

# English Literature — Optional Syllabus

## UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination

English literature from 1600 to 1990 — drama, poetry, the novel and criticism.

|                |           |                               |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Paper I        | 250 marks | 3 hours                       |
| Paper II       | 250 marks | 3 hours                       |
| Optional total | 500 marks | Counts toward the Mains merit |

## Paper I syllabus 250 marks · 3 hours

(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.
- 3. John Milton : Paradise Lost, I, II, IV, IX.
- 4. Alexander Pope. The Rape of the Lock.
- 6. Alfred Tennyson : In Memoriam.
- 7. Henrik Ibsen : A Doll's House.

### Section A: 2. John Donne. The following poems

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

### Section A: 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.

### 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 syllabus 250 marks · 3 hours

**(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

- 4. John Osborne : Look Back in Anger.
- 5. Samuel Beckett. Waiting for Godot.

### 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.

### Section A: 2. T.S. Eliot. The following poems

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

### Section A: 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

### Section A: 6. Philip Larkin. The following poems

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

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

- – Looking for a Cousin 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. Naipaul. A House for Mr. Biswas.

Syllabus as per the official UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination notification. Study notes for this optional are being added on RaahUPSC — [raahupsc.com](http://raahupsc.com).