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Why choose Cambridge International?

Contents

Why choose Cambridge International? 2

1 Why choose this syllabus?



Important: Changes to this syllabus

For information about changes to this syllabus for 2024, 2025 and 2026, go to page 60.

The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2021. There are significant changes to several high level teaching.

Any books endorsed to support the syllabus for examination from 2021 are still suitable for use in this syllabus.

Key concepts

Key concepts are essential ideas that help students develop a deep understanding of their subject and make

International recognition and acceptance

Our performance in curriculum, teaching and learning, and assessment is the basis for the recognition of our programmes and qualifications around the world. Every year, thousands of students in Cambridge International AS & A Levels gain places at leading universities, worldwide. Our programmes and qualifications are valued by top universities around the world including those in the UK, US (including Ivy League universities), Europe, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

UK NARIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge International AS & A Level and found it to be comparable to the standard of AS & A Level in the UK. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications are accepted as equivalent, grade for grade, to UK AS & A Levels by leading universities, worldwide.

Cambridge International AS Level Literature in English makes up the first half of the Cambridge International A Level course in Literature in English and provides a foundation for the study of Literature in English at Cambridge International A Level. Depending on local university entrance requirements, students may be able to use their progress directly to university courses in literature or some other subjects. It is also suitable as part of a course of general education.

Cambridge International A Level Literature in English provides a foundation for the study of literature or related courses in higher education. Equally, it is suitable as part of a course of general education.

For more information about the relationship between the Cambridge International AS Level and Cambridge International A Level see the 'Assessment criteria' section of the Syllabus overview.

We recommend learners check the Cambridge recognition database and university websites to find the most appropriate requirements for courses they wish to study.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition

School feedback: 'The depth of knowledge displayed by the best A Level students makes them prime targets for America's Ivy League universities.'

Feedback from: Yale University, USA

Supporting teachers

We provide a wide range of resources, detailed guidance and innovative training and professional development so that you can give your students the best possible preparation for Cambridge International AS & A Level. To find out which resources are available for each syllabus go to www.cambridgeinternational.org/support

The School Support Hub is our secure online site for Cambridge teachers; here you can find the resources you need to deliver our programmes. You can also keep up to date with our subjects and the global Cambridge community through our online discussion forums.

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/support

Support for Cambridge International AS & A Level			
Planning and preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steps guides. • Schemes of work. • Specimen papers. • Syllabuses. • Teacher guides. 	Teaching and assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed resources. • Online forums. • Support for course work and speaking tests. 	Learning and revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example candidate responses. • Past papers and mark schemes. • Specimen paper answers. 	Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate Result Service. • Principal examiner reports for teachers. • Result Analysis.

Sign up for email notifications about changes to syllabuses, including new and revised products and services at www.cambridgeinternational.org/syllabusupdates

Professional development

We support teachers through:

- Introduction Training face-to-face or online
- Extension Training face-to-face or online
- Enrichment Professional Development face-to-face or online

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/events

- Cambridge Professional Development qualifications

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/profdev



Supporting exams officers

We provide comprehensive support and guidance for all Cambridge exams officers.

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Content overview

Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English will provide learners with the opportunity to gain further knowledge and understanding of international poetry, prose and drama, and candidates studying all genres at both levels.

A wide range of inspiring texts have been carefully selected to offer a depth and breadth of literary study and to encourage lively and stimulating classroom discussion. At AS Level learners will study **three** texts and prepare for **one** unseen text. At A Level learners will study **four** further texts.

Throughout the AS and A Level course learners will be encouraged to practice their skills in close reading throughout the study of literary texts and unseen texts, developing skills of analysis and interpretation of texts, alongside their expression of personal response to the texts studied. Learners will explore the conventions of genres of texts and the context in which works have been written, read and received.

A Level learners will further develop their subject knowledge throughout the evaluation of opinions and ideas, both their own and those of others.

These are highly transferable skills and can help learners in other subject areas, as well as equipping them for higher education and/or employment.



Support for Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English

Our School Support Hub www.cambridgeinternational.org/support provides Cambridge schools with a secure site for downloading specimen and past question papers, mark schemes, grade thresholds and other curricular resources specific to this syllabus. The School Support Hub connects teachers with the opportunity to connect with each other and to ask questions related to the syllabus.

School feedback: ‘Cambridge International AS & A Levels prepare students well for university because they’ve learnt to go into a subject in considerable depth. There’s that ability to really understand the depth and richness and the detail of a subject. It’s a wonderful preparation for

Assessment overview

Paper 1

Drama and Poetry 2 hours
50 marks

Candidates answer **two** questions: one question from Section A: Drama and one question from Section B: Poetry.

