



British Literature - Maximus

Topics on the list: the students are expected to have a general knowledge of the topic – the main characteristics of the period/genre/movement, its impact on the history of British literature, the major authors and works. The two main secondary sources on the topics are listed below.

Authors on the list: a general knowledge of their position in the context of the history of British literature is expected (not their biography!).

Works on the list:

a) underlined works must be read in their entirety and detailed knowledge of them is expected.

b) for the other works, a general knowledge of the content, themes, style and the importance in the context of the history of British Literature is expected.

Recommended secondary sources on the topics in the history of British literature:

Sanders, Andrew. *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1994.

Steven Greenblatt (ed.). *The Norton Anthology of English Literature 8th Edition*, New York and London, W. W. Norton & Company, 2006. (We recommend especially the introductions to major periods and writers.)

1. The Beginnings of British literature

Beowulf in a modern English translation

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*: “General Prologue”, “The Knight’s Tale”, “The Miller’s Tale”, “The Wife of Bath’s Tale and Prologue”

Everyman, a morality play

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kemp*

Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*

Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*

2. Elizabethan Poetry and Drama

Thomas Wyatt, “The long love that in my thought doth harbor”, “Is it possible”, “They Flee from Me”

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

William Shakespeare, *The Sonnets*: No. 15, 18, 20, 66, 130, 116, 149

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

William Shakespeare, *King Lear*

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

William Shakespeare, *Othello*

William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Thomas Nash, “A Litany in Time of Plague”

3. Metaphysical Poetry

John Donne, “The Flea”, “The Good Morrow”, A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”

George Herbert, “The Altar”

Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress”



4. Restoration poetry and drama

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*: Satan's speech from Book 1: lines 242-263.

William Congreve, *Love for Love*

John Dryden, *All for Love*

Katherine Philips, "Epitaph", "To My Excellent Lucasia, on Our Friendship"

5. The Rise of the Novel

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave*

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

Laurence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels, or Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World*

6. British Poetry of the Eighteenth century

Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*

Ann Finch, "The Introduction", "The Spleen"

Jonathan Swift, "Stella's Birthday", "The Lady's Dressing Room", "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift, D.S.P.D."

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons that Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room"

Thomas Gray, "Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes", "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

7. British Romanticism

Anna Letitia Barbauld, "The Mouse's Petition"

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

William Wordsworth: "Preface to the Second Edition of Lyrical Ballads", "We are Seven", "Lines written in Early Spring", "I wandered lonely as a cloud"

Samuel T. Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

George Gordon Byron, *Manfred*, "She Walks in Beauty", "Darkness"

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*, "Ozymandias", "Ode to the West Wind"

John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn", "Ode to a Nightingale", "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"

Letitia Elizabeth Landon, "The Proud Ladye", "Revenge", "The Little Shroud"

Felicia Dorothea Hemans, "England's Dead", "The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England"

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Walter Scott, *Waverley*

8. The Gothic Tradition

Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, *Carmilla*

Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*



Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

9. High Victorian Literature

Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Charge of the Light Brigade", "The Lady of Shalott", "In Memoriam"
Robert Browning, "Porphyria's Lover"
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets from the Portuguese*
Christina Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio", *Goblin Market*
Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*
Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

10. Late Victorian Literature

Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*,
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Mary Elizabeth Coleridge, "The Other Side of a Mirror"
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

11. Modernism in the British Isles

Siegfried Sassoon, "They", "The Rear-Guard"
Wilfred Owen, "Anthem for Doomed Youth", "Dulce et Decorum Est"
W.B. Yeats, "Leda and the Swan", "No Second Troy", "When You Are Old", "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death"
Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden party", "How Pearl Button was Kidnapped"
D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*
James Joyce, *Ulysses*
James Joyce, "The Dead"
Mina Loy, "Human Cyinders", "Joyce's Ulysses"
T. S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
T. S. Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens", "A Room of One's Own"
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*

12. British and Irish Prose of the Second Half of the 20th Century

Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
Edna O'Brien: "A Rose in the Heart of New York"
Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot*
Martin Amis, *Money*
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*
Ian McEwan, *The Cement Garden*



Angela Carter, "The Bloody Chamber"
Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall*

13. British and Irish Poetry of the Second Half of the 20th Century

Ted Hughes, "Daffodils", "Wind", "Pike"
Philip Larkin, "Sad Steps", "Talking in Bed", "This Be the Verse", "High Windows", "Aubade"
Seamus Heaney, "Digging", "The Grauballe Man", "Punishment"
Carol Ann Duffy, "Standing Female Nude", "Mrs. Lazarus"
Eavan Boland, "The Lost Land", "Fond Memory"

14. British and Irish Drama of the Second Half of the 20th Century

John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
Samuel Beckett, *Endgame*
Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party*
Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
Tom Stoppard, *Rock 'n' Roll*
Sarah Kane, *Crave*
Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*

15. Postcolonial literature

Wole Soyinka, "Telephone Conversation"
Salman Rushdie, *Shame*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
J. G. Farrell, *The Troubles*
J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*