

Ph.D. Entrance Test Syllabus (Aligned with UGC NET English)

Part A: Research Methodology

Unit I: Foundations of Research

- Purpose and Scope of Literary Research
- Formulation of Research Problems and Hypotheses
- Review of Literature and Gap Identification
- Ethics in Research: Plagiarism and Copyright
- Referencing Styles (MLA, APA), Citation Practices, Bibliography and Endnotes

Unit II: Research Design and Writing

- Structuring a Research Paper/Thesis
- Argumentation and Critical Thinking
- Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing
- Writing Effective Introductions, Discussions, and Conclusions
- Editing, Proofreading, Grammar, and Style Mechanics

Unit III: Research Approaches and Methods

- Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
- Textual, Intertextual and Discourse Analysis (Verbal & Visual)
- Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Approaches
- Creative Writing as a Research Practice
- Use of Digital Tools and Resources in Research

Part B: Subject-Specific Content (English)

Unit I: Drama

- British, American, Indian and World Drama
- Classical to Contemporary Plays
- Performance and Dramaturgy

Unit II: Poetry

- British, American, Indian and World Poetry
- Literary Devices, Forms and Movements
- Close Reading and Interpretation

Unit III: Fiction and Short Stories

- British, American, Indian and World Fiction
- Genres and Narrative Techniques
- Themes, Characters, and Literary Contexts

Unit IV: Non-Fictional Prose

- Essays, Autobiographies, Travelogues, Memoirs
- Philosophical and Political Writings
- Critical Reading and Interpretive Skills

***Note:** Units I–IV should be tested through comprehension passages to assess critical reading, analytical thinking, and writing abilities.*

Unit V: English Language: Concepts and Pedagogy

- Language Acquisition and Learning Theories
- Structure of English Language: Phonology, Morphology, Syntax
- Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language (ELT)
- English in Use (Grammar, Vocabulary, Error Analysis)

Unit VI: English in India

- History and Evolution of English in India
- English as a Medium of Education and Administration
- English Literature in Indian Contexts

Unit VII: Cultural Studies

- Key Concepts: Ideology, Hegemony, Identity, Diaspora
- Mass Culture, Popular Culture, and Subaltern Studies
- Intersections with Literature and Media

Unit VIII: Literary Criticism

- Classical to Modern Criticism (Plato, Aristotle, Dryden, Johnson, Wordsworth, Eliot)
- Indian Aesthetics and Rasa Theory
- Key Critical Concepts and Movements

Unit IX: Literary Theory (Post–World War II)

- Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Marxism, Psychoanalysis
- Feminism, Postcolonialism, Ecocriticism, Queer Theory, etc.
- Recent Developments in Literary Theory

