

# A Level

## English

---

**Session:** 1957  
**Type:** Syllabus  
**Code:** 3

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE

---

GENERAL CERTIFICATE  
OF  
EDUCATION

REGULATIONS FOR THE EXAMINATION  
1956 & 1957§

---

*§ No separate edition of the Regulations will be issued for 1957; changes in Syllabus for that year are indicated on pp. 56-64 of this pamphlet. Any subsequent slight changes for 1957 will be announced in the Circular to Schools of January 1956.*

*The full Regulations for 1958 will be issued in April 1956.*

*Correspondence should be addressed to*  
THE SECRETARY, SYNDICATE BUILDINGS, CAMBRIDGE  
*Telegraphic Address: Syndicate, Cambridge*

---

PRICE ONE SHILLING

April 1955

Archives &  
Heritage

### 3. ENGLISH

*Shakespeare Texts.* Where there are variant readings, the text used for passages from the prescribed plays of Shakespeare set in question papers at both advanced and ordinary levels will be that of the Alexander edition of the Complete Works of Shakespeare.

*A pass at ordinary level awarded to a candidate who fails to pass in this subject at advanced level will normally be recorded as in 'English Literature'.*

#### Advanced Level

Candidates must offer Paper IV and any two of Papers I, II and III.

PAPER I. COMPOSITION AND COMMENT. 2½ hours.

This paper will include passages for comment and appreciation; the paper will be divided into two sections as shown below. Candidates will be required to attempt both sections.

Section A. *Composition.* A passage of modern prose for summary or précis.

A passage of sixteenth-century or seventeenth-century prose for translation into modern English.

<sup>1</sup> Set for 1955.

## ENGLISH

Section B. *Comment.* Short passages of literary prose or verse for exposition, comment or comparison. The passages will not be drawn from any period of English literature earlier than 1600.

PAPER II. SHAKESPEARE. 2½ hours.

For 1956:

Tragedy, *Hamlet, Coriolanus*;  
Comedy, <sup>1</sup>*Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing*;  
History, <sup>1</sup>*King John*.

Candidates must offer a minimum of three plays, including one tragedy and one comedy. They must answer one question from Section A and two questions from Section B.

Section A. Questions on context and paraphrase. Short passages from each of the plays will be set, two passages from each tragedy and one from each comedy and history. Candidates will be required to paraphrase two of these, taking one passage from a tragedy and one from either a comedy or a history, and to relate them to their context with appropriate comment. Separate context questions will not be set.

Section B. General questions on the significance, subject-matter and dramatic qualities of the plays prescribed.

PAPER III. CHAUCER, SPENSER, MILTON. 2½ hours. The paper will comprise five sections as follows:

Section I. Paraphrase of portions from the prescribed books. Candidates will be required to paraphrase a passage from Chaucer and a passage from either Spenser or Milton and to relate these passages to their context with appropriate comment.

For 1956:

Section II. Chaucer, <sup>1</sup>*The Prologue*.

Section III. Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book II.

Section IV. Milton, <sup>1</sup>*Comus and some Shorter Poems* (ed. Tillyard, Harrap), pp. 60–114.

Section V. Additional optional questions, each of which will be designed to give candidates the opportunity of writing on two or more of the prescribed books from the point of view of theme, style, treatment, etc.

Candidates will be required to answer three questions in all, as follows: Section I (compulsory for all candidates) and two other questions chosen from any two of Sections II, III, IV, V. Sections II, III, and IV will

<sup>1</sup> Set for 1955.

## ENGLISH

consist of questions on the significance, subject-matter and literary qualities of the works prescribed.

PAPER IV. 2½ hours. One of the following five<sup>2</sup> papers:

Either Paper IV (a). The period 1579–1700 (excluding Shakespeare, Spenser and Milton). Candidates must offer a minimum of four books, and will be required to answer four questions.

For 1956:

Dryden, <sup>1</sup>*All For Love*;  
Bacon, <sup>1</sup>*The New Atlantis*;  
*Shorter Elizabethan Novels*: <sup>1</sup>*Thomas of Reading*, <sup>1</sup>*The Unfortunate Traveller* (Everyman);  
{ Greene, *The Third and Last Part of Cony-catching* and  
{ Dekker, *The Wonderful Year* (available in *Three Elizabethan Pamphlets*, Harrap);

<sup>1</sup>*Metaphysical Poems and Lyrics of the 17th Century* (ed. Grierson, Oxford Univ. Press, Clarendon Series), the poems which begin on the following pages: 1, 2, 3, 8, 14, 18, 21, 36, 37, 38, 40, 47, 49 ('The Lark now leaves...'), 53, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 64, 73, 79, 86 (both), 87 (both), 89, 91, 104, 105, 109, 110, 111 (*The Collar*), 115 (*Love*), 119, 145, 146, 148, 149, 156, 162, 171, 173, 177, 181, 182, 183, 185, 203, 207, 209, 212;

Marvell, *Selected Poetry and Prose* (ed. Davison, Harrap), pp. 73–75 (*The Gallery* and *The Fair Singer*), 83–145, 182–183 (*The Printing Press*), 184–190 (*Geneva*), 198–202 (*The Civil War, Kings and Liberty*).