Externally assessed
50% of the AS Level
25% of the A Level

Paper 3

Shakespeare and Drama 2 hours
50 marks

Candidates answer **two** questions: one question from Section A: Shakespeare and one question from Section B: Drama.

Externally assessed
25% of the A Level

Paper 2

Prose and Unseen 2 hours
50 marks

Candidates answer **two** questions: one question from Section A: Prose and one question from Section B: Unseen.

Externally assessed
50% of the AS Level
25% of the A Level

Paper 4

Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose 2 hours
50 marks

Candidates answer **two** questions: one question from Section A: Pre-1900 Poetry and Prose, and one question from Section B: Post-1900 Poetry and Prose.

Candidates respond to both a poetry question and a prose question.

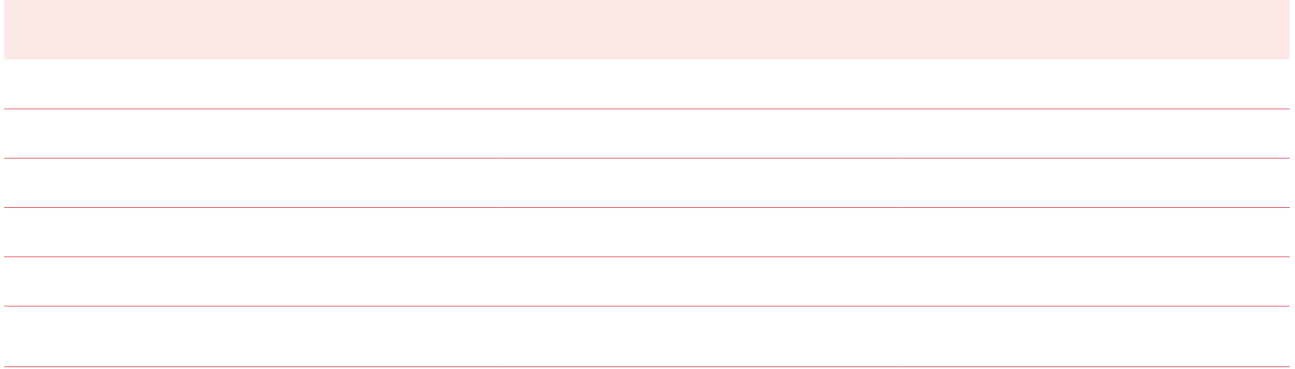
Externally assessed
25% of the A Level

Information on availability is in the **Before you start** section.

Weighting for assessment objectives

The approximate weightings allocated to each of the assessment objectives (AOs) are summarised below.

Assessment objectives as a percentage of each qualification



3 Subject content

Set texts for examination in 2024 continued

Paper 2 Prose and Unseen

Learners study **one** set text from Section A. For Section B, learners prepare to respond to an unseen text that may be poetry, prose or drama.

Candidates answer **two** questions, **one** from each section.

Section A Prose

Kiran Desai

The Inheritance of Loss

Ian McEwan

Atonement

Stories of Ourselves, Volume 1

Selected Stories (new selection from Volume 1 for 2024, 2025 and 2026)

Mark Twain

The A2tn A0.5 8 (i)-2.9 (s)3en A0.5 8 (i)-2.9 (s)3en A0.5 8 (i)-2.9 (s)

Set poems and stories for examination in 2024 continued

Poems and stories for examination in 2024 are listed below.

William Blake: Selected Poems from Paper 1, Section B Poetry

Title:

Introduction

The Shepherd

The Lamb

The Little Black Boy

The Chimney Sweeper

The Little Boy Lost

The Little Boy Found

The Chimney Sweeper

Set poems and stories for examination in 2024 continued

Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English 9695 syllabus for 2024, 2025 and 2026. Subject content
1 (ISBN 9781108462297)

Paper 2, Section A Prose**Story:***The Yellow Wallpaper**The Son's Veto**The Door in the Wall**An Englishman's Home**The Prison**Bilennium**The People Before**Five-Twenty**Report on the Threatened City**Games at Twilight**My Greatest Ambition**To Da-duh, in Memoriam**Of White Hairs and Cricket**Tyres**Real Time***Author:**

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Thomas Hardy

H G Wells

Evelyn Waugh

Bernard Malamud

J G Ballard

Marjorie Shadbolt

Patrick White

Doris Lessing

Anita Desai

Morris Lurie

Paule Marshall

Rohinton Mistry

Adam Thorpe

Amichandri

Set poems and stories for examination in 2024 continued

John Donne: Selected Poems **Paper 4, Section A Poetry**

Title:

A Nocturnal upon S. Lucy's Day, being the shortest day

A Valediction: forbidding Mourning

Air and Angels

Break of Day

Elegy 5: His Picture

Elegy 7

Elegy 9: The Autumnal

Elegy 19: To his Mistress Going to Bed

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 2

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 4

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 6

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 7

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 9

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 10

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 14

Set poems and stories for examination in 2024 continued

Walt Whitman: Selected Poems from *Leaves of Grass* (1891–1892) Paper 4, Section A Poetry

Title:

A Noiseless Patient Spider

As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life

Beat! Beat! Drums!

