

# BA EXAM READING LISTS

## Modern and Contemporary Literature (oral exam) Patrick Vincent

[A number of the texts or authors below will be discussed in one or the other of the annual lecture courses: **Survey of Modern British literature** / **Survey of American literature**. Please note that any other text relevant to one of the categories below, studied within the context of a seminar or on your own, may also be proposed. Texts that you have already studied at the Lycée will normally not be accepted]

### 01. Romantic Period Poetry (CHOOSE ONE):

- William Blake: *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (Norton selection)
- William Wordsworth: *Lyrical Ballads* (Norton selection)
- William Wordsworth: Two-Book *Prelude* or 1805 *Prelude* (Norton selection)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (1798 edition), “Frost at Midnight”, “Dejection: an Ode”
- Lord Byron: *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage* (Canto 3)
- Lord Byron: *Manfred*
- Lord Byron: *Don Juan* (Canto 1)
- John Keats: *Endymion* (Norton selection), “The Eve of St. Agnes”, “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”
- John Keats: “Ode to a Nightingale”, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”, “To Autumn”
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: *Alastor*
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: “Ozymandias”, “Ode to the West Wind”, *Adonais*
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: *Prometheus Unbound* (Norton selection)
- Felicia Hemans: “England’s Dead”, “Casabianca”, “The Homes of England”, “Corinne at the Capitol”, “Properzia Rossi”

### 02. Nineteenth-Century Fiction (CHOOSE ONE):

- Walter Scott: *Waverley* or *Ivanhoe*
- Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein* (1818 edition)
- Jane Austen: any novel
- Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
- Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre*
- Edgar Allan Poe: tales (Norton selection)
- Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne: tales (Norton selection)
- Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*
- Herman Melville: “Billy Budd”, “Bartleby”
- Elizabeth Gaskell: *North and South*
- Charles Dickens: any novel
- George Eliot: any novel
- Wilkie Collins : *The Moonstone*
- Mark Twain: *Huckleberry Finn*
- Harriet Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
- Henry James: any novel
- Henry James: “Daisy Miller”, “The Turn of the Screw”
- Thomas Hardy: any novel
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Stephen Crane: *Maggie* or *The Red Badge of Courage*

03. Late Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Prose; or Nineteenth-Century Poetry (CHOOSE ONE):

- Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (Norton selection)
- Olaudah Equiano: *Interesting Narrative* (Norton selection)
- Crèvecoeur: *Letters from an American Farmer* (Norton selection)
- The Revolution Controversy (Norton selection)
- William Wordsworth: Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads* (1800)
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: "A Defence of Poetry"
- William Hazlitt: "On Gusto", "My First Acquaintance with the Poets"
- Thomas de Quincey: *Confessions of an Opium Eater* (Norton selection)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: *Biographia Literaria* (Norton selection)
- Matthew Arnold: *Culture and Anarchy, Literature and Science* (Norton selection)
- John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (Norton selection)
- Ralph Waldo Emerson: *Nature*
- Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Self-Reliance", "The American Scholar"
- Margaret Fuller: *The Great Lawsuit* (Norton selection)
- Harriet Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Norton selection)
- Henry David Thoreau: *Walden* (Norton selection)
- Charles Darwin: *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man* (Norton selection)
- Frederick Douglass: *Narrative* (Norton selection)
- Walt Whitman: 1855 Preface to *Leaves of Grass*
- Realism and Naturalism (Norton selection, American)
- Lord Tennyson: *In Memoriam*
- Lord Tennyson: "The Lady of Shalott", "Ulysses", "Morte d' Arthur", "Maud"
- Robert Browning: "Porphyria's Lover", "My Last Duchess", "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came", "Love Among the Ruins"
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "How do I love Thee?", "Mother and Poet", "A Year's Spinning", *Aurora Leigh* (Norton selection)
- Christina Rossetti: "In an Artist's Studio", "Goblin Market"
- Gerald Manley Hopkins: "God's Grandeur", "The Windhover", "Spring and Fall", "Pied Beauty"
- Walt Whitman: "Song of Myself" (1-5), "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed", "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
- Emily Dickinson: poems (Norton selection)

