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## Why choose Cambridge International?

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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.

All books endorsed to support the syllabus for examination from 2021 are 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support)

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

Sign up for email notifications about changes to syllabuses, including new and revised products and services at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/syllabusupdates](http://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](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/events)

- Cambridge Professional Development qualifications

Find out more at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/profdev](http://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](http://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](http://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.

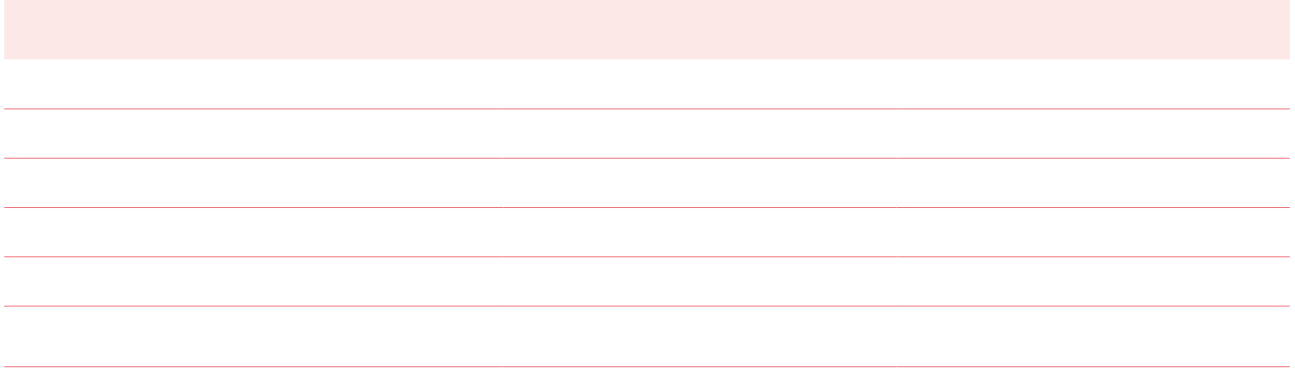




## Weighting for assessment objectives

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

### Assessment objectives as a percentage of each qualification



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## 3 Subject content

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## 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

### **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 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 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 the

Great Pan is not dead;

Reading or not a book today

I can recall the age

Like as like being ordered

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

In his dream my grandfather

In peace the r-bbed garlic past

M da gh

Go, walk the streets of Baroda,

Her hands sleep over the rough grained paper,

The equations are I minor's now.

At the foot of Takhteshar hill

The second time

I was a lack of faith.

I was summer all right

One morning, a tall lean man

One day the pre, 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

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

## Set poems and stories for examination in 2025 continued

Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English 9695 syllabus for 2024, 2025 and 2026. Subject content  
 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 Shabolt

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## 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*

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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 ghastly?

Here take my picture, though I bid farewell;

Nature's lady, though she be low,

No spring, nor summer beauty hath's grace,

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

As deathman's I resign

Oh my black soul! no more art's mmoned

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

A round earth's imagined corners, blot

If poisonous minerals, and if that be,

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, I have, and I

When my grave is broke up again

Be old fool, nor I's son,

I have done one brother's thing

Blasphemy, sighs, and sorrowed, in 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*

Silvia 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 and A051.9 in a section A

## Sets 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 Norberg

## 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 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*

*r*

## Set poems and stories for examination in 2026 continued

**Sylvia Plath: Selected Poems from *Unlabeled 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*

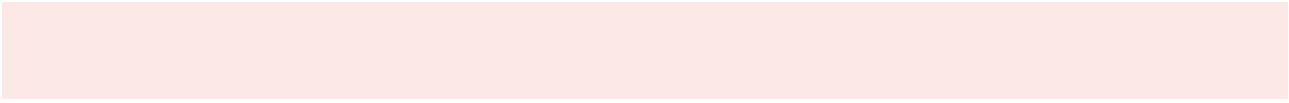
*Sonnet 138*

*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:

*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**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*

First line:

I hear o r call!

Once pon a he, son,

When a break of da a r i erside

The storks are coming na .

Na e bells are elling .

In o r ears m song

1 In o r ears m song

2 The In o cation: 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 n is na ended

I am onl a name

S ddenl e air cracks

There she sa

She kked of Paris

Welcome home e e fatherland

He as seeking good in o r collec e good

Bent do ble i e igh

I am not one person, I am man ings, man persons

The s n is sinking sla l in chan g colors!

Wh do e smile

Hiroshima, Nagasaki . bombs

Wi dr ms bea g and c mbals crashing

The go ernor's e hor tions

Men and o men

I s cock-cra !

Rise and Shine, O shine

I cling s of o ds s a ing

In India, 800 million Indians .

As silen s e silen na

The u ore e mark of recogni n .

## 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
Plath, 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
Coele, 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](http://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 strong age 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](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables)

Prior 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide)
- Please contact us at the start of the course if you are unable 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.**

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### Changes to syllabus content

- Some texts have been updated.
  - The conditions from which examination questions are set are specified for all sections on pages 47–49.
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**School feedback:**