The comprehensive examination for the master's degree (which also serves as the Preliminary Examination for Ph.D. candidates) is designed to test the breadth as well as the depth of the student's familiarity with the major documents and movements of English literature from its beginnings to the present. The following titles are not intended as a comprehensive bibliography of English literature, but rather as a combination of a required reading list and a general guide which will be helpful in the preparation for this examination.

The starred items are works which the student will be expected to have read, for they are significant examples of literature for which it is thought there are no adequate substitutes. The unstarred titles should be considered as suggested readings. Other books by the same authors may be substituted; the student's choices should depend on his previous reading. This freedom of choice, however, must be used with care, as the examiners will expect a range and caliper of reading equivalent to this list. The student who considers A Christmas Carol an adequate substitute for Great Expectations does so at his own risk. The Oxford Book of English Verse is suggested as a reliable guide to the works of those poets for whom selections are indicated.

The list as printed below represents the basic material from which the student is expected to prepare for the examination. Questions regarding the examination should be addressed to the student's advisor.

1. General Background

(The material in this division may be read in translation)

Homer, Iliad and Odyssey
Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides (at least one play from each)
Aristotle, The Poetics
Virgil, Aeneid
Bible, The (1611) Authorized Version
Dante, The Divine Comedy

2. English Literature to 1550

*Beowulf (any complete modern translation or the original)
*Tristan (J. Bedier translation, Anchor Books; or in R. S. and L. H. Lomis, Medieval Romances, Modern Library)
*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (J. L. Rosenberg translation, Rinehart, or original)
*Malory, Le Morte D'Arthur, Books I, II, VI, XVIII-XXI (modern translation or original)
*Langland, Piers Plowman, B-Text, Pass. I-VII (modern translation or original)
2. **English Literature to 1550 (cont’d.)**

*Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde (modern translation or original)*

*Old English Poetry (C.W. Kennedy, Oxford, Paperback)*


*Bede, The Ecclesiastical History of the English People, 50 pp. ad. lib., but cover Bks. I-V (Everyman)*


*The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, annals for the years: 735, 755, 787, 851, 865-878, 891-901, 1001-1006, 1013-1037, 1065-1066, 1135, 1137-1154 (Everyman)*

*The Tumbler of Our Lady in E. Mason’s translation of Aucassin and Nicolette (Everyman)*

*Gesta Romanorum, No. CLIII (C. Swan translation)*


*Lais of Marie de France, (Translation by E. Mason, Everyman)*

*50 pp. ad lib*

*The Mabinogion, read Kulhch and Osian (T. and G. Jones translation, Everyman)*

*Erec et Enide, read Erec (W.W. Comfort translation, Everyman)*

*Ballads (in W.A. Neilson and K.G. Webster, Chief British Poets of the 14th and 15th Centuries)*

*Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales, read: "The Knight’s Tale, The Man of Law’s Tale, The Nun’s Priest’s Tale, and The Pardoner’s Tale (Theodore Morrison translation in The Portable Chaucer, Viking, or the original)*

*Perceval, *Havelok the Dane, and *Sir Orfeo (in R.S. and L.H. Loomis, Medieval Romances, Modern Library)*

*The Pearl (in J.L. Weston, Romance, Vision, and Satire)*

*Poems of Barbour, James I, Hoccleve, Blind Harry, Dunbar, Henryson, and Douglas (in Neilson and Webster, Chief British Poets)*

*E.P. Hammond, English Verse between Chaucer and Surrey, read: Skelton and 50 other pp. ad lib.*


3. **English Literature, 1550-1750**

*Sir Philip Sidney, The Defense of Poesy*

*Edmund Spenser, The Faerie Queene, Bks. I,II,III*

*William Shakespeare, I Henry IV, Twelfth Night, Othello, Antony and Cleopatra, The Tempest, Sonnets 1-140*

*Christopher Marlowe, Doctor Faustus*
3. **English Literature, 1550-1750 (cont'd.)**

Ben Jonson, *Volpone*
John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*
*Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*, Bk. I*
John Donne, *The Indifferent*; *A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning*, *The Funeral*, *The Sun Rising*, *The Ecstasy*, *Good Friday: 1613*, *Riding Westward*, *Hymn to God my God, in my Sickness*
*Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels* (Esp. Bks. I and IV)
*Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, *An Essay on Man*, *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*
Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*
William Congreve, *The Way of the World*

4. **English Literature, 1750-1950**

Thomas Gray, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*, *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*
*Samuel Johnson, *The Preface to Shakespeare*, *Rasselas*, London*
*James Boswell, The Life of Samuel Johnson (Viking Portable Johnson and Boswell) (Any continuous 100 pp. after May 16, 1763)*
Oliver Goldsmith, *An Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe*, *The Deserted Village*
Richard Sheridan, *The Rivals*
Robert Burns, *The Cotter's Saturday Night*, *Tam O'Shanter*, *The Holy Fair*, *Address to the Deil, To a Mouse, To a Louse, For A' That and A' That*, *John Anderson, My Jo, Highland Mary*.
William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, *The Songs of Experience*
*Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Ode to the West Wind*, *Adonais*, *Defense of Poetry*
Sir Walter Scott, *The Heart of Midlothian*
*George Gordon, Lord Byron, *Don Juan*, *Dedication and Cantos I-IV*, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, Canto III
*Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Kubla Khan*, *Christabel; Shakespearean Criticism; Shakespeare's Judgment Equal to His Genius* (Lecture)
John Keats, *The Eve of St. Agnes*, and these Odes: *Grecian Urn, Melancholy, Autumn*
Robert Browning, *My Last Duchess*, *The Lost Leader*, *Andrea del Sarto, Rabbi Ben Ezra*, *Book VII (Pompilia) and Book X (The Pope)*, from *The Ring and the Book*
4. **English Literature, 1750-1950 (cont’d.)**

*Matthew Arnold, The Forsaken Merman, The Scholar Gypsy, Thyrse, Dover Beach; Literature and Science, The Function of Criticism at the Present Time, Wordsworth
*Thomas Carlyle, Sartor Resartus, Bk. I, Chap V-IX; Bk. II, Chap. VII-IX, Bk. III, Chap. VIII. Heros and Hero-Worship, III (Hero as Poet) and IV (Hero as Man of Letters)
William Morris, The Defense of Guinevere, The Haystack in the Floods
Algernon Swinburne, The Garden of Proserpine, To Walt Whitman in America; On the Death of Robert Browning
Jane Austen, *Emma*
Charlotte Bronte, Jane *Eyre*
Emily Bronte, Wuthering Heights
William M. Thackeray, Vanity Fair
Charles Dickens, Great Expectations
George Meredith, *The Egoist*
Thomas Hardy, The Return of the Native
Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest
George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*
*Walter Pater, Conclusion to Studies in the Renaissance*
Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim
James Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
J.M. Synge, Riders to the Sea
D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway, The Common Reader*
*E.M. Forster, Howard’s End, *Aspects of the Novel*
Selected poems from: Thomas Hardy, Gerard Manley Hopkins, George Meredith, W.E. Yeats

5. **American Literature**

*B. Franklin, Autobiography and Selected Writings (Rinehart)*
*Thoreau, *Walden*
*Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (Riverside)*
Emerson, Selected essays
*Melville, *Moby Dick*
*Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter*
Poe, *Selected Writings* (Riverside)*
*Twain, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
James, *The Portrait of a Lady, The Ambassadors*
S. Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*
Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls (read one)*
Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury, Absalom, Absalom: Light in August (read one)*
O’Neill, *Anna Christie, The Emperor Jones, The Hairy Ape* (read one); and one of the following: *Desire Under the Elms, Mourning Becomes Electra, The Iceman Cometh*
5. **American Literature(cont'd.)**


Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*

Lewis, *Babbitt or Main Street*

Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Dos Passos, *USA* (read at least one volume)

*James, *The Art of the Novel*

*American Short Stories* (edited by E. Current-Garcia and W. Patrick, Scott, Foresman)

Several of the Following:

Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans* or *The Prairie*

Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham, A Modern Instance, A Hazard of New Fortunes*

Twain, *The Innocents Abroad, Life on the Mississippi*

Farrell, *Studs Lonigan*

Wolfe, *Look Homeward, Angel*

Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Several of the Following:

M. Anderson, *Winterset*

Wilder, *Our Town*

Hallman, *The Children's Hour, The Little Foxes*

Williams, *The Glass Menagerie, A Streetcar Named Desire*

A. Miller, *Death of a Salesman*