Comprehensive Exam List, 2020-2021

Old and Middle English Literatures

- “Lanval” from *The Lais of Marie de France* (trans. Dorothy Gilbert)
- Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Clerk’s Tale” (trans. Sheila Fisher)

Renaissance and 17th-Century English Literature

- John Milton
  - “On Shakespeare”
  - “L’Allegro”
  - “Il Penseroso”
  - “Lycidas”
  - “When I Consider How My Light Is Spent”

Restoration and 18th-Century English Literature

- Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
- William Congreve, *The Way of the World*
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life*

19th-Century English Literature

- Percy Bysshe Shelley
  - “Prometheus”
  - “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”
  - “Ozymandias”
  - “Ode to West Wind”
- Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*

American Literature before 1860

- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life*
- Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself”
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

American Literature since 1860

- Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
- Gwendolyn Brooks, *Blacks* (excerpts):
• “We Real Cool”
• “The Mother”
• “kitchenette building”
• “A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi. Meanwhile a Mississippi Mother Burns Bacon”
• “The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till”
• “Gay Chaps at the Bar”
• “Negro Hero”
• “In the Mecca”
• “To Those of My Sisters Who Kept Their Naturals”
• “The Near-Johannesburg Boy”

Post-1900 British & Anglophone Literature

- Virginia Woolf, The Waves
- Samuel Beckett, Endgame
- Bernadine Evaristo, Girl, Woman, Other

Theory

- Martin Heidegger, Poetry, Language, Thought (excerpts)

(*When possible, unless otherwise specified, we recommend reading these volumes in Critical Editions such as Norton.*)