morphology.
5. Early Modern English: morphology and syntax.
6. Early Modern English phonology: the Great Vowel Shift.

Topics in Translation Studies

(**only** for those writing their BA thesis in Translation Studies)

1. Translation studies

1. Translation studies as an interdisciplinary academic field
2. Transfer operations in translation
3. The main concepts and current trends in translation studies (e.g. transcreation, localisation, corpus linguistics)
4. Translation Studies and Contrastive Linguistics

5. Dynamic contrasts in Translation
6. Translation strategies adopted in the translation of the different types of translation texts (informative, expressive, operative, audio-visual)
7. The emergence and challenges of neural-based Machine Translation and Post-Editing
8. The main differences between literary and non-literary translations

Valid as of March 2022