

EXAM STUDY GUIDE IN POETRY FOR MFA/PHD STUDENTS

The student will be expected to prepare for this exam by studying in three areas: I. British and American poetry before 1900, II. 20th Century British and American poetry, and III. Poetic versification.

Students should prepare for the exam by studying the following poems. They should be so familiar with these poems that on an exam they could discuss them without the aid of text. Students should be able to explicate the poem as well as particular lines from them. They should also be able to discuss why the poems are notable, how they are central to the work of their authors, and how they are emblematic of the schools or periods or movements from which they come.

1. "The Canonization" John Donne
2. "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" John Donne
3. "The Pulley" George Herbert
4. "Lycidas" John Milton
5. "To His Coy Mistress" Andrew Marvell
6. "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" Thomas Gray
7. "Tintern Abby" William Wordsworth
8. "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" William Wordsworth
9. "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" Samuel Taylor Coleridge
10. "Ode to the West Wind" Percy Bysshe Shelley
11. "Ode to a Nightingale" John Keats
12. "Ode to a Grecian Urn" John Keats
13. "To Autumn" John Keats
14. "Tears, Idle Tears" Alfred Lord Tennyson
15. "My Last Duchess" Robert Browning
16. "The Bishop Orders his Tomb at St. Praxed's Church" Robert Browning
17. "Dover Beach" Matthew Arnold
18. "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" Walt Whitman
19. "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" Emily Dickinson
20. "I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died" Emily Dickinson
21. "The Second Coming" William Butler Yeats
22. "Among School Children" William Butler Yeats
23. "Lapis Lazuli" William Butler Yeats
24. "Birches" Robert Frost
25. "The Death of the Hired Man" Robert Frost
26. "Home Burial" Robert Frost
27. "Sunday Morning" Wallace Stevens
28. "The Idea of Order at Key West" Wallace Stevens
29. "The Waste Land" T.S. Eliot
30. "Year's End" Richard Wilbur

In addition to these poems, the student should read and study and be able to bring into a discussion *any* of the poems in the MFA/PHD Reading List by any of the authors of the first twenty poems on the above list.

In addition to the above thirty poems, the student should be able to fully discuss the development of the major forms and types of poetry in English, from the Renaissance to the 20th century. These would include such types of poetry as the lyric, the dramatic monologue, the symbolist poem, the ode, or the sonnet. For example, in a sonnet discussion, the student should be able to refer to the following sonnets specifically:

Wyatt: "Whoso List to Hunt," "My Galley Charges with Forgetfulness"

Surrey: "The Sooeete Season"

Spenser: "One Day I Wrote Her Name Upon the Strand"

Sydney: "Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show"

Drayton: "Since There's No Help, Come Let us Kiss and Part"

Shakespeare: Sonnets 18, 29, 55, 73, 116, 129, 130, 138, 144

Donne: Holy Sonnets 10 and 14

Milton: "On the Late Massacre in Piedmont," "Methought I Saw My Late Espoused Saint," "Surprised by Joy," "The World Is Too Much With Us," "It is a Beauteous Evening"

Keats: "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "When I Have Fears"

Hopkins: "God's Grandeur," "Pied Beauty," "The Windhover," "Carrion Comfort," "Thou Art Indeed Just"

Yeats: "Leda and the Swan"

Frost: "Design," "A Silken Tent," "Acquainted With the Night"

Robinson: "How Annandale Went Out," "The Sheaves," "The Karma," "Firelight"

Millay: "Love is Not All," "Euclid Alone Has Looked on Beauty Bare," "What Lips My Lips Have Kissed," "Not in a Silver Casket," "Time Does Not Bring Relief," "Sweet Love, Sweet Thorn"

Wilbur: "Praise in Summer"

Nemerov: "A Primer of the Daily Round," "Two Girls"

Wright: "Saint Judas"

Gwynn: "Body Bags," "1916"

The student will be expected to know and be able to discuss the major movements and periods of English and American poetry from the Renaissance to the Contemporary era. **All** discussions must be supported by references to specific poems and lines from poems. The introductions to the centuries, periods, and authors in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature 7th Edition* as well as David Perkins's *A Modern Poetry* are excellent places to **begin** one's study.

FOR PHD STUDENTS IN FICTION *ONLY*: STUDENTS IN POETRY SHOULD REFER TO THE PHD/MFA READING LIST IN POETRY FOR 20TH CENTURY POETRY GUIDELINES
The student should be able to discuss the major poems, themes, motifs, etc. of the following:

William Butler Yeats

W.H. Auden

Dylan Thomas
Robert Frost
Wallace Stevens
T.S. Eliot
William Carlos Williams
Marianne Moore
Theodore Roethke
Elizabeth Bishop
Philip Larkin
Richard Wilbur
Anthony Hecht
Sylvia Plath

To determine what poems are considered *major* by these poets, the student is responsible for the poems by the poets in the following anthologies. Discussion **must** be supported by references to specific poems.

The Norton Anthology of Poetry 4th Edition

The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry 3rd Edition, 2 vls.

Twentieth Century American Poetry, Ed. Gioia, Mason, and Schoerke, McGraw-Hill

Contemporary American Poetry: A Pocket Anthology, Ed. Gwynn & Linder, Penguin

FOR ALL MFA/PHD STUDENTS IN CREATIVE WRITING: VERSIFICATION,
IDENTIFICATIONS.

Each exam will include one identification section. Some of these identifications will be quotations, dates, words, or terms having to do with poetry and the poets with whom a graduate student should be familiar. But approximately half of them will come from the twenty page discussion on VERSIFICATION in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry 4th Edition* and from the 2nd edition of Paul Fussell's *Poetic Meter and Poetic Form*.