

# BA záróvizsga tételek anglisztika főszakosoknak (a szakot 2009 szeptemberében vagy utána elkezdőknek)

## Topics in Literature

**Unless otherwise indicated, you should present each topic with detailed reference to three (3) literary works from the given period.**

### **1. Topics in early English literature**

1. Old English literature
2. 14<sup>th</sup>-century English literature (Chaucer & romances)
3. 15<sup>th</sup>-century English literature: medieval drama (*Mankind*, *Everyman*, *The Second Shepherd's Play*)
4. 16<sup>th</sup>- and early 17<sup>th</sup>-century poetry (sonneteers and metaphysical poets)
5. Elizabethan and Jacobean drama (Marlowe, Kyd, Greene, Shakespeare, Jonson, Webster, Middleton)
6. Restoration and Augustan literature (Milton, Marvell, Dryden, Behn)
7. The genres of medieval and early modern English literature - (through the analysis of an Old English, a Middle English, and an early modern work)
8. The historical and cultural background of and/or modern adaptations of medieval and early modern English literature (through the analysis of an Old English, a Middle English, and an early modern work)

### **2. Topics in modern British literature**

1. Discuss the concept of the Enlightenment and the rise of the novel in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with reference to three literary works!
2. Discuss the concept of Romanticism and the main features of romantic poetry! Please analyse at least three poems in detail.
3. Discuss the main features of Victorian literature and society with reference to at least three literary works!
4. Discuss the main features of modernism and modernist aesthetics with reference to at least three literary works!
5. Discuss post-1945 literature and the main features of contemporary fiction with reference to at least three literary works!
6. Explore British society through film: please discuss three films that depict modern Britain!
7. Comment on the main genres of British literature between 1700 and 2000, with special attention to poetry as an art form. Bring three literary works as examples!
8. Explain a major event in British history (between 1700 and 2000) that had a significant impact on British literature, through the analysis of three literary works as examples.

### 3. Topics in American literature

1. Define some of the basic concepts of Puritan ideology and illustrate their significance in three specific literary works.
2. Discuss changes in the concept of the American self in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Locate your discussion within three specific works.
3. Describe American literary modernism between 1900 and 1940 and illustrate it through three examples.
4. Describe the function and portrayal of violence in American literature after WWII., with three examples.
5. Canadian culture and history – significant events of 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Canadian history with relevance to present day Canada (Describe an event or a process of 19<sup>th</sup>- or 20<sup>th</sup>-century Canadian history and analyse it from the aspect of its consequences concerning present day Canada, and illustrate it with three literary works as examples).
6. 20<sup>th</sup>-century American and Canadian society through film (Choose a film and analyse it from the aspect of social issues presented in it).
7. Please explain a major event in American history that had a significant impact on American literature, through the analysis of three literary works as examples.
8. Please comment on the main genres of American or Canadian literature, with special attention to the short story as an art form. Bring three literary works as examples.

### 4. Topics in postcolonial literatures

1. Please explore the versatile genres and cultural features of postcolonial literatures on the basis of three literary works!
2. Please explore the cultural and historical background of one of the following postcolonial cultures on the basis of two literary works: South Asian, African, Caribbean, Irish!
3. What is the role of Shakespeare in postcolonial studies? Please discuss postcolonial readings of his plays with reference to two specific examples (*The Tempest*, *Othello*, or *The Merchant of Venice*)
4. Please discuss the concept of orientalism and its cultural significance on the basis of three examples (these can be literary works or paintings).
5. Please explore the ways in which postcolonial writers rewrite classical literary works on the basis of two examples (Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*, or a poem by Derek Walcott).
6. To what extent can we regard Irish literature as postcolonial? Please discuss at least two literary works (a poem or drama by W. B. Yeats, *The Playboy of the Western World* by J. M. Synge or Brian Friel's *Translations*).
7. Explore the role of magical realism in postcolonial literature on the basis of two literary works (Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *Shame*, *Midnight's Children* or a selected short story from *East/West*)
8. Discuss the concept of diaspora literature and its main concerns with reference to three examples (the works of Monica Ali, Teju Cole, Zadie Smith, among others).

