

CLEP EXAMINATION: *Analyzing and Interpreting Literature*

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION:

The Analyzing and Interpreting Literature examination covers material usually taught in a general two-semester undergraduate course in literature. Although the examination does not require familiarity with specific works, it does assume that candidates have read widely and perceptively in poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. The questions are based on passages supplied in the test. These passages have been selected so that no previous experience with them is required to answer the questions. The passages are taken primarily from American and British literature.

The examination contains approximately 80 multiple-choice questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Some of these are pretest questions that will not be scored. Any time candidates spend taking tutorials and providing personal information is additional to actual testing time.

An optional essay can be taken in addition to the multiple-choice test. The essay section is graded by the institution that requests it and is still administered in a paper-and-pencil format.

|STUDY RESOURCES:

The most relevant preparation for the Analyzing and Interpreting Literature exam is attentive and reflective reading of the various literary genres of poetry, drama and prose. You can prepare for the test by:

- 1. Reading a variety of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction*
- 2. Reading critical analyses of various literary works*
- 3. Writing analyses and interpretations of the works you read*
- 4. Discussing with others the meaning of the literature you read*

Textbooks and anthologies used for college courses in the analysis and interpretation of literature contain a sampling of literary works in a variety of genres. They also contain material that can help you comprehend the meanings of literary works and recognize the devices writers use to convey their sense and intent. To prepare for the exam, you should study the contents of at least one textbook or anthology, which you can find in most college bookstores. You would do well to consult two or three texts because they do vary somewhat in content, approach, and emphasis.

CLEP TEST KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED	Minnesota High School Language Arts Standards <i>D. Literature Standard Benchmarks</i>	Notes
<i>Ability to read prose, poetry, and drama with understanding</i>	1. Read, analyze and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from American literature.	<i>Alignment only if study area content is used. It is recommended an additional writing assessment be used to assess ability to analyze and evaluate.</i>
	2. Read, analyze and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from British literature.	
<i>Ability to analyze the elements of a literary passage and to respond to nuances of meaning, tone, imagery, and style</i>	1. Read, analyze and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from American literature.	
	2. Read, analyze and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from British literature.	
<i>Ability to interpret metaphors, to recognize rhetorical and stylistic devices, to perceive relationships between parts and wholes, and to grasp a speaker's or author's attitudes</i>	8. Analyze classic and contemporary poems for poetic devices.	
<i>Knowledge of the means by which literary effects are achieved*</i>	10. Interpret the effect of literary and structural devices.	
<i>Familiarity with the basic terminology used to discuss literary texts</i>		