



ENGLISH LITERATURE

OPTIONAL 2026-27

Pratigya Batch



By - Dr. Anamta Rizvi
(Senior Faculty - Eng LT.)



7th July '25



1:00 PM

Study Iq is introducing a comprehensive English Literature Optional Course cum Test Series Programme. The objective of this course is to help students understand the subject matter more conceptually as well as to impart answer writing skills to the students.

MERITS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE OPTIONAL

1. Cultivates Analytical and Critical Thinking: This course tests the ability to analyze diverse perspectives and themes in literary texts, developing critical thinking skills that help tackle essay questions and ethics case studies with creativity and depth.

2. Significant Overlap with General Studies Papers:

a. GS 1: Insights into history, culture, and societal transformations through literary texts.

b. Essay Paper: Ability to weave compelling arguments and narratives.

c. Ethics: Moral and philosophical reflections through literature.

This overlap enriches the aspirant's approach across multiple sections of the exam.



3. Enhances Communication and Writing Skills: By studying English Literature, students learn to write eloquently and persuasively, which is a critical asset for essay writing, answer articulation, and the interview stage of the UPSC Civil Services Examination.

4. Abundance of Well-Structured Study Material: From timeless classics to contemporary works, this subject offers a wealth of resources. The course provides a curated list of texts and interpretations, balancing academic rigor with accessibility.

5. Unique and Rewarding Optional: With fewer aspirants opting for English Literature, this subject provides a unique edge. It consistently rewards candidates who can creatively connect literature to contemporary societal challenges.



Features

Gold

Platinum



400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months



Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty



Recorded Lectures & Hand written Notes and Crux



Comprehensive Coverage of Every Topic with PYQ Discussion



Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated



Regular answer writing sessions with evaluation



One to one Mentorship 24*7



Mains Test Series (Sectional & Full Length Test)



Optional Gyan Bhandar



Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty



Validity

18 Months

30 Months

STUDY PLAN

JULY 2025

Week 3 (7th July - 11th July)

W.H. Auden (Selected Poems):

o Partition, September 1, 1939, Musée des Beaux Arts, The Shield of Achilles, In Memory of W.B. Yeats, Lay Your Sleeping Head, My Love, The Unknown Citizen, Consider, Mundus et Infans, Petition.

Week 1 (12th July - 14th July)

A.K. RamanuAug (Selected Poems):

o Looking for a Cousin on a Swing, A River, Of Mothers, Among Other Things, Love Poem for a Wife 1, Small-Scale Reflections on a Great House, Obituary.

Week 2 (14th July – 16th July)

Joseph Conrad: Lord Jim.

Week 3 (17th July – 21st July)

James Joyce: A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Week 4 (24th July – 28th July)

Virginia Woolf: Mrs. Dalloway.



AUGUST 2025

Week 1 (1st Aug – 5th Aug)

Raja Rao: Kanthapura

Week 2 (8th Aug – 12thAug)

V.S. Naipaul: A House for Mr. Biswas.

Week 3 (15th Aug – 19th Aug)

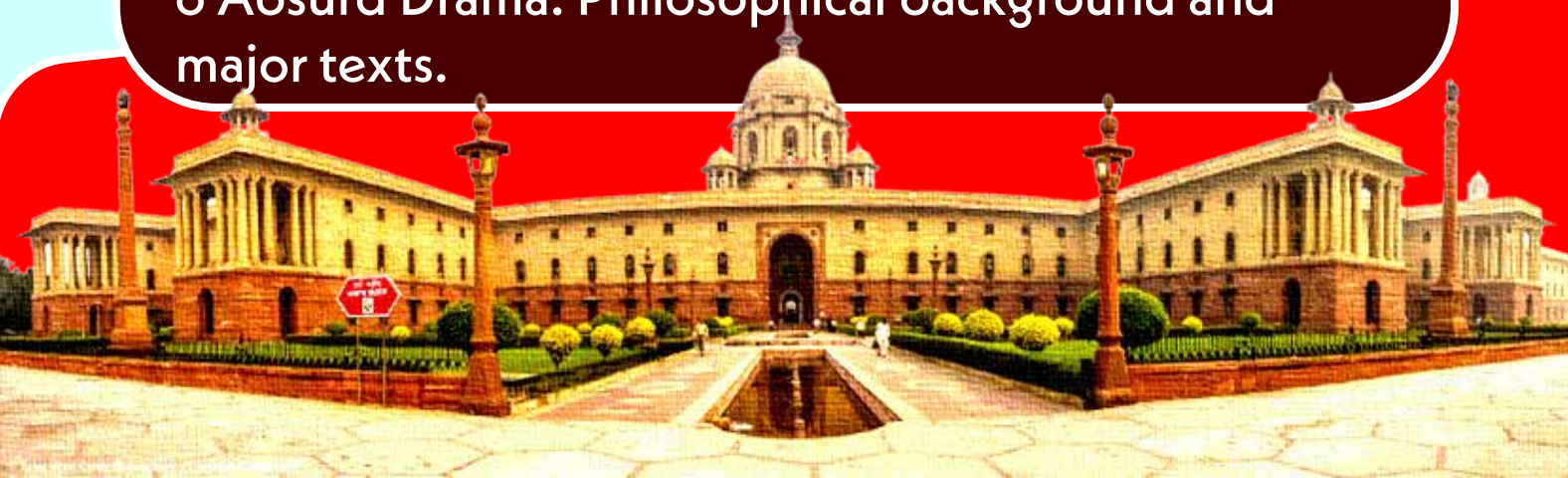
Literary Movements and Theories:

