

Reading List for Post-1798 British Exam

[valid for students entering their programs between Fall 2012 and Fall 2017]

The Post-1798 British Comprehensive Exam covers four major literary movements: Romanticism, Victorianism, Modernism, and the later twentieth century. We recommend that you read the following poets, novelists, and prose writers. For the poets and prose writers, please read the selections in *The Norton Anthology* (or a comparable anthology). For the novelists, we have suggested specific novels, but you are welcome to choose others by the same author.

ROMANTICISM

POETS

William Wordsworth

One other first generation Romantic poet from the following list:

Samuel Coleridge
William Blake

One of the second generation Romantic poets from the following list:

George Gordon, Lord Byron
Percy Shelley
John Keats

NOVELISTS

Jane Austen: any of her major novels

One other Romantic novelist from the following list:

Ann Radcliffe: *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
Sir Walter Scott: *Waverley* or *Ivanhoe* or *Rob Roy*
Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

PROSE WRITERS

Mary Wollstonecraft: selections from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

William Wordsworth: selections from the Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*

VICTORIANISM

POETS

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Robert Browning

One other Victorian poet from the following list:

Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Christina Rossetti
Gerald Manley Hopkins
Algernon Swinburne (if he is not included in your anthology, speak to a professor)

NOVELISTS

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations* or *Hard Times*

One of the Brontës:

Anne Brontë: *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre* or *Villette*
Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*

One other major Victorian novelist from the following list:

William Thackeray: *Vanity Fair*
Elizabeth Gaskell: *Cranford* or *North and South*
Anthony Trollope: *The Warden* or *Barchester Towers*
George Eliot: *The Mill on the Floss* or *Middlemarch*
Wilkie Collins: *The Woman in White* or *The Moonstone*
Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* or *Through the Looking Glass*

Thomas Hardy: *The Mayor of Casterbridge* or *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* or *Jude the Obscure*

One other late-Victorian text from the following list:

Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* or *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Rudyard Kipling: "The Man Who Would Be King" or *Kim*
Bram Stoker: *Dracula*

PROSE WRITERS

One Victorian prose writer from the following list:

Thomas Carlyle
John Stuart Mill (if he is not included in your anthology, speak to an professor)
John Ruskin
Matthew Arnold (focus on the selections from his prose writings)

MODERNISM and the LATER TWENTIETH CENTURY

POETS

William Butler Yeats

T. S. Eliot

One other major twentieth-century poet from the following list:

W. H. Auden

Wilfred Owen
Dylan Thomas
Philip Larkin
Seamus Heaney
Eavan Boland

NOVELISTS:

One of the major modern novelists from the following list:

James Joyce: *Dubliners* or *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway* or *To the Lighthouse*

One other modern fiction writer from the following list:

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness* or *Lord Jim*
D. H. Lawrence: his anthologized stories ("Odor of Chrysanthemums," "The Horse-Dealer's Daughter") or *Sons and Lovers* or *Women in Love*
Katherine Mansfield: her anthologized stories, "Daughters of the Late Colonel" and "The Garden Party"
E. M. Forster: *A Passage to India*

One later twentieth-century novelist from the following list:

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Anthony Burgess, *Clockwork Orange*
A.S. Byatt, *Possession*

SELECTED CRITICISM

Below we list critical books of general interest to students of post-1798 British literature. We do NOT expect you to read all of these books, but you should familiarize yourself with at least one or two of the critical voices that has been formative in the fields. Please talk with a professor to find criticism that speaks to your specific interests.

GENERAL LITERARY HISTORY

The introductions to "The Romantic Period," "The Victorian Period," and "The Twentieth-Century and After" in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (or a comparable anthology)

*NOTE: Anthologies such as *The Norton Anthology of British Literature* include useful bibliographies of criticism, glossaries of literary terms, etc. *The Norton* also offers great online resources, organized by period. See <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/>

ROMANTICISM

M. H. Abrams, *Natural Supernaturalism: Tradition and Revolution in Romantic Literature*

(1971)

Marilyn Butler, *Romantics, Rebels, and Reactionaries: English Literature and Its Background, 1760-1830* (1981)

Jerome McGann, *The Romantic Ideology: A Critical Investigation* (1983)

VICTORIANISM

Walter E. Houghton, *The Victorian Frame of Mind* (1957)

Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Imagination* (1979)

Patrick Brantlinger, *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism, 1830-1914* (1988)

Elaine Showalter, *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture at the Fin de Siècle* (1990)

Isobel Armstrong, *Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics, and Politics* (1993)

A Companion to the Victorian Novel, edited by Patrick Brantlinger and William B. Thesing (2002)

MODERNISM AND THE LATER TWENTIETH CENTURY

Carol Christ, *Victorian and Modern Poets* (1984)

Michael Levenson, *A Genealogy of Modernism: A Study of English Literary Doctrine, 1908-1922* (1984)

Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, *No Man's Land: The Place of the Woman Writer in the Twentieth Century*, 3 vols. (1988/ 1994)

Daniel Schwarz, *Reading the Modern British and Irish Novel, 1890-1930* (2005)