How Solemn as One by One

I Hear America Singing

I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing

I Sing the Body Electric

In Paths Untrodden

O Captain! My Captain!

O Me! O Life!

Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking

Out of the Rolling Ocean the Crowd

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

The Wound-Dresser

Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand

Sujata Bhatt: Selected Poems from *Home* Paper 4, Section B Poetry

Title:

29 April 1989

3 November 1984

A Different History

A Story for Pearse

Angels' Wings

Counting Sheep White Blood Cells

Eurydice Speaks

For Nanabhai Bhatt

Garlic in War and Peace

Genealogy

Go to Ahmedabad

Iris

Marie Curie to Her Husband

Nanabhai Bhatt in Prison

Oranges and Lemons

Orpheus Confesses to Eurydice

Rooms by the Sea

Sujata: The First Disciple of Buddha

The Echoes in Poona

The Langur Coloured Night

The Need to Recall the Journey

First line:

She's three-months-old now,

Like on't

Great Pan is not dead;

Reading or not a book today

I can recall marriage

Like as like being ordered

Orpheus, I tell you I'm not in hell,

In his dream my grandfather

In peace we're buried garlic past

My daughter

Go, walk the streets of Baroda,

Her hands sleep over the rough grained paper,

The equations are I'm not a .

At the foot of Takhteshwar hill

The second time

I was a lack of faith.

I was summer all right

One morning, a tall lean man

One day we're pure, clean rhesus monkeys

I was a cr

Now when she cries

Set poems and stories for examination in 2024 continued

Sujata Bhatt: Selected Poems from Paper 4, Section B Poetry continued

Title:

The One Who Goes Away

The Peacock

The Stare

The Stinking Rose

Set poems and stories for examination in 2024 continued

**Louise Glück: Selected Poems from
Paper 4, Section B Poetry**

Title:	First line:	Page:
<i>The Wild Iris</i>	At the end of my suffering	1
<i>Matins</i>	The sun shines; but the mailbox, leaves	2
<i>Matins</i>	Unreachable father, I hear you here for	3
<i>Trillium</i>	When I look up like in a forest The dark	4
<i>Lamium</i>	This is how I lie when I have a cold heart	5
<i>Clear Morning</i>	I've attached to long enough,	7
<i>End of Winter</i>	Over the sun, world, a bird calls	10
<i>Matins</i>	Forgive me if I say I love you: the perfect	12
<i>Retreating Wind</i>	When I made you, I loved you.	15
<i>The Garden</i>	I couldn't do it again,	16
<i>The Hawthorn Tree</i>	Side by side, not	18
<i>Love in Moonlight</i>	Sometimes a man or woman forces his despair	19
<i>Witchgrass</i>	Something / comes into the world to welcome	22
<i>Matins</i>	What's my heart to	26
<i>Matins</i>	Not the sun merely but the earth	31
<i>Heaven and Earth</i>	Where one finishes, the other begins.	32
<i>The Doorway</i>	I am not as I was	33
<i>Midsummer</i>	How can I help you when you are all	34
<i>Vespers</i>	In your extended absence, do permit me	37
<i>End of Summer</i>	After all things occurred to me,	40
<i>Vespers</i>	Even as you appeared to Moses, because	43
<i>Vespers</i>	You thought I didn't know. But I knew once,	44
<i>Early Darkness</i>	How can you say	45
<i>The White Rose</i>	This is the earth? Then	47
<i>Presque Isle</i>	In every life, there's a moment or so.	49
<i>Retreating Light</i>	You were like other young children,	50
<i>Vespers</i>	Your voice is gone now; I hardly hear you.	55
<i>Lullaby</i>	Time rests; you have had	58
<i>September Twilight</i>	I gathered you together,	60
<i>The White Lilies</i>	As a man and woman make	63

Set texts for examination in 2025 continued

Paper 3 Shakespeare and Drama

Learners study **two** set texts, **one** from Section A and **one** from Section B.

Candidates answer **two** questions, **one** from each section.

Section A Shakespeare

William Shakespeare	<i>Hamlet</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>

Section B Drama

Linn Norberg	<i>Sweat</i>
Edna O'Neill	<i>Long Day's Journey Into Night</i>
Wole Soyinka	<i>Kongi's Harvest</i>

Paper 4 Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose

Learners study **two** set texts, **one** from Section A and **one** from Section B. The texts study **one** poetry and **one** prose.

