

## HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LITERATURE

(to niekoniecznie są pytania, lista obejmuje zakres materiału – utwory oraz problematykę - który należy opanować na egzamin; WAŻNE: zawsze **należy podawać przykłady z omawianych tekstów** ilustrujące argumenty!)

1. Early forms of Old English writing, characteristic genres, themes and features
2. Beowulf as an example of the heroic ideal, values of heroic society
3. Anglo-Saxon religious poetry; parallels and differences between “Dream of the Rood” and heroic poetry
4. Dream vision technique
5. Sources and characteristic features of medieval romances - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
6. Courtly love and chivalry
7. *The Canterbury Tales* as an encyclopaedia of literary genres (fabliau, exemplum, saint’s life, fable, verse romance, folk tale)
8. *The Canterbury Tales* as a microcosm of the English medieval society: low culture and high culture
9. Shakespeare’s sonnets:
  - Different types of sonnets and their thematicity
  - themes: love , time, death, begetting children, creating poetry
  - anti Petrarchan tradition
  - platonic and sexual love
10. The concept of romantic comedy - comic effect vs. tragic elements, motif of disguise, tragic potential of love - William Shakespeare: *Midsummer Night’s Dream*
11. William Shakespeare’s tragedy - characteristic features of Shakespearean tragedy (supernatural elements and their role, madness, exploration of human passions, questions of morality)
12. Characteristic features of metaphysical poetry:
13. The rise of the novel – reasons for the appearance of a new genre, early forms of novels (picaresque, epistolary, satire)
14. *Gulliver’s Travels* as a political and philosophical satire
15. Pre-Romantic poetry – origins, ideas.
16. Visionary quality of Blake’s poetry, rational and mystical elements
17. Romantic idea of poetry and its role – *Lyrical Ballads*
18. Attitude towards nature in Romantic poetry
19. Differences between early and late Romantic poetry

20. Romantic genres – ballad and ode
21. The function of art and death in Keats' poetry ("*Ode to a Nightingale*", "*Ode on a Grecian Urn*")
22. Victorian Novel - the social aspect of the novel; representation of Victorian society, recurrent themes of Victorian literature (Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations* / *Christmas Carol*, Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*)
23. Romantic and gothic elements in *Wuthering Heights*
24. Gothic novel
25. T.S. Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", *The Waste Land*
  - T.S. Eliot's views on poetry, dissociation of sensibility
  - Juxtaposition
  - Dramatic monologue
  - Reference to myths and the classics
  - The idea of objective correlative
26. The theater of the absurd
  - metaphysical despair
  - insufficiency of language
  - symbolism

## HISTORY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

1. Puritan Literature (17<sup>th</sup> c.)
  - literary genres and their representations: historical accounts, diaries, poetry, sermons, conversion narratives: form and typical artistic devices used on examples of texts discussed (Bradford, Bradstreet, Taylor, Edwards)
  - Calvin's doctrine of predestination and its representation in Puritan texts
  - Puritan historiography and belief in Providence on examples of Puritan texts
2. Enlightenment literature (18<sup>th</sup> c.)
  - Franklin's autobiography as representing 18<sup>th</sup> c. philosophy
3. The turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century:
  - problems and anxieties: how solved in Irving's stories
  - romantic elements vs neoclassical residue in "Rip Van Winkle"
  - compare and contrast Poe's gothicism with that of Irving
  - the American Gothic tradition – elements, how it differs from European gothic tradition (what is new, what elements are missing, what is missing)
4. American Transcendentalism (19<sup>th</sup> c) (tylko dla studentów stacjonarnych)
  - role of nature in Emerson's and Thoreau's texts
  - man vs society in Emerson's and Thoreau's texts
  - philosophy of individualism (American Scholar, Self-Reliance, Civil Disobedience)
5. American Romantic Symbolism (mid-19<sup>th</sup> c)
  - compare and contrast the vision of nature in Hawthorne with that of Emerson (Studenci niestacjonarni – z pominięciem Emersona)
  - symbolism in "Scarlet Letter"
  - "Scarlet Letter" as representing the American Romance (definitions, elements, examples)
6. Romantic poetry (19<sup>th</sup> c)
  - Whitman: language, form, novelty, subject matter; how ideas of democracy and development of America are visible in both form and subject matter;
  - Dickinson: language, form, artistic devices, subject matter; compare and contrast the two poets
7. Henry James – limited point of view; psychological realism; motif of Europe vs America
8. Modernist fiction (20<sup>th</sup> c)
  - features of modernist fiction (form, themes, disappointment)

- symbol and narration in modernist fiction: Fitzgerald
- disillusionment with the American Dream – how visible in Fitzgerald (motifs, how Daisy connected with the American Dream in the text, irony)