

CLEP EXAMINATION: *English Literature*

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION:

The English Literature examination covers material that is usually taught in a two-semester course (or the equivalent) at the college level. The test is primarily concerned with major authors and literary works, but it also includes questions on some minor writers. Candidates are expected to be acquainted with common literary terms, such as metaphor, personification, and basic literary forms, such as the sonnet and the ballad.

In both coverage and approach, the examination resembles the historically organized survey of English literature offered by many colleges. It assumes the candidates have read widely and developed an appreciation of English literature, know the basic literary periods, and have a sense of historical development of English literature.

An optional essay section, which is required if the institution to which the candidate is applying requests a writing sample, is also available. This optional section requires candidates to demonstrate their ability to write clearly and effectively. Candidates respond to two of three essay topics. An essay on the first topic is required, and candidates are advised to spend 35 to 40 minutes on it. For the second essay, candidates choose one of two topics on which they should plan to spend 50 to 55 minutes. The essays are scored locally by faculty.

The examination contains 95 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Any time candidates spend on tutorials and providing personal information is in addition to the actual testing time.

| <i>English Literature</i> | | |
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| CLEP TEST KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED | ALIGNMENT TO MN ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN LANGUAGE ARTS | |
| | Literature Benchmarks | Notes |
| <i>Knowledge of literary background, identification of authors</i> | <i>1. Read, analyze, and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from British literature.</i> | <i>It is recommended that an additional writing assessment be used to assess the student's ability to evaluate and demonstrate.</i> |
| | <i>3. Read, analyze, and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from civilizations and countries around the world.</i> | |
| | <i>11. Demonstrate how literary works reflect the historical contexts that shaped them.</i> | |
| <i>Knowledge of metrical patterns, literary references, literary terms.</i> <i>Ability to analyze the elements of form in a literary passage, perceive meanings, identify tone and mood, follow patterns of imagery, identify characteristics of style, and comprehend the reasoning in an excerpt of literary criticism</i> | <i>4. Evaluate the impact of an author's decisions regarding word choice, point of view, style and literary elements.</i> | <i>It is recommended that an additional writing assessment be used to assess the student's ability to evaluate.</i> |
| | <i>5. Analyze, interpret and evaluate the use of figurative language and imagery in fiction and nonfiction selections, including symbolism, tone, irony, and satire.</i> | |
| | <i>6. Analyze and evaluate the relationship between and among elements of literature: character, setting, plot, tone, symbolism, rising action, climax, falling action, point of view, theme and conflict/resolution.</i> | |
| | <i>8. Analyze classic and contemporary poems for poetic devices.</i> | |
| | <i>9. Analyze the characteristics of literary forms.</i> | |
| | <i>10. Interpret the effect of literary and structural devices.</i> | |