Candidates answer **two** questions. The answer **one** question from each section. **One** question must be on a **piaxo92 Tf0.006 Tc -0.006 Tw 12.619 0 TL918 (s)3Tf0.01.014 Tc -0.014 Tw (on)-1.8 (e)JJT11 1 Tf0 Tc 0 Tw 10.72 0**

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025

Poems and stories for examination in 2025 are listed below.

Maya Angelou: **Paper 1, Section B Poetry**

Title:

A Kind of Love, Some Say

Country Lover

Remembrance

Where We Belong, A Duet

Phenomenal Woman

Men

Refusal

Just For A Time

Junkie Monkey Reel

The Lesson

California Prodigal

My Arkansas

Through the Inner City to the Suburb(T)-4.(n) A Time

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

William Blake: Selected Poems from Paper 1, Section B Poetry

Title:

Introduction

The Shepherd

The Lamb

The Little Black Boy

The Chimney Sweeper

The Little Boy Lost

The Little Boy Found

A Cradle Song

The Divine Image

Holy Thursday

Spring

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

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 (ISBN 9781108462280)

Paper 1, Section B Poetry

Poem:

The Clod and the Pebble
Passion
Winter Song
Love (III)
'She was a Phantom of Delight'
Surplus Value
Father Returning Home
In the Park
The Lost Woman...
Stabat Mater
Australia 1970
Description of Spring
The Spring
The Darkling Thrush
Eel Tail
The Buck in the Snow
The Storm-Wind
The Sea and the Hills
Blessing
The Stars Go Over the Lonely Ocean
The Road
Who in One Lifetime
The Hour is Come
an afternoon nap
from The Complaints of Poverty
A Long Journey
I Hear an Army...
Growing Old
from Fears in Solitude
Renouncement

Poet:

William Blake
 Kathleen Raine
 Eliabe Toller
 George Herbert
 William Wordsworth
 David C Ward
 Dilip Chitre
 Gen Harwood
 Patricia Beer
 Sam Hinton
 Judith Wright
 Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey
 Thomas Cara
 Thomas Hardy
 Alice Oswald
 Edna St Vincent Millay
 William Barnes
 Rudyard Kipling
 Imtiaz Dharker
 Robinson Jeffers
 Nancy Ferrieringham Carter
 Muriel Rukeyser
 Louisa Lawson
 Arif Yap
 Nicholas James
 Msaemra Zimnani
 James Joyce
 Marjorie Arnold
 Samuel Taylor Coleridge
 Alice Menzies

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
The Son's Veto by Thomas Hardy
The Door in the Wall by H.G. Wells
An Englishman's Home by E. E. Schattschneider
The Prison by Bernard Malamud
Bilennium by J.G. Ballard
The People Before by Maurice Shadbolt
Five-Twenty by T. S. Eliot
Report on the Threatened City by T. S. Eliot
Games at Twilight by J. B. Priestley
My Greatest Ambition by J. B. Priestley
To Da-duh, in Memoriam by Audre Lorde
Of White Hairs and Cricket by J. B. Priestley
Tyres by J. B. Priestley
Real Time by J. B. Priestley

Paper 2, Section A Prose

Story:

The Yellow Wallpaper

The Son's Veto

The Door in the Wall

An Englishman's Home

The Prison

Bilennium

The People Before

Five-Twenty

Report on the Threatened City

Games at Twilight

My Greatest Ambition

To Da-duh, in Memoriam

Of White Hairs and Cricket

Tyres

Real Time

Author:

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Thomas Hardy

H.G. Wells

E. E. Schattschneider

Bernard Malamud

J.G. Ballard

Maurice Shadbolt

T. S. Eliot

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

John Donne: Selected Poems
Paper 4, Section A Poetry

Title:

A Nocturnal upon S. Lucy's Day, being the shortest day

A Valediction: forbidding Mourning

Air and Angels

Break of Day

Elegy 5: His Picture

Elegy 7

Elegy 9: The Autumnal

Elegy 19: To his Mistress Going to Bed

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Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 7

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 9

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 10

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 14

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 17

Love's Growth

Song

Song

The Anniversary

The Apparition

The Bait

The Canonization

The Dream

The Ecstasy

The Expiration

The Flea

The Good Morrow

The Relic

The Sun Rising

The Undertaking

Twickenam Garden

First line:

'Tis the year's midnight and it's the day's,

As irons men pass mild a day,

Time or price had I loosed thee,

'Tis the day, hath no ghoul?

