

Tézy na štátne skúšky
pre jednodborový bakalársky študijný program
Anglistika a amerikanistika
akademický rok 2025/2026

Anglophone Literature

1. Discuss the style, genres, cultural influences, typical features, main authors and works of Old English Literature (timing; main cultural influences of the Old English period; typical features of literature)
2. Discuss the main differences between Old English Literature and Middle English Literature (style; genres; language; poetic devices)
3. Discuss the style, genres, main authors and works of Middle English Literature. (timing; difference between Old and Middle English and why; languages of the Middle English period; kinds of literature; the most important author and his works)
4. Discuss the typical features of Renaissance poetry. Illustrate your answers with examples (timing; style; language; main genres of poetry – define)
5. Discuss the period of the Renaissance in English Literature (timing; historical background; Renaissance thinking; genres and their typical features)
6. Discuss the works of William Shakespeare (timing; historical period; kinds of plays; division of Shakespeare's work; Pseudoshakespearean plays; Shakespeare's language)
7. Give the main characteristics of Metaphysical poetry based on examples from poems of your choice (timing; historical background; explain what makes the poetry "metaphysical"; poetic techniques; philosophy)
8. What are the main developments in 17th c. English literature? What are the historical reasons for the development? (historical background; genres;

authors; their works)

9. Discuss the main characteristics of 18th c. satirical prose and illustrate them with examples from the works of Jonathan Swift (define satire; 18th century philosophical background)
10. Discuss the typical features of 18th c. poetry as represented in the works of Alexander Pope (general features of 18th c. poetry and thought; main genres and their characteristics)
11. Discuss the style and characteristic features of the works of Daniel Defoe (timing; historical background; genre; typical features of his writing illustrated on the example of one of his works)
12. Discuss the emergence of the novel in the 18th c. and its difference genres (reasons for the emergence of prose; especially novels as the most popular genre; kinds and types of novels; examples)
13. Discuss the main differences between the Neoclassical and Romantic periods in English Literature.
14. Characterize the Pre-romantic period in English poetry; discuss poems of your choice (comparison of respective inspirations; social and other concerns; genres; etc.)
15. Discuss the poetry of the Lake school poets (timing; general characteristics of the period/school; authors and their works)
16. Discuss the poetry of Byron, Keats and Shelley (timing; general characteristics of the period/school; authors and their works)
17. Discuss the works of Jane Austen (timing; general characteristics of the period; what genre are Austen's novels; themes; discuss the novel of your choice)
18. Discuss the works of Charles Dickens (timing; general characteristics of the period; what genre are Dickens' novels; themes; discuss the novel of your choice)
19. Discuss the works of Emily and Charlotte Brontë (timing; general

characteristics of the period; what genre are their novels; themes; discuss the novel of your choice)

20. Discuss the typical features of Victorian poetry in the poems of A. Tennyson, R. Browning, E. B. Browning (cultural and historical context and literary forms; idyll; dramatic monologue)
21. Discuss the emergence of Modernism in England and its reflection in the works of James Joyce or D. H. Lawrence (Modernism; context; stream of consciousness; linguistic experiments)
22. Discuss the emergence of Modernism in England and its reflection in the works of Virginia Woolf (Modernism; context; experiments with time; stream of consciousness)
23. Discuss the works of W. Golding or G. Orwell (Dystopian features; totalitarianism)
24. Put the author John Fowles or Ian McEwan in context and discuss the work you have read (Post-war literature; Postmodernism: definition; features; self-reflexivity; metafiction; use of popular fiction; intertextuality)
25. Discuss the main features of the drama of the Absurd or the Angry Young Men (Samuel Beckett or John Osborne) (Post-war drama; context; philosophy; features)
26. Give the typical characteristics of Gothic novels in English Literature and illustrate them on examples from the works you have read (timing; reasons and typical features of Gothic fiction; illustrate your point on a novel of your choice)
27. Discuss the emergence of Postmodernism in Great Britain and its reflection in the works of Kazuo Ishiguro or Martin Amis (Postmodernism; self-reflexivity; use of popular fiction; intertextuality; unreliable narrator)
28. American Romantic Movement and Early Fiction. Washington Irving or Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*
29. Dark Romanticism: Edgar Allan Poe or Herman Melville

30. Transcendentalism (intuition, individualism): Walt Whitman; Emily Dickinson
31. Modernist Fiction: Fitzgerald (Jazz Age / Roaring Twenties); Faulkner
32. Postmodernism (language, decentralization, the literature of exhaustion, irony) Postmodern futures? disruption of master-narratives and master-theories; role of irony and playfulness; tolerating disorder etc.) Vonnegut or Heller
33. Multiple Voices (African-American Lit, Native American Lit, Jewish American Lit) African-American Prose Walker or Morrison, Malamud; Contemporary American Literature: a book of your choice

Compulsory References:

Bradbury, M.: *The Modern British Novel 1878-2001*. Penguin 2001.

Bran Nicol: *The Cambridge Introduction to Postmodern Fiction*. CUP, 2009.

Carter, R., McRae, J.: *The Routledge History of Literature in English: Britain and Ireland*. Routledge, 2001.

Paul Lauter (Ed.): *A Companion to American Literature and Culture*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Poplawski, P. *English Literature in Context*. Cambridge University Press, 2008. Richard Gray: *A History of American Literature*. Wiley_blackwell, 2003.

Sacvan Bercovitch (Ed.): *The Cambridge History of American Literature Vol 1 (1590-1820)*. CUP, 1994.

Walter Kalaidjian (Ed): *The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism*. CUP, 2005.

Recommended References:

Carter, R.: *The Penguin Guide to English History of Literature in English*. Penguin, 1996.

Linguistics

1. Briefly characterise the main branches of English Phonetics and discuss Articulatory Phonetics in greater detail.
2. Divide organs of speech into respiratory organs; modulating organs; resonators and phonatory apparatus; and discuss their specific role in the articulation of English speech sounds.
3. Discuss English fricatives; affricates and laterals (discuss their manner and place of articulation; voicing and their distribution in English).
4. Discuss the vowels of English (how do we describe them in terms of duration; lip-rounding; vertical and horizontal position of tongue). Which vowels are referred to as *pure vowels* and *glides*; and why.
5. Discuss consonants and their basic classification. How do consonants differ from vowels? What are homorganic consonants? Which consonants are referred to as continuants and why?
6. Plosives; approximants and nasals in English (discuss their manner and place of articulation; voicing; and their distribution in English).
7. Discuss the structure of the English syllable and the distribution of speech sounds in English. What is the maximum phonological structure of the English syllable? What are syllabic consonants?
8. What is the difference between tone and intonation languages? Discuss the four main functions of intonation in English: attitudinal; accentual; grammatical and discourse function.
9. What aspects make a syllable prominent (stressed)? What is primary and secondary stress; and how do they differ? Discuss the impact different derivational suffixes can have on stress placement.
10. Which parts of speech can have strong and weak forms (give examples)? In connected speech; when is *the strong form* a preferred pronunciation version? What is the difference between stress-timed and syllable-timed rhythm?

11. Discuss assimilation in English (historical vs. contextual; progressive vs. regressive; assimilation of place; manner and voicing; coalescent assimilation).
12. Discuss elision and linking in words and across the word boundary.
13. Discuss the difference between a word and a morpheme. What is an allomorph?
Discuss different types of morphemes (free/bound; root/affix; prefix/suffix; derivational/inflectional).
14. How are future events expressed in English?
15. Discuss nouns (countability; gender; number; determination and case).
16. Discuss central (personal; possessive; reflexive); reciprocal; demonstrative and relative pronouns.
17. Compare and contrast adjectives and adverbs (distribution; grammatical function; morphology).
18. Discuss verbs (lexical vs. auxiliary; regular vs. irregular). Which verbs can express tense; person and number? Comment on differences in the formation of questions and negation. The functions of the operator.
19. Discuss primary (or: non-modal) auxiliaries (*do; be; have*) vs. modal auxiliaries (*can; may; must; will; shall; should; ought to; etc.*).
20. Clause structure – clause types; verb classes; obligatory and optional clause elements (complements and adjuncts).
21. Syntactic characterisation of clause elements – subject; object; adverbial; attribute. Direct and indirect objects. Subject complement; object complement; complement to noun/adjective/preposition. Obligatory and optional adverbials.
22. Sentence types and discourse functions – declaratives; interrogatives; imperatives; exclamatives. Types of interrogative sentences. The nature and function of ellipsis; types of ellipsis (categorical; positional).
23. Semantic roles of adverbials – place; time; manner; etc. Formal realisation of adverbials (phrasal categories) and their position within the clause.
24. Coordination; coordination and subordination; coordinators and their syntactic and semantic functions. Apposition – restrictive; non-restrictive.

25. The complex sentence – subordinate and superordinate clauses; finite; non-finite and verbless clauses; formal indicators of subordination.
26. Syntactic and semantic functions of subordinate clauses – nominal clauses (subject; object; complement and appositive clauses).
27. Syntactic and semantic functions of subordinate clauses – adverbial (time; conditional) and comparative clauses. Ellipsis in comparative clauses.
28. Multi-word verbs (phrasal verbs; prepositional verbs). Complementation of adjectives (examples; the selection of the preposition).
29. The noun phrase – premodification and postmodification; relative clauses: restrictive and supplementary (non-restrictive and sentential).
30. Theme/topic; focus and information processing/packaging (movements; inversions; passivisation); cleft sentences; existential sentences (the function of *it* and *there*).
31. Discuss the layers of the lexicon (core vocabulary vs. borrowings). Which tests can be used to determine core vocabulary? Why has English borrowed words from other languages? What happens to the loans before they are fully integrated into the lexicon of English?
32. Discuss lexical and meaning relations (homonymy; polysemy; synonymy; antonymy; hyponymy; meronymy).
33. Discuss words and patterns (collocation; lexical set and field; fixed expressions and idioms).
34. Discuss word formation in English (affixation; conversion; back-formation; clipping; acronyms; blending; loanword; calque; coinage).
35. Discuss different types of compounds in English (endocentric vs. exocentric; appositional; dvandva; rhyme-motivated; ablaut-motivated; neo-classical).
36. Discuss the change of the lexicon (semantic widening/narrowing; loss/revival; amelioration; pejoration; neologisms; and archaic words).
37. Discuss taboo and swearing; jargon and slang.

38. Discuss euphemisms; politically correct language; doublespeak / the language of propaganda.

Compulsory References:

- Balogné Bérces, K. (2016/2018). *The Structure of English*. Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. CUP. pp.118-187.
- Katamba, F. (2005). *English Words*. Routledge.
- Pavlik, R. (2000). *Phonetics and Phonology of English: A Theoretical Introduction*. PdF UK.
- Roach, P. (1991). *English Phonetics and Phonology*. CUP.
- Vince, M. (2003). *Advanced Language Practice*. Macmillan.
- Yule, G. (2020). *The Study of Language*. CUP.

Recommended References:

- Collinge, N.E. (ed.) (2005). *An Encyclopaedia of Language*. Routledge.
- Cruttenden, A. (2014). *Gimson's Pronunciation of English*. Routledge.
- Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. CUP.
- Crystal, D. (2007). *How Language Works*. Penguin.
- Fabb, N. (2005). *Sentence Structure*. Routledge.
- Greenbaum, S., Quirk, R. (2004). *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. Longman.
- Halliday, M. (2007). *Lexicology*. Continuum.
- Hewings, M. (2016). *Advanced Grammar in Use*. 3rd edn. CUP.
- Leech, G., Deuchar, M., Hoogenraad, R. (1982/1993). *English Grammar for Today*. Macmillan.
- Lipka, L. (2002). *English Lexicology*. GNV.
- Miller, J. (2002). *An Introduction to English Syntax*. Edinburgh UP.

Culture

1. Discuss the importance of Alfred the Great for the history of England and discuss Magna Charta Libertatum (timing; political as well as cultural impact of Alfred the Great; crusades; Richard the Lionheart; John Lackland; reasons for Magna Charta; importance)
2. Discuss the growth of towns in the Middle Ages (importance; rights; consequences)
3. Discuss the Stuart period – system of parliamentary government; local administration; differences in the development from that on the Continent (who were the Stuart kings of England and why; Protestantism; Jacobite rebellions)
4. Discuss the Victorian period (social and political challenges); imperial policies and colonialism (what and when was the Victorian period; characteristic features; Britain as the Imperial superpower; kinds of colonies; industry)
5. The industrial revolution and the rise of worker movements (timing; the great boom of industry under Queen Victoria; labour laws – women and child labour; working conditions; living conditions of the new industrial working class; strikes and trade unions)
6. Discuss electoral reforms and Women's suffrage (who had the right to vote and why; why did the Industrial revolution change the old electoral system; what were the arguments against women voting; violent and non-violent fight for women's suffrage)
7. Discuss the economic impact of WWI and WWII (timing of both wars; how industry was involved in them; what new war inventions were later used for peaceful purposes)
8. Discuss Thatcherism (timing; main tenets; impact of Thatcher's policies)
9. Discuss Coercive Acts; the Boston Tea Party and the War of Independence (British policy in the American colonies; the Americans' demands for representation in the Parliament; 1st and 2nd Continental Congress; the Declaration of Independence; the American constitution)
10. Discuss slavery – reasons; economic impact (the history of slavery; reasons for its

emergence; why it was especially necessary/economically important in the Southern states of the USA; the justification of slavery)

11. Discuss the political and economic reasons for the American Civil War (the economic and political dimension of slavery; levels of industrialisation in the North vs. the South)
12. Discuss the main characteristics of the American film industry (Hollywood and high-budget filmmaking; franchise system; contemporary cinematic universes; blockbuster culture; adaptations and remakes; convergence and cross-platform narratives)
13. Discuss racial segregation and immigration (inconclusive ending of the Civil war for the African Americans; rules and reasons for the racial segregation; fight for equality; Martin Luther King; reasons for different waves of immigration to the U.S.; Ellis Island)
14. Discuss the American and Russian space race (its role in the Cold War; rivalry for political and global strategic influence; technological innovations and their impact on Russian and US economies; scientific aspect; representation in popular culture [fiction and film])
15. Discuss globalisation (political and economic aspects; cultural aspect; technology; security [for instance: terrorism; climate; migration; health]; global markets; transportation and communication)

Compulsory References:

Cincotta, H.: An Outline of American History, 1994

Jenkins, P: A History of the United States, 2007

May, E. R. - Jordan, W. D.: The American People. A History to 1877, 1986

McDowall, David: An Illustrated History of Britain, 1992

Morgan, K. O.: The Oxford Popular History of Britain, 1996

Oxford History of Britain and Ireland, 2006