04. Twentieth-Century Fiction (CHOOSE ONE):

- Joseph Conrad: any novel
- Edith Wharton: *The House of Mirth* or *The Age of Innocence*
- Kate Chopin: *The Awakening*
- Theodore Dreiser: *Sister Carrie*
- James Joyce: *Dubliners* or *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* or *Ulysses*
- D.H. Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers* or *Women in Love* or *The Rainbow*
- D.H. Lawrence : short stories (Norton selection)
- Virginia Woolf: any novel
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: any novel
- Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes were Watching God*
- William Faulkner: any novel
- Ernest Hemingway: any novel
- Ernest Hemingway: short stories (Norton selection)
- John Steinbeck: any novel
- Graham Greene: any novel
- George Orwell: *Nineteen-Eighty Four*

- Jack Kerouac : *On the Road*
- Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man*
- Richard Wright: *Native Son*
- Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
- J.M. Coetzee: any novel
- Doris Lessing: “To Room 119”
- Tony Morrison: any novel
- Saul Bellow: *Seize the Day* or *Herzog*
- Philip Roth: any novel
- Sherman Alexie: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*
- Zadie Smith: *White Teeth* or *On Beauty*

05. Twentieth-Century Poetry (CHOOSE ONE):

- T.S. Eliot: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and *Four Quartets* (Norton selection)
- T.S. Eliot: *The Wasteland*
- Thomas Hardy: “Neutral Tones”, “The Darkling Thrush”, “Channel Firing”, “The Convergence of the Twain”, “During Wind and Rain”
- William Butler Yeats: “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”, “No Second Troy”, “The Fascination of What’s Difficult”, “Easter 1916”, “Sailing to Byzantium”
- Robert Frost: “Mending Wall”, “After Apple-Picking”, “The Road Not Taken”, “Birches”, “Design”
- William Carlos Williams: “Portrait of a Lady”, “Spring and All”, “The Red Wheelbarrow”, “This is Just to Say”, “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus”
- Marianne Moore: “Poetry”, “The Paper Nautilus”, “The Mind is an Enchanting Thing”
- Wallace Stevens: “Sunday Morning”, “Anecdote of the Jar”, “The Idea of Order at Key West”
- WH Auden: “Spain”, “In Memory of WB Yeats”, “September 1, 1939”
- Philip Larkin: “Church Going”, “MCMXIV”, “High Windows”, “Aubade”
- Ted Hughes: “Wind”, “Pike”, “Examination at the Womb-Door”, “Daffodils”
- Seamus Heaney: “Digging”, “The Skunk”, Station Island 12, “The Sharping Stone”
- Theodore Roethke: “I Knew A Woman”, “In a Dark Time”, “The Waking”
- Robert Lowell: “The Quacker Graveyard in Nantucket”, “Skunk Hour”, “For the Union Dead”
- Elizabeth Bishop: “The Fish”, “The Armadillo”, “In the Waiting Room”
- Sylvia Plath: “Morning Song”, “Lady Lazarus”, “Daddy”

06. Twentieth-Century Drama; or Twentieth-Century Prose (CHOOSE ONE):

- George Bernard Shaw: any play
- Oscar Wilde: any play
- Eugene O’Neill: any play
- Samuel Beckett: *Endgame* or *Waiting for Godot*
- Arthur Miller: any play
- Tennessee Williams: any play
- Harold Pinter: *The Dumbwaiter* or *The Birthday Party*
- Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* or *Arcadia*
- Sam Shepard: *True West* or *Fool for Love*
- Modernist Manifestos (Norton selection, British or American)
- Virginia Woolf: “Modern Fiction” and *A Room of One’s Own* (Norton selection)
- TS Eliot: “Tradition and the Individual Talent” and “The Metaphysical Poets”
- George Orwell: “Politics and the English Language”
- Nation, Race, and Language (Norton selection)

## **Medieval English Literature (oral exam)**

### **Katrin Rupp**

The texts listed below are all subject to examination. Most of them are discussed in the lecture. Except for Chaucer's *Knight's Tale* and *Prioress's Tale* (available online, e.g. on Gerard NeCastro's website), all texts can be found in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Volume A: The Middle Ages*. Ed. James Simpson and Alfred David. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. New York and London: W. W. Norton, 2012. The texts can be read in translation (available online or, partly, in the Norton anthology).

#### **Old English**

*Cædmon's Hymn*

*The Wanderer*

*The Dream of the Rood*

*Beowulf*

*Judith*

#### **Middle English**

Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, Layamon: *The Myth of Arthur's Return*

*Sir Orfeo*

From Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*:

- The General Prologue
- The Knight's Prologue and Tale
- The Miller's Prologue and Tale
- The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale
- The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale
- The Prioress's Prologue and Tale

*The York Play of the Crucifixion*