Here take my picture, though I bid farewell;

Nature's laudion, though she loathe,

No spring, nor summer beauty hath's grace,

Come, Madam, come, all rest upon papers deface,

As deathman's I resign

Oh black so! no more are summoned

This is my play's last scene, here heaven appoints

A round earth's imagined corners, blot

If poisonous minerals, and if that sea,

Death be no prod, though some have called thee

Barren, my hearer, three-personed God; for, lo,

Since she whom I loosed hath paid her last debt

I scarce believe me to be so pure

Go, and catch a falling star,

See us to see, I do not go,

All kings, and all their families,

When but scorn, O murtheress, I am dead,

Come lie in it, me, and be my love,

For God's sake hold our tongue, and let's be,

Dear love, for nothing less than thee

Where, like a pillow on a bed,

So, so, break off this last lamenting kiss,

Mark but this sea, and mark in it,

Under bottom, hath no, and I

When my grave is broke up again

Be old fool, nor I sin,

I have done one brother's thing

Blasphemy, sighs, and sorrowed, it's tears,

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

Walt Whitman: Selected Poems from *Leaves of Grass* (1891–1892) Paper 4, Section A Poetry

Title:

A Noiseless Patient Spider

Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

Gabriel Okara: Selected Poems from Paper 4, Section B Poetry (2016)

Title:

The Call of the River Nun

Once Upon a Time

Pianos and Drums

Spirit of the Wind

New Year's Eve Midnight

You Laughed and Laughed and Laughed

The Fisherman's Invocation

First line:

I hear o r call!

Once pon a he, son,

When a break of da a ri erside

The storks are coming na .

Na e bells are No9R3D .4 (nd)n3 (a)4/T10 1 Tf-0.016 T21 7

I Am Only a Name

Suddenly the Air Cracks

Metaphor of a War

Lady and Her Wig

Welcome Home

The Dreamer

Bent Double with Weight

Complex Matter

Beauty beyond Words

Morbidity

We Live to Kill and Kill to Live

Ovation Seeker

Mass Transit Buses

Contractors

Rural Dweller

Rise and Shine

A Boy's Dream

Babydom Wisdom

Waiting for a Coming

Salt of the Earth

Sections for examination in 2026

The sections listed below are for examination in **2026**.

Sections are regularly reviewed on the syllabus and may change from one year of examination to the next. Before you begin teaching, check the sections for the year in which your candidates will take their examinations.

Paper 1 Drama and Poetry

Learners should **two** sections, **one** from Section A and **one** from Section B.

Candidates answer **two** questions, **one** from each section.

Section A Drama

Edward Albee

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Errol John

Moon on a Rainbow Shawl

William Shakespeare

The Tempest

John Webster

The Duchess of Malfi

Section B Poetry

Maria Angelo

And Still I Rise

William Blake

Selected Poems from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

Sylvia Plath

Selected Poems from *Ariel* (1965)

Songs of Ourselves, Volume 2

Selected Poems (not selected for 2026)

Paper 2 Prose and Unseen

Learners should **one** section from Section A.32 on A051.9 in a section A

Series for examination in 2026 continued

Paper 3 Shakespeare and Drama

Learners should **two** sections, **one** from Section A and **one** from Section B.

Candidates answer **two** questions, **one** from each section.

Section A Shakespeare

William Shakespeare

Hamlet

William Shakespeare

The Taming of the Shrew

Section B Drama

Linn Norrge

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026

Poems and stories for examination in 2026 are listed below.

Maya Angelou: Paper 1, Section B Poetry

Title:

A Kind of Love, Some Say
Country Lover
Remembrance
Where We Belong, A Duet
Phenomenal Woman
Men
Refusal
Just For A Time
Junkie Monkey Reel
The Lesson
California Prodigal
My Arkansas
Through the Inner City to the Suburbs
Lady Luncheon Club
Momma Welfare Roll
The Singer Will Not Sing
Willie
To Beat the Child Was Bad Enough
Woman Work
One More Round
The Traveler
Kin
The Memory
Still I Rise
Ain't That Bad?
Life Doesn't Frighten Me
Bump d'Bump
On Aging
In Retrospect
Just Like Job
Call Letters: Mrs. V.B.
Thank You, Lord

First line:

Is it the ribs can
F nk bl es
Yo r hands eas
In e er n and illage,
Pre omen, onder, here m secre es.
When I as o ng, I sed
Belo ed, / In ha over li es or lands
Oh ha o sed alk
Sho lders sag,
I keep on d ing again.
The e e follo s, e land
There is a deep brooding
Sec red b sood, inda s
Her co nsel, as accept d: e es are gra e.
Her arms semaphore fa angles,
A benison gi en. Un sed,
Willie, as a man, i to ame
A o ng bod , ligh
I' e got e children end
There ain' to pa benea, e s n
B i a s and b gone
We, ere en ined in red rings
Co n ra s crisscross e, orld
Yo ma, i ri me da n in hist
Dancin' e f nk chicken
Shada s on e, all
Pla me a game like Blind Man's dance
When o see me si ng q ier,
Las ear changed i seasons