### 5. British history/culture

**While discussing each of the following topics refer to at least two primary sources.**

1. Outline the course of English constitutional development with special attention to the following stages: Magna Carta, the development and privileges of the British Parliament, the significance of the Bill of Rights, and Tony Blair's constitutional reforms.
2. Discuss the significance of the English and Scottish reformations and their intrusions into Ireland. Pick and elaborate on the exemplary faith and work of one of the following: William Wilberforce, Daniel O'Connell, John Henry Newman, Kier Hardie or Desmond Tutu.
3. Elaborate on the main contributions of two of the following British thinkers/politicians to Liberalism. (John Locke, John Stuart Mill, William Ewart Gladstone, Isaiah Berlin)
4. In what ways did two of the following British thinkers/politicians contribute to Conservatism? (Edmund Burke, Benjamin Disraeli, Michael Oakeshott, Roger Scruton)
5. Talk about the major components of British colonial empire in its greatest extension (1920) and its diversity (dominions, colonies and mandates).
6. Decolonisation: discuss the reasons for the disintegration of the British Empire and elaborate on two (post-1945) examples.
7. Describe the historical origins of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the significance of the Good Friday Agreement, and its present-day relevance.
8. Discuss the origins of British Euroscepticism and outline the different British attitudes towards Europe since World War II.

### 6. American history/culture

**In your discussion of the following topics refer to at least two primary sources**

1. US Constitution: explain the Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, Federalism and Anti-Federalism by citing examples.
2. Amendments to the US Constitution: elaborate on the historical and current significance of the first and second amendments.
3. The USA: A country of immigrants? Discuss the changing attitude to immigration before the New Immigration in the 1880s, between 1880 and WWI, between the Quota Acts (1921, 1924) and the end of WWII, during the Cold War and since 9/11/2001.
4. Pick and elaborate on the ideas and influence of one of the following North-American political philosophers/theorists: John Rawls, Robert Nozick or Russel Kirk.
5. Discuss and compare the legacies of two US presidents of your choice.
6. Provide a definition for the Cold War and elaborate on the significance of the Vietnam War.
7. Define the term "War on Terror" and discuss two examples of participation of the USA in its major conflicts (9/11 and its aftermath).
8. The Civil Rights Movement in the sixties and its present cultural relevance.

### 1. English phonology

1. Basic phonological regularities (aspiration, L-darkening, R-dropping, Yod-dropping, voice-assimilation).
2. Structure dependent regularities: Trisyllabic Laxness.
3. Regular sound values of single vowel graphemes and digraphs.
4. Letter-to-sound correspondence rules: free position rules, covered position rules, overriding rules.
5. Vowel- shift: regular types and environments.
6. Pre-R developments: breaking, broadening and the carrot-rule.

### 2. English syntax

1. Syntactic structure and the representation of syntactic constituents.
2. Structural positions: specifiers, heads, complements and adjuncts.
3. The structure of the Noun Phrase and its constituents.
4. The structure of the Verb Phrase and its constituents.
5. The complex sentence: types of complementisers.
6. Basic transformations: wh-questions and yes-no questions.

### 3. Semantics

1. Reference, inference, context.
2. Lexical relations (synonymy, homonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, hyperonymy, lexical fields) and semantic shifts (metaphor and metonymy).
3. Entailment, presupposition, implicature.
4. Approaches to the study of sentence meaning.
5. Speech as action.
6. Theories of meaning interpretation (semantic traits and statuses, componential analysis, prototype theory).

### 4. Pragmatics

1. Austin's Speech Act Theory.
2. Searl's indirect speech acts.
3. Gricean pragmatics.
4. Theories of politeness.
5. Cross-cultural pragmatics.
6. Pragmatic markers.

## 5. English applied linguistics

1. Second language acquisition theories (age and SLA; Critical Period Hypothesis; Input Hypothesis; Comprehensible Output Hypothesis; Interaction Hypothesis; The role of the first language in second language acquisition (transfer, interference, interlanguage, errors))
2. Bilingualism, multilingualism, language attrition, code switching; Bilingual schools; Native vs non-native teachers; Immersion, BICS and CALP; research methods
3. Psycholinguistics (the mental lexicon, memory, spaced repetition, adaptive testing)  
Neurolinguistics (What can language teaching learn from language pathology, e.g.: aphasia or dyslexia); research methods (e.g.: eye tracking, keyboard logging, etc.)
4. The history of English language teaching (various language teaching methods in the 20th century)  
Alternative methods (e.g.: Total Physical Response, Suggestopedia, the Silent Way)  
Communicative language teaching and beyond; Language learning applications
5. Individual differences in language learning (learning styles, learning strategies, affective and cognitive variables (beliefs, motivation, anxiety, aptitude); research methods
6. Corpus linguistics and its applications in various fields, e.g. in forensic linguistics; frequency, collocational, colligational data; vocabulary profiles; text readability; corpus-based coursebook design; research methods

## 6. Varieties of English

1. Dialectology and sociolinguistics (basic concepts: e.g. dialect, regional variety, sociolect, accent, RP, standard, non-standard, register, idiolect, rhotic, non-rhotic, pidgin, creole, lingua franca, ESL, EFL, etc.)
2. Lowland Scots and Scottish English.
3. Irish English.
4. American English I (orthography and pronunciation).
5. American English II (morphology, syntax, and lexicon).
6. Australian English.

## 7. Lexicology and lexicography

1. Define the terms 'lexicology' and 'lexicography'. Define the term 'lexeme' and discuss the advantages of using it instead of 'word'. Define the terms 'entry' and 'headword' and their relevance to dictionary size. What are the main functions of a headword? Special types of headword – discuss them briefly with examples.
2. The history of English lexicography (What are the most important milestones?)
3. What kind of word formation processes exist in English? Discuss them briefly with examples. What is their relevance for lexicography? Where can you find derivational information in a dictionary? Discuss in detail the differences between inflection and derivation. Where can you find inflectional information in a dictionary?
4. Compounds: the basic criteria for the distinction between compounds and phrases; the difference between primary and verbal compounds; the difference between endocentric and exocentric compounds. What is their relevance for lexicography? Define the term 'multiword expression'.

Where are they listed in a dictionary?

5. Define the following terms: homonymy, synonymy, antonymy (including the different types), hyponymy, polysemy, with examples. What is the importance of these phenomena in lexicography? How do word meanings change over time? What meaning comes first in different dictionaries (main/derived, primary/secondary, direct/figurative, general/special)?
6. Discuss the structure of a dictionary entry in detail. What kind of information categories (e.g. pronunciation, part of speech, etc.) may be present in an entry? What types of dictionaries exist, and what purposes do they serve? How do different dictionaries (e.g. printed, online, etc.) treat the various information categories? New types of dictionary: crowdsourced, collaborative and aggregators – discuss them briefly with examples.

## 8. Origins and development of the English language

1. Language change: types of phonological, lexical, semantic, morphological and syntactic change.
2. Language relatedness, language families, the Indo-European language family.
3. Old English: phonology, morphology and syntax.
4. Middle English: spelling changes, phonology and morphology.
5. Early Modern English: morphology and syntax.
6. Early Modern English phonology: the Great Vowel Shift.

## Topics in Translation Studies

**(only** for those writing their BA thesis in Translation Studies)

### 1. Translation studies

1. Translation studies as an interdisciplinary academic field
2. Transfer operations in translation
3. The main concepts and current trends in translation studies (e.g. transcreation, localisation, corpus linguistics)
4. Translation Studies and Contrastive Linguistics
5. Dynamic contrasts in Translation
6. Translation strategies adopted in the translation of the different types of translation texts (informative, expressive, operative, audio-visual)
7. The emergence and challenges of neural-based Machine Translation and Post-Editing
8. The main differences between literary and non-literary translations

Valid as of March 2021