

**The following is a list of thematic areas which the examination questions will be rooted in. Approach each area from the relevant perspective(s), i.e. linguistic (what is characteristic of English language use in the context of the given area), literary (how the given area is reflected or realized in Anglo-Saxon literature), and/or cultural (what relevant cultural and social phenomena may be observed and/or have been observed in the realities of English-speaking countries).**

1. Language and Social Class

*Dialects and accents, their use in constructing literary characters, the impact of language on social standing and mobility*

2. The "American Dream" in Literature and Reality

*Key concepts of the American Dream, examples of literary characters, sources in American history and culture*

3. Politeness and Indirectness

*Language pragmatics, the concepts of politeness and "face", politeness and manners in literature, social etiquette*

4. The Gothic and the Language of Fear

*Features of style and syntax expressing fear and confusion, well-known Gothic tropes, the concept of the unknown*

5. Gender and Speech

*Gender differences in language, the evolution of the female character in literature, the situation of the female author, feminist revolution from the Suffragette movement to modern feminism*

6. Dystopia and Control of Language

*The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, how language shapes thought, dystopia in literature, the individual vs. the state*

7. Post-Colonialism and "Hybrid" English

*The concept of World Englishes, pidgins and creoles, borrowings in language and in the area of literary forms, the significance of British colonialism*

8. Romanticism vs. Industrialization

*Nature vs. industry in language, personifications of nature, language of corruption and disease, spiritualism and emotion in literature, the effects of urbanisation in society and culture*

9. Religion: Sacrum and Profanum

*Examples of religious language becoming secular, search for meaning outside of the divine realm in literature, the evolution of the concept of spirituality in English-speaking countries*

10. Humor and Satire

*Linguistic mechanisms of humour, literary traditions of satire, the role of humour in culture and society*

11. The Frontier Myth

*The struggle with nature, the solitary hero, Manifest Destiny*

12. Truth, Fiction, and Narrative

*Certainty vs. doubt, the unreliable narrator, fragmented writing, the loss of grand narratives*

13. Multiculturalism: Melting Pot vs. Salad Bowl

*Bilingualism as an asset or problem, generational conflict and the sense of belonging in literature, nationalism vs. cosmopolitanism*

14. The Language of Propaganda

*Critical Discourse Analysis, dehumanizing language, the poetry of war, patriotism and national identity in culture*

15. Regionalism and Identity

*Regional vocabulary, the connection between place and language, landscape as a literary character, the divide between rural and urban areas*

16. Orality and Storytelling

*Differences between written and spoken language, narration and framing in literature, the role of storytelling in culture*

17. Science vs. Religion

*The language of science in everyday speech, the shifting role of nature in literature, the secularisation of societies*

18. The Individual and Society

*Self-reliance vs. duty, the social novel and transcendentalism in literature, individual liberties vs. the social contract*

19. Metaphor and Thought

*Cognitive linguistics, conceptual metaphors, symbolism and imagery in literature, metaphors in different cultures*

20. The Child in Literature

*Bildungsroman, a child as a social critic, the concept of loss of innocence.*