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

William Blake: Selected Poems from Paper 1, Section B Poetry

Title:

Introduction

The Shepherd

The Lamb

The Little Black Boy

The Chimney Sweeper

The Little Boy Lost

The Little Boy Found

A Cradle Song

The Divine Image

Holy Thursday

Spring

Nurse's Song

A Dream

On Another's Sorrow

Introduction

Earth's Answer

Holy Thursday

The Little Girl Lost

The Little Girl Found

The Chimney Sweeper

Nurses Song

The Fly

The Angel

TTeu e

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Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

**Sylvia Plath: Selected Poems from *The Collected Poems* (1965)
Paper 1, Section B Poetry**

Title:

*Morning Song**Sheep in Fog**The Applicant**Lady Lazarus**Tulips**Cut**Elm**Poppies in October**Ariel**Death & Co.**Getting There**Medusa**The Moon and the Yew Tree**A Birthday Present**Letter in November**The Rival**Daddy**You're**Fever 103°**Stings**Little Fugue**Years**The Munich Mannequins**Paralytic**Balloons**Poppies in July**Kindness**Litptne*

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

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Paper 2, Section A Prose

Story:

The Yellow Wallpaper

The Son's Veto

The Door in the Wall

An Englishman's Home

The Prison

Bilennium

The People Before

Five-Twenty

Report on the Threatened City

6h>12 1 o6p-s(w)10 5s1(r)-1.8 (i)2.4 (e)-3.8 (i)Tni(t)14h.4 (Tc 0 -0.0-005 Tw 0 1.583 Td(T)-4.8 (he)5M.5 (o6y (n)3 GJO.0a)-

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

William Shakespeare: Selected Sonnets **Paper 4, Section A Poetry**

Title:

Sonnet 2

Sonnet 12

Sonnet 16

Sonnet 17

Sonnet 23

Sonnet 29

Sonnet 54

Sonnet 55

Sonnet 60

Sonnet 63

Sonnet 65

Sonnet 71

Sonnet 75

Sonnet 76

Sonnet 81

Sonnet 84

Sonnet 94

Sonnet 97

Sonnet 104

Sonnet 115

Sonnet 116

Sonnet 123

Sonnet 124

Sonnet 127

Sonnet 129

Sonnet 130

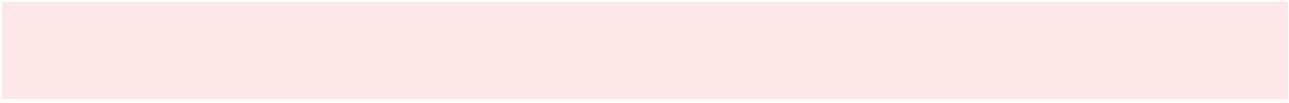
Sonnet 138

Sonnet 141

Sonnet 144

Sonnet 147

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued



Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 (14.3 (9)-8. co

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

Katherine Mansfield: Selected Stories **Paper 4, Section B Prose**

Story:

Frau Brechenmacher Attends a Wedding

Something Childish but very Natural

The Wind Blows

Prelude

A Dill Pickle

'Je ne parle pas français'

Bliss

Miss Brill

The Daughters of the Late Colonel

Life of Ma Parker

Marriage à la Mode

At the Bay

The Voyage

The Garden Party

A Cup of Tea

Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

Gabriel Okara: Selected Poems from Paper 4, Section B Poetry (2016)

Title:	First line:
<i>The Call of the River Nun</i>	I hear o r call!
<i>Once Upon a Time</i>	Once pon a he, son,
<i>Pianos and Drums</i>	When a break of da a r i erside
<i>Spirit of the Wind</i>	The storks are coming na .
<i>New Year's Eve Midnight</i>	Na e bells are elling .
<i>You Laughed and Laughed and Laughed</i>	In o r ears m song
<i>The Fisherman's Invocation</i>	1 In o r Cas o r net e right ide
	2 The In ocation: See e s n in m hands
	3 The Child-Fron The child-Fron has come
	4 Bir Dance of e Child-Fron Let s dance. i fee
	5 The End: The celebra on is na ended
<i>I Am Only a Name</i>	I am onl a name
<i>Suddenly the Air Cracks</i>	S ddenl e air cracks
<i>Metaphor of a War</i>	There she sa
<i>Lady and Her Wig</i>	She kiked of Paris
<i>Welcome Home</i>	Welcome home e e fatherland
<i>The Dreamer</i>	He as seeking good in o r collec e good
<i>Bent Double with Weight</i>	Bent do ble i e igh
<i>Complex Matter</i>	I am not one person, I am man ings, man persons
<i>Beauty beyond Words</i>	The s n is sinking sla l in chan g colors!
<i>Morbidity</i>	Wh do e smile
<i>We Live to Kill and Kill to Live</i>	Hiroshima, Nagasaki . bombs
<i>Ovation Seeker</i>	Wi dr ms bea g and c mbals crashing
<i>Mass Transit Buses</i>	The go ernor's e hor ons
<i>Contractors</i>	Men and o men
<i>Rural Dweller</i>	I e cock-cra !
<i>Rise and Shine</i>	Rise and Shine, O shine
<i>A Boy's Dream</i>	I cling e soft o ds s a ing
<i>Babydom Wisdom</i>	In India, 800 million Indians .
<i>Waiting for a Coming</i>	As silen as e silen na
<i>Salt of the Earth</i>	The u ore e mark of recogni on .