- o Modernism: Characteristics, themes, and key writers.
- o Poets of the Thirties: Context and major contributors.
- o The Stream of Consciousness Novel: Narrative techniques and examples.

Week 4 (22nd Aug – 26th Aug)

Literary Movements and Theories (Continued):

- o Absurd Drama: Philosophical background and major texts.



- o Colonialism and Post-Colonialism: Themes and critical perspectives.
- o Indian Writing in English: Representative texts and cultural significance.

Week 5 (29th Aug – 31st Aug)

Literary Movements and Theories (Final):

- o Marxist, Psychoanalytical, and Feminist

Approaches to Literature:

Applications to texts.

- o Postmodernism: Characteristics and examples.
- Final comprehensive revision of both Paper I and II.



SEPTEMBER 2025

Week 1 (22nd Sept – 23rd Sept)

- Overview of syllabus and exam pattern.
- Introduction to English Literature from 1600-1900.
- Historical context: The Renaissance

Week 2 (24th Sept – 25th Sept)

Shakespeare: King Lear (Themes, characters, and significant quotes).

Week 3 (26nd Sept – 27th Sept)

Shakespeare: The Tempest (Plot, themes, and critical perspectives).

Week 4 (28th Sept – 31st Sept)

John Donne: Metaphysical Poetry (The Canonization, Death Be Not Proud, The Good Morrow, On His Mistress Going to Bed, The Relic).



OCTOBER 2025

Week 1 (1st Oct – 2nd Oct)

John Milton: Paradise Lost (Books I and II)

Week 2 (5th Oct – 9th Oct)

John Milton: Paradise Lost (Books IV and IX)

Week 3 (12th Oct – 16th Oct)

Alexander Pope: The Rape of the Lock.

Week 4 (19th Oct – 23rd Oct)

William Wordsworth (Selected Poems):
o Tintern Abbey, Ode on Intimations of Immortality,
The World is Too Much
with Us, Upon Westminster Bridge, Three Years She
Grew, She Dwelt Among
Untrodden Ways, London, 1802, Resolution and
Independence, Michael.

Week 5 (26th Oct – 29th Oct)

Alfred Tennyson: In Memoriam.



NOVEMBER 2025

Week 1 (1st Nov – 7th Nov)

Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House.

Week 2 (7th Nov - 14th Nov)

Jonathan Swift: Gulliver's Travels.

Week 3 (14th Nov – 21st Nov)

Auge Austen: Pride and Prejudice.

Henry Fielding: Tom Jones

Charles Dickens: Hard Times

Week 4 (22nd Nov – 26th Nov)

Thomas Hardy: Tess of the d'Urbervilles

George Eliot: The Mill on the Floss

Mark Twain: The Adventures of Huckleberry

Finn , Revision of all texts covered so far



DECEMBER 2025

Week 1 (2nd Dec – 3rd Dec)

- Introduction to 20th-century literature.
- W.B. Yeats (Selected Poems):
 - The Second Coming, Easter 1916, A Prayer for My Daughter, Sailing to Byzantium, The Tower, Among School Children, Leda and the Swan, Meru, Lapis Lazuli, Byzantium.

Week 2 (6th Dec– 10th Dec)

- T.S. Eliot (Selected Poems):
- The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, Journey of the Magi, Burnt Norton.



Week 4 (20th Dec – 24th Dec)

Samuel Beckett: Waiting for Godot.

Week 5 (27th Dec – 31st Dec)

Philip Larkin (Selected Poems):

o Next, Please, Deceptions, Afternoons, Days, Mr. Bleaney

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