

## Zagadnienia z zakresu historii literatury brytyjskiej

- 1) Examples of the main types of texts which survived in Old English.
- 2) The range of themes present in Old English elegiac poems.
- 3) Old English heroic poetry focusing on the figure of the hero as central to the formation of group or national identity.
- 4) *Beowulf* as a poem about the uncanny.
- 5) Pagan and Christian inspirations and motifs in Old English poetry.
- 6) Three distinctive technical features of Old English poetry.
- 7) The role of the Venerable Bede and the role of King Alfred the Great in the development of literature and national identity of the early English.
- 8) The rise and development of English Arthurian romances.
- 9) Examples of Anglo-Norman poetry and the idea of *fin amor* (courtly love).
- 10) Representations of society in medieval poetry of your choice.
- 11) *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer as an anthology of medieval literary genres.
- 12) Main types of medieval theatre.
- 13) Main themes of Tudor and Elizabethan court poetry. In what way are they related to medieval *fin amor* (courtly love) and in what way do they introduce new issues?
- 14) The development of the sonnet form, from its Italian origins to its representations in late sixteenth century England.
- 15) Beginnings and development of Renaissance drama up to Shakespeare.
- 16) Images of Utopia in English literature of the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century. Discuss providing appropriate examples.
- 17) Conventions of Elizabethan drama; supply examples of your choice.
- 18) The speaker and addressee(s) of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*?
- 19) The question of personal identity in Shakespeare's plays.
- 20) Representations of history in Shakespeare's plays.
- 21) Chosen female portraits in Shakespeare.
- 22) Major trends and representatives of Jacobean drama.
- 23) Cultural (incl. philosophical), political and social background to the seventeenth-century English literature.
- 24) Rhetorical strategies of the seventeenth-century poetry referring do John Donne and George Herbert.
- 25) Contemporary attitudes to gender, seduction, and role playing with those found in Andrew Marvell and other "baroque" poets.

- 26) Religious poetry of the first half of the seventeenth century. A historical background presenting religious conflicts of the time.
- 27) Major trends in the seventeenth-century and early eighteenth century philosophy and their manifestations in literary works of the period.
- 28) John Milton as a seventeenth-century Puritan, poet and dramatist.
- 29) Science and philosophy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- 30) Images of the country and the city in eighteenth-century English literature. Discuss and provide appropriate examples.
- 31) General characteristics of prose in the Age of Reason.
- 32) Daniel Defoe, his fictions and the rise of capitalism.
- 33) The influence of travel narratives on the eighteenth-century novel.
- 34) The use of autobiography, memoir and diary in the eighteenth-century novel.
- 35) Perspectives on man in eighteenth-century poetry.
- 36) Characteristic features of eighteenth-century meditative poetry (e.g. Graveyard School of Poetry).
- 37) Origins, development, and major conventions of the Gothic novel.
- 38) Innocence and experience in Blake's poetry.
- 39) William Blake's poetic mythology and prophetic visions.
- 40) Images of nature in Romantic poetry.
- 41) The romantic element in the poetry of Wordsworth and Coleridge.
- 42) Poetic self-representations in English romanticism.
- 43) Byron and Shelley: Romantic ambition and revolutionary action.
- 44) Romantic fictions on an example of your choice.
- 45) Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*: its (literary) genealogy, its context, its visions (predictions?) of the future.
- 46) The "feminist" (female-authored or female-centred) novel in the nineteenth century.
- 47) Social concerns in nineteenth-century England: discuss on the basis of chosen fictions.
- 48) Characterise the fictions of a chosen Victorian author.
- 49) Pre-Raphaelite poetry (and painting): representatives, motifs, conventions.
- 50) Form and content in the poetry of G. M. Hopkins (or another Victorian poet or poetess).
- 51) Discuss trends and themes of the fin-de-siècle literature.
- 52) Oscar Wilde's views on art and life.
- 53) Irish writers (playwrights, poets) of the Modernist period.
- 54) Joseph Conrad, colonialism & imperialism, and the idea of 'White Man's Burden'.

- 55) Modernist prose as exemplified by an author of your choice.
- 56) Cultural, spiritual and social fragmentation in T.S. Eliot's early poetry.
- 57) The Theatre of the Absurd – discuss Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* or another “absurdist” drama of your choice.
- 58) Man, society, politics, and the system - in the novels by George Orwell, William Golding and Anthony Burgess.
- 59) British drama after World War II – discuss three playwrights of your own choice.
- 60) British poetry after World War II – discuss three poets of your own choice.
- 61) ‘The Empire Writes Back’: discuss the postcolonial condition on the basis of chosen literary works.
- 62) Representations and problems of hybrid (“hyphenated”) identity in post-war fiction.
- 63) The work of a chosen British Nobel-prize-winning writer.
- 64) Identity, memory, tradition – discuss providing examples from post-war poetry.
- 65) Ireland and Irishness in twentieth-century poetry and/or fiction.