Editions of texts used for setting passages in the examination

Examination questions, passages and poems will be set from the editions of the texts specified below.

Paper 1: Drama and Poetry

Author	Text	Publisher
Albee, Edward	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>	Vintage Publishing
Angelou, Maya	<i>And Still I Rise</i>	Virago
Armitage, Simon	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	Faber and Faber
Blake, William	Selected Poems from <i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i> from 'William Blake: The Complete Poems'	Penguin Classics
John, Errol	<i>Moon on a Rainbow Shawl</i>	Faber and Faber
Platt, Sylvia	Selected Poems from <i>Ariel</i> (1965) (1e Text 490.01 Text 25.9 (p)5.3 (g)--14.8 (l)-4 (b)-8.r3 (c)-817 (e a7.1 5.9 (

Paper 2: Prose and Unseen

Author	Text	Publisher
Desai, Kiran	<i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	Penguin
McEwan, Ian	<i>Atonement</i>	Vintage
Stella (1959) 10g	<i>Vionæ</i>	

Paper 4: Pre-1900 and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose

Author	Text	Publisher
Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Penguin Classics
*Bhabha, Sujata	Selected Poems from <i>Point No Point</i>	Carcane
*Chaucer, Geoffrey	<i>The Merchant's Prologue and Tale</i> and <i>Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i> from 'The Riverside Chaucer'	Oxford University Press
Coetzee, J.M.	<i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>	Vintage
*Donne, John	Selected Poems from <i>The Complete English Poems</i>	Penguin Classics
Eliot, George	<i>Middlemarch</i>	Penguin Classics
*Glück, Louise	Selected Poems from <i>The Wild Iris</i>	Carcane
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i>	Penguin Classics
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Jude the Obscure</i>	Penguin Classics
Joyce, James	<i>Dubliners</i>	Oxford University Press
Mansfield, Katherine	Selected Stories from <i>Selected Stories</i>	Oxford World's Classics
Morrison, Toni	<i>Beloved</i>	Vintage
*Okara, Gabriel	Selected Poems from <i>Collected Poems (2016)</i>	University of Nebraska Press
Rhys, Jean	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	Penguin Modern Classics
*Shakespeare, William	Selected Sonnets from <i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: The Alexander Text</i>	Collins
Stoker, Bram	<i>Dracula</i>	Wordsworth Classics
*Trentham, Natasha	<i>Native Guard</i>	Mariner
*Whitman, Walt	Selected Poems from <i>Leaves of Grass</i> from 'The Complete Poems'	Penguin Classics

*Poems are denoted by an asterisk. Centres must check the syllabus for the year in which candidates will sit examinations. Candidates must answer **one poetry** and **one prose** question, each from a different section of the question paper.

4 Details of the assessment

Paper 1 Drama and Poetry

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

This paper has two sections, Section A: Drama and Section B: Poetry. Each section is worth 25 marks.

Candidates must answer **two** questions: **one** question from a choice of Drama sections in Section A and **one** question from a choice of Poetry sections in Section B.

On each section, candidates will have a choice between two questions (a) or (b). Each requires an essay-length response. The (b) question will be based on a passage or a poem from the section printed on the question paper. Candidates may choose the type of question they wish to answer.

Candidates must demonstrate the following:

- knowledge and understanding of the sections they have studied and an appreciation of relevant context
- analysis of the aesthetic in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects
- an informed, independent opinion about the texts studied
- appropriate communication of literary ideas and arguments.

All questions on this paper assess for assessment objectives: AO1, AO2, AO3 and AO4.

Sections are **not** allowed in the examination room.

Sections are listed in section 3 Subject Content.

Dictionaries may **not** be used.

Paper 2 Prose and Unseen

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

This paper has two sections, Section A: Prose and Section B: Unseen. Each section is worth 25 marks.

