GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM READING LIST (effective Sept. 1, 2017)

POETRY

1. Beowulf (in translation)

2. Shorter Old English Poetry (in translation): The Wanderer; The Seafarer; The Dream of the Rood


4. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (in translation)

5. Sidney, Philip. Astrophil and Stella (1591) [selections from the Norton Anthology of English Literature: #1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 45, 49, 52, 53, 54, 56, 61, 69, 71, 72, 74, 81, Fourth song, 87, 89, 91, 94, Eleventh song, 106, 108]


8. Lanyer, Aemilia. From Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum: “To the Virtuous Reader,” “Eve’s Apology in Defense of Women” (1611); “The Description of Cooke-ham” (1611)

9. Jonson, Ben. “To Penshurst” (1616); “To my First Son” (1616); “To my First Daughter” (1616)

10. Wroth, Mary. Urania, sonnets 6, 9, 14, 19, 22, 27, 32, 48, “A Crown of Sonnets Dedicated to Love” (1621)


14. Milton, John. Paradise Lost, Books 1, 2, 4, 9 (1667-8); Lycidas; “Sonnet XVI: When I Consider how my Light is Spent"

15. Pope, Alexander. The Rape of the Lock (1714); Essay on Criticism, Bk 1 (1711)


20. Shelley, P.B. "Ozymandias" (1818), "Ode to the West Wind" (1820), "To a Skylark" (1820)

21. Tennyson, Lord Alfred. "The Lady of Shalott" (1842), "Ulysses" (1842), selected poems from *In Memoriam A.H.H.* (1850): for instance, the Prologue, cantos 1, 5, 27, 50, 54, 55, 56, 82, 131, and the Epilogue, or comparable selection from a major literature anthology.

22. Browning, Robert. "Porphyria's Lover" (1836), "My Last Duchess" (1842), "Andrea del Sarto" (1855)

23. Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Raven" (1845)


25. Hopkins, Gerard Manley. "Carrion Comfort" (1855, pub. 1918), "God's Grandeur" (1877, pub. 1895), "The Windhover" (1877, pub. 1918)

26. Rossetti, Christina. "Goblin Market" (1862)

27. Dickinson, Emily. "There's a certain slant of light" (1861); "I died for Beauty but was scarce" (1862); "Because I could not stop for Death" (1863); "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant" (1868); "After great pain, a formal feeling" (1862); "I heard a Fly buzz—when I died" (1862); "My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun" (1863)


29. Crawford, Isabella Valancy. "Malcolm's Katie" (1884), "The Dark Stag" (1884)

30. Carman, Bliss. "Low Tide on Grand Pré" (1894)

31. Johnson, E. Pauline. "In the Shadows" (1894), "A Cry from an Indian Wife" (1895)

32. Pound, Ezra. "Portrait d'une Femme" (1912), "In a Station of the Metro" (1913)

33. Stein, Gertrude. Section I ("Objects") from *Tender Buttons* (1914)


35. Frost, Robert. "Mending Wall" (1914), "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1923)

36. Owen, Wilfred. "Anthem for Doomed Youth" (1920), "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1920), "Arms and the Boy" (1920)

37. Yeats, W. B. "Easter 1916," (1916), "The Second Coming" (1921), "Leda and the Swan" (1924), "Sailing to Byzantium" (1927), "Among School Children" (1927)

38. Williams, William Carlos. "The Red Wheelbarrow" (1923), "This Is Just to Say" (1934), "Nantucket" (1938), "Pictures from Brueghel" (1961)

39. Smith, A. J. M. "To a Young Poet" (1934), "The Lonely Land" (1936)
40. Hughes, Langston. “Let America Be America Again” (1938)
46. Smith, Stevie. "Not Waving But Drowning" (1957), "To Carry the Child" (1966), "Pretty" (1966)
57. Walcott, Derek. “A Far Cry from Africa”
60. Goodison, Lorna. “Lessons Learned from the Royal Primer”
61. Soyinka, Wole. “Chimes of Silence”
62. Harris, Claire. “Death in Summer”
63. Itwaru, Arnold. “arrival”


3. Cavendish, Margaret. Selections from *The Description of a New World, Called The Blazing World* (1666) [see *Norton Anthology of English Literature*]


5. Haywood, Eliza. *Fantomina, or Love in a Maze* (1725)


7. Sterne, Laurence. *A Sentimental Journey* (1768)

8. Wollstonecraft, Mary. from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*: Dedication to Talleyrand, chapters 2 and 6 (1792)


11. Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein* (1818)

12. Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845)


19. James, Henry. “Daisy Miller” (1879)

20. Melville, Herman. *Billy Budd, Sailor* (1891)

21. Twain, Mark. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1893)


23. Montgomery, L. M. *Anne of Green Gables* (1908)


25. Forster, E.M. *A Passage to India* (1926)
44. Coetzee, J. M. *Disgrace* (1999)

**DRAMAMA:**

1. Biblical Plays: *The Wakefield Second Shepherds’ Play*; and from The York Play: *The Fall of the Angels; Joseph’s Trouble about Mary; Christ Before Pilate I (The Dream of Pilate’s Wife); The Crucifixion; The Last Judgement*
2. *Everyman*
4. Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus* (1588-9)
6. ------. *Othello* (1603-04)
7. ------. *The Tempest* (1611)
10. Wilde, Oscar, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)
12. Synge, J.S. *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907)
15. Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1964)

*final revision April 2016*