

English - Optional
of Part B - Main Examination of Civil Services Exam

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The syllabus consists of two papers, designed to test a first-hand and critical reading of texts prescribed from the following periods in English Literature : Paper I : 1600-1900 and Paper II : 1900-1990.

There will be two compulsory questions in each paper : a) A short-notes question related to the topics for general study, and b) A critical analysis of UNSEEN passages both in prose and verse.

Paper-I

Answers must be written in English.

Texts for detailed study are listed below. Candidates will also be required to show adequate knowledge of the following topics and movements :

The Renaissance : Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama; Metaphysical Poetry; The Epic and the Mock-epic; Neo-classicism; Satire; The Romantic Movement; The Rise of the Novel; The Victorian Age.

Section-A

1. William Shakespeare : **King Lear** and **The Tempest**.

2. John Donne. The following poems :

- Canonization;
- Death be not proud;
- The Good Morrow;
- On his Mistress going to bed;
- The Relic;

3. John Milton : **Paradise Lost**, I, II, IV, IX
4. Alexander Pope. **The Rape of the Lock.**
5. William Wordsworth. The following poems:
 - Ode on Intimations of Immortality.
 - Tintern Abbey.
 - Three years she grew.
 - She dwelt among untrodden ways.
 - Michael.
 - Resolution and Independence.
 - The World is too much with us.
 - Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour.
 - Upon Westminster Bridge.
6. Alfred Tennyson : **In Memoriam.**
7. Henrik Ibsen : **A Doll's House.**

Section-B

1. Jonathan Swift. **Gulliver's Travels.**
2. Jane Austen. **Pride and Prejudice.**
3. Henry Fielding. **Tom Jones.**
4. Charles Dickens. **Hard Times.**
5. George Eliot. **The Mill on the Floss.**
6. Thomas Hardy. **Tess of the d'Urbervilles.**
7. Mark Twain. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.**

Paper-II

Answers must be written in English.

Texts for detailed study are listed below. Candidates will also be required to show adequate knowledge of the following topics and movements :

Modernism; Poets of the Thirties; The stream-of-consciousness Novel; Absurd Drama; Colonialism and Post-Colonialism; Indian Writing in English; Marxist, Psychoanalytical and Feminist approaches to literature; Post-Modernism.

Section-A

1. William Butler Yeats. The following poems:

- Easter 1916
- The Second Coming
- A Prayer for my daughter.
- Sailing to Byzantium.
- The Tower.
- Among School Children.
- Leda and the Swan.
- Meru
- Lapis Lazuli
- The Second Coming
- Byzantium.

2. T.S. Eliot. The following poems :

- The Love Song of J.Alfred Prufrock
- Journey of the Magi.
- Burnt Norton.

3. W.H. Auden. The following poems :

- Partition

- Musee des Beaux Arts
- in Memory of W.B. Yeats
- Lay your sleeping head, my love
- The Unknown Citizen
- Consider
- Mundus Et Infans
- The Shield of Achilles
- September 1, 1939
- Petition.

4. John Osborne : **Look Back in Anger.**

5. Samuel Beckett. **Waiting for Godot.**

6. Philip Larkin. The following poems :

- Next
- Please
- Deceptions
- Afternoons
- Days
- Mr. Bleaney

7. A.K. Ramanujan. The following poems :

- Looking for a Causim on a Swing
- A River
- Of Mothers, among other Things
- Love Poem for a Wife 1

- Small-Scale Reflections on a Great House
- Obituary

(All these poems are available in the anthology Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets, edited by R. Parthasarthy, published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi).

Section-B

1. Joseph Conrad. **Lord Jim**
2. James Joyce. **Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.**
3. D.H. Lawrence. **Sons and Lovers.**
4. E.M. Forster. **A Passage to India.**
5. Virginia Woolf. **Mrs Dalloway.**
6. Raja Rao. **Kanthapura.**
7. V.S. Naipal. **A House for Mr. Biswas.**

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