Candidates must answer **two** questions: **one** question from a choice of Prose sections in Section A and **one** question from a choice of two previously unseen sections in Section B.

Section A: Prose

On each section, candidates will have a choice between two questions (a) or (b). Each requires an essay-length response. The (b) question will be based on a passage from the section printed on the question paper. Candidates may choose the type of question they wish to answer.

Paper 3 Shakespeare and Drama

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

This paper has two sections, Section A: Shakespeare and Section B: Drama. Each section is worth 25 marks.

Candidates must answer **two** questions: **one** question from a choice of Shakespeare plays in Section A and **one** question from a choice of Drama sections in Section B.

On each section, candidates will have a choice between two questions (a) or (b). Each requires an essay-length response. The (b) question will be based on a passage from the section printed on the question paper. Candidates may choose the type of question they wish to answer.

Candidates must demonstrate the following:

- knowledge and understanding of the sections they have studied and an appreciation of relevant contexts
- analysis of the texts in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects
-

Candidates must demonstrate the following:

- knowledge and understanding of the texts they have studied and an appreciation of relevant contexts
- analysis of texts in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects
- an informed, independent opinion about the texts studied
- appropriate communication of literary ideas and arguments
- an ability to discuss and evaluate different opinions and interpretations of texts.

All questions on this paper assess all the assessment objectives: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 and AO5.

Set texts are **not** allowed in the examination room.

Set texts are listed in section 3 Subject Content.

Dictionaries may **not** be used.

5 What else you need to know

This section is an overview of other information you need to know about this syllabus. It will help you share the administrative information in your exams, so you know when you will need your support. Find more information about our administrative processes at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Before you start

Prerequisites

We recommend that learners starting this course should have completed a course in English equivalent to Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Level and should have a level of English equivalent to young adult English at IGCSE.

Guided learning hours

We design Cambridge International AS & A Level syllabuses based on learners having about 180 guided learning hours for each Cambridge International AS Level and about 360 guided learning hours for a Cambridge International A Level. The number of hours a learner needs to achieve the qualification may vary according to local practice and their previous experience of the subject.

Availability and timetables

You can enter candidates in the June and November exam series. If your school is in India, you can enter your candidates in the March exam series. You can view the timetable for our administrative one at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables

Private candidates can enter for this syllabus.

Combining it with other syllabuses

Candidates can take this syllabus alongside other Cambridge International syllabuses in a single exam series. The only exceptions are:

- Cambridge International AS Level Language and Literature in English (8695)
- syllabuses in the same area at the same level.

Group awards: Cambridge AICE

Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) is a group award for Cambridge International AS & A Level. It allows schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum recognising the achievement of learners who pass exams in a range of different subjects.

Learn more about Cambridge AICE at www.cambridgeinternational.org/aice

Access arrangements

Access arrangements (including modified papers) are the principal way in which Cambridge International complies with the Equality Act (2010), to make 'reasonable adjustments' for candidates with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities, illness or injury. Where a candidate would otherwise be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with a candidate with no SEN, disability, illness or injury, they may be able to agree pre-arranged access arrangements. These arrangements help a candidate by minimising accessibility barriers and maximising their opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in an assessment.

Important:

- Requested access arrangements should be based on evidence of the candidate's barrier to assessment and should also reflect their normal way of working at school; this is in line with *The Cambridge Handbook* www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide
- For Cambridge International to approve an access arrangement, they will need to agree that it constitutes a reasonable adjustment, involves reasonable costs and reframes and does not affect the security and integrity of the assessment
- Availability of access arrangements should be checked by centres at the start of the course. Details of our standard access arrangements and modified question papers are available in *The Cambridge Handbook* www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide
- Please contact us at the start of the course if you do not think you are able to approve an arrangement that is not included in the list of standard access arrangements.
- Candidates who cannot access parts of the assessment may not be able to receive an award based on the parts they have completed.

After the exam

Grading and reporting

Grades A*, A, B, C, D or E indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge International A Level. A* is the highest and E is the lowest grade.

Grades a, b, c, d or e indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge International AS Level. 'a' is the highest and 'e' is the lowest grade.

'Ungraded' means that the candidate's performance did not meet the standard required for the lowest grade (E or e). 'Ungraded' is reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. In specific circumstances our candidates may see one of the following letters on their statement of results.

- Q (PENDING).
- X (NO RESULT).

These letters do not appear on the certificate.

Changes to this syllabus for 2024, 2025 and 2026

The syllabus has been updated. This is version 1, published September 2021.

You must read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.

Changes to syllabus content

- Sections have been updated.
 - The editions from which examination question papers are set are specified for all sections on pages 47–49.
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School feedback: