

The aim of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) syllabus in [Literature in English](#) is to prepare the candidates for the Board's examination. It is designed to test their achievement of the course objectives, which are to:

- stimulate and sustain their interest in Literature in English;
- create an awareness of the general principles of Literature and functions of language;
 - appreciate literary works of all genres and across all cultures;
- apply the knowledge of Literature in English to the analysis of social, political and economic events in the society.



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1. DRAMA

Topics:

a. Types:

- i. Tragedy
- ii. Comedy
- iii. Tragicomedy
- iv. Melodrama
- v. Farce
- vi. Opera etc.

b. Dramatic Techniques

i. Characterization

ii. Dialogue

iii. Flashback

iv. Mime

v. Costume

vi. Music/Dance

vii. Décor/scenery

viii. Acts/Scenes

ix. Soliloquy/aside

x. Figures of Speech etc

c. Interpretation of the Prescribed Texts

- i. Theme
- ii. Plot
- iii. Socio-political context
- iv. Setting

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify the various types of drama;
- ii. analyse the contents of the various types of drama;
- iii. compare and contrast the features of different dramatic types;
- iv. demonstrate adequate knowledge of dramatic techniques used in each prescribed text;
- v. differentiate between styles of selected playwrights;
- vi. determine the theme of any prescribed text;
- vii. identify the plot of the play;
- viii. apply the lessons of the play to everyday living
- ix. identify the spatial and temporal setting of the play.

2. PROSE



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Topics:

a. Types:

- i. Fiction
 - Novel
 - Novella/Novelette
 - Short story
- ii. Non-fiction
 - Biography
 - Autobiography
 - Memoir
- iii. Faction: a combination of fact and fiction

b. Narrative Techniques/Devices:

- i. Point of view
 - Omniscient/Third Person
 - First [Person](#)
- ii. Characterisation
 - Round, flat, foil, hero, antihero, etc
- iii. Language

c. Textual Analysis

- i. Theme
- ii. Plot
- iii. Setting (Temporal/Spatial)
- iv. Socio-political context

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. differentiate between types of prose;
- ii. identify the category that each prescribed text belongs to;
- iii. analyse the components of each type of prose;
- iv. identify the narrative techniques used in each of the prescribed texts;
- v. determine an author's narrative style;
- vi. distinguish between one type of character from another;
- vii. determine the thematic pre-occupation of the author of the prescribed text;
- viii. indicate the plot of the novel; identify the temporal and spatial setting of the novel.
- ix. identify the temporal and spatial setting of the novel
- x. relate the prescribed text to real-life situations.

3. POETRY



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Topics:

a. Types:

- i. Sonnet
- ii. Ode
- iii. Lyrics
- iv. Elegy
- v. Ballad
- vi. Panegyric
- vii. Epic
- viii. [Blank](#) Verse, etc.

b. Poetic devices

- i. Structure
- ii. Imagery
- iii. Sound(Rhyme/Rhythm, repetition, pun, onomatopoeia, etc.)
- iv. Diction
- v. Persona

c. Appreciation

- i. Thematic preoccupation
- ii. Socio-political relevance
- iii. Style.

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify different types of poetry;
- ii. compare and contrast the features of different poetic types;
- iii. determine the devices used by various poets;
- iv. show how poetic devices are used for aesthetic effect in each poem;
- v. deduce the poet's preoccupation from the poem;
- vi. appraise poetry as an art with moral values;
- vii. apply the lessons from the poem to real-life situations.

4. GENERAL LITERARY PRINCIPLES



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Topics:

a. Literary terms: foreshadowing, suspense, theatre, monologue, dialogue, soliloquy, symbolism, protagonist, antagonist, figures of speech, satire, stream of consciousness, etc., [in addition](#) to those listed above under the different genres.

b. Literary principles

- i. Direct imitation in play;
- ii. Versification in drama and poetry;
- iii. Narration of people's experiences;
- iv. Achievement of aesthetic value, etc.

c. Relationship between literary terms and principles.

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify literary terms in drama, prose, and poetry;
- ii. identify the general [principles of](#) Literature;
- iii. differentiate between literary terms and principles;
- iv. use literary terms appropriately.

5. LITERARY APPRECIATION



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Topics:

Unseen passages/extracts from Drama, Prose, and Poetry.

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. determine literary devices used in a given passage/extract;
- ii. provide a meaningful interpretation of the given passage/extract;
- iii. relate the extract to true life experiences.

**A LIST OF SELECTED AFRICAN AND NON-
AFRICAN PLAYS, NOVELS, AND POEMS**



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Drama:

African:

- i. Frank Ogodo Ogbeche: Harvest of Corruption

Non-African:

- i. William Shakespeare: Othello

Prose:

African:

- i. Amma Darko: Faceless

Non-African:

- i. Richard Wright: Native Son

Poetry:

African:

- i. Birago Diop: Vanity
- ii. Gbemisola Adeoti: Ambush
- iii. Gabriel Okara : Piano [and](#) Drums
- iv. Gbanabam Hallowell: The Dining Table
- v. Lenrie Peter: The Panic of Growing Older
- vi. Kofi Awoonor: The Anvil and the Hammer

Non-African:

- i. Alfred Tennyson: Crossing the Bar
- ii. George Herbert: The Pulley
- iii. William Blake: The School Boy
- iv. William Morris: The Proud King

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. ANTHOLOGIES

- Gbemisola, A. (2005) Naked Soles, Ibadan: Kraft
- Hayward, J. (ed.) (1968) The Penguin Book of English Verse, London Penguin
- Johnson, R. et al (eds.) (1996) New Poetry from Africa, Ibadan: UP Plc
- Kermode, F. et al (1964) Oxford Anthology of English Literature, Vol. II, London: OUP
- Nwoga D. (ed.) (1967) West African Verse, London: Longman
- Senanu, K. E. and Vincent, T. (eds.) (1993) A Selection of African Poetry, Lagos: Longman
- Soyinka, W. (ed.) (1987) Poems of Black Africa, Ibadan: Heinemann

2. CRITICAL TEXTS

- Abrams, M. H. (1981) A Glossary of Literary Terms, (4th Edition) New York, Holt Rinehalt and Winston
- Emeaba, O. E. (1982) A Dictionary of Literature, Aba: Inteks Press
- Murphy, M. J. (1972) Understanding Unseen, An Introduction to English Poetry and English Novel for Overseas Students, George Allen and Unwin Ltd.