

**UPSC
OPTIONAL
SYLLABUS FOR
ENGLISH**

UPSC OPTIONAL SYLLABUS FOR ENGLISH

The syllabus consists of two papers, designed to test a first-hand and critical reading of texts prescribed from the following periods in English Literature:

- Paper 1: 1600-1900
- Paper 2: 1900–1990.

There will be two compulsory questions in each paper:

- (a) A short-notes question related to the topics for general study,
- (b) A critical analysis of UNSEEN passages both in prose and verse.

UPSC ENGLISH SYLLABUS FOR PAPER – I

(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;
- Neoclassicism;
- Satire;
- The Romantic Movement;
- The Rise of the Novel;
- The Victorian Age.

SECTION A

1. William Shakespeare: Book- King Lear and The Tempest.

2. John Donne.

The following poems: –

SR. NO	POEMS
1	Canonization
2	Death be not proud
3	The Good Morrow
4	On his Mistress going to bed
5	The Relic

3. John Milton: Paradise Lost, I, II, IV, IX.

4. Alexander Pope. The Rape of the Lock.

5. William Wordsworth.

The following poems: –

SR. NO	POEMS
1	Ode on Intimations of Immortality
2	Tintern Abbey
3	Three years she grew
4	She dwelt among untrodden ways
5	Michael
6	Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour
7	Upon Westminster Bridge

6. Alfred Tennyson: Poem- In Memoriam.

7. Henrik Ibsen: Poem- A Doll's House.

SECTION B

SR. NO.	BOOK / NOVEL	AUTHOR
1	Gulliver's Travels (BOOK)	Jonathan Swift
2	Pride and Prejudice (NOVEL)	Jane Austen
3	Tom Jones (NOVEL)	Henry Fielding
4	Hard Times (NOVEL)	Charles Dickens
5	The Mill on the Floss (NOVEL)	George Eliot
6	Tess of the d'Urbervilles (NOVEL)	Thomas Hardy
7	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (NOVEL)	Mark Twain

UPSC ENGLISH SYLLABUS FOR PAPER – II

(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 PostColonialism
- Indian Writing in English
- Marxist
- Psychoanalytical and Feminist approaches to literature
- Post-Modernism

Section A

1. William Butler Yeats the following Poems:

SR. NO	POEMS
1.	Easter 1916.
2.	The Second Coming.
3.	A Prayer for my daughter.
4.	Sailing to Byzantium
5.	The Tower
6.	Among School Children
7.	Leda and the Swan
8.	Meru
9.	Lapis Lazuli
10.	The Second Coming
11.	Byzantium

2. T. S. Eliot the following Poems:

SR. NO	POEMS
1.	The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
2.	Journey of the Magi
3.	Burnt Norton

3. W. H. Auden the following Poems:

SR. NO	POEMS
1.	Partition
2.	Musee des Beaux Arts
3.	In Memory of W.B. Yeats
4.	Lay your sleeping head, my love
5.	The Unknown Citizen
6.	Consider
7.	Mundus Et Infans
8.	The Shield of Achilles
9.	September 1, 1939
10.	Petition

4. John Osborne the following Play:

SR. NO	PLAY
1.	Look Back in Anger

5. Samuel Beckett the following Play:

SR. NO	PLAY
1.	Waiting for Godot

6. Philip Larkin the following Poems:

SR. NO	POEMS
1.	Next
2.	Please
3.	Deceptions
4.	Afternoons
5.	Days
6.	Mr. Bleaney

7. A. K. Ramanujan the following Poems:

SR. NO	POEMS
1.	Looking for a cousin on a Swing
2.	A River
3.	Of Mothers, among other Things
4.	Love Poem for a Wife 1
5.	Small-Scale Reflections on a Great House – Obituary

NOTE:

(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

SR. NO	NOVELS	AUTHOR
1.	Lord Jim	Joseph Conrad
2.	Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man	James Joyce
3.	Sons and Lovers	D.H. Lawrence
4.	A Passage to India	E.M. Forster
5.	Mrs. Dalloway	Virginia Woolf
6.	Kanthapura	Raja Rao
7.	A House for Mr. Biswas	V.S. Naipaul