Candidates offering Paper IV (a) may find *Picture Source Book, Sixteenth Century* by M. Harrison and M. E. Bryant (Allen and Unwin) useful for background information.

or Paper IV (b). The period 1780–1832. Candidates must offer a minimum of four books, and will be required to answer four questions.

For 1956:

Wordsworth, *Poetry and Prose* (Oxford Univ. Press, Clarendon Series);  
Byron, *Poetry and Prose* (Oxford Univ. Press, Clarendon Series);  
Keats, *Selected Letters and Poems* (ed. Walsh, Chatto and Windus), pp. 9–46 and 50 (beginning at Selections from *Endymion*)–152;  
Shelley, <sup>1</sup>*Selections* (ed. Thompson, Cambridge Univ. Press);  
Scott, *Guy Mannering*;  
Jane Austen, *Emma*.

<sup>1</sup> Set for 1955.

<sup>2</sup> Paper IV will comprise only four alternatives in 1957, see pp. 57 and 58.

## ENGLISH

Paper IV (a) and Paper IV (b) will be so set that candidates may confine their attention to the prescribed works alone, but in each of these two papers four or five questions will also be set on other authors, groups of authors, or on literary conditions and characteristics of the period prescribed, so that candidates with a wider knowledge and interest may have an opportunity to show it.

or Paper IV (c). <sup>1</sup>The Victorian Novel. Candidates will be expected to have read at least two novels each by any four of the following: Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, the Brontë sisters, George Eliot, Hardy, Henry James. This paper will be set only on special application by 1 November 1955. An additional fee will be payable.

or Paper IV (d). <sup>1</sup>The Age of Johnson. The syllabus for this paper covers approximately the period 1734–1784. Candidates will be required to answer four questions in all, chosen from at least two of the sections (i)–(iv). In each of sections (i)–(iii) candidates are recommended to study at least two of the books in the reading list; in section (iv) candidates are recommended to study selections of the letters of at least four of the letter-writers of the period. This paper will be set only on special application by 1 November 1955. An additional fee will be payable.

(i) *Prose*. Boswell, *Life of Johnson*; Johnson, *The Rambler* (selections), *Lives of the Poets* (two lives, Pope and Milton); Goldsmith, *Citizen of the World*; Burke, *Thoughts on the Present Discontents*; Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (early chapters).

(ii) *Novels*. Richardson, *Pamela*; Fielding, *Tom Jones*; Smollett, *Humphrey Clinker*.

(iii) *Poetry*. Pope, *The Essay on Man*; Johnson, *The Vanity of Human Wishes*; Gray, *Poems*; Collins, *Odes*; Crabbe, *The Village*.

(iv) *Letters*. It is suggested that a collection such as *Selected English Letters* (World's Classics, Oxford Univ. Press) will be found satisfactory. The most important letter-writers of the period, selections from whose letters should be studied, are: Chesterfield; Johnson; Sterne; Gray; Horace Walpole; Goldsmith; Cowper; Burke; Gibbon.

or Paper IV (e). The Period 1900–1940. Candidates will be required to answer four questions, including at least two from Section A, the remaining two questions to be chosen freely from Section A and/or Section B.

For 1956:

Section A. Prescribed Books. Galsworthy, *The Man of Property* (Heinemann); E. M. Forster, *Howard's End*; *Abinger Harvest*; Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*; Yeats, *Selected Poems* (Macmillan), pp. 85–end; T. S. Eliot, *Murder in the Cathedral*; Lowes Dickinson, *A Modern Symposium*; G. B. Shaw, *Caesar and Cleopatra*.

<sup>1</sup> Set for 1955.

## ENGLISH

Section B. General background questions on the period, based largely on the books prescribed in Section A.

### Scholarship Level

Candidates will offer Papers II, III, and IV for advanced level, together with Paper V, a 3-hour Scholarship paper. Paper V will be divided into two parts, as shown below; candidates will be required to answer three questions in all, one from Part I and two from Part II.

*Part I*. Practical criticism. This section will contain "unseen" passages of literary prose or verse for exposition, comment, or comparison. The passages may be drawn from any period of English literature after 1300, but, when passages are set from the period 1300–1600, alternative passages from a later period will also be set.

*Part II*. General questions, grouped in sections related to the authors, works, and periods prescribed for advanced level Papers II, III, and IV respectively. Candidates may select both of these questions from the same section, or one from each of two sections if they so wish. Some choice of questions will be given within each section. The questions will be so framed as to afford candidates the opportunity to give evidence of wider reading and fuller appreciation than is asked for in the advanced level papers. Evidence of wider reading will be looked for in breadth of treatment and understanding, not in the shape of purely factual knowledge, and questions will not be set on particular authors or works or parts of works not prescribed for the advanced level papers.

For the section related to *Paper II (Shakespeare)*, candidates will be expected to have some knowledge of plays in addition to those which they offer at advanced level. It is recommended that they should have read about ten plays, including those offered at advanced level.

In the section related to *Paper III (Chaucer, Spenser, Milton)*, candidates will be expected to have some knowledge of other parts of the works of these authors as well as of the texts offered at advanced level.

In the sections related to *Paper IV (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)*, candidates will be expected to have some knowledge of: other works of the authors offered at advanced level; and/or the works of other major authors of the period; and/or the literary background of the period. There will be at least three questions on each of the periods prescribed for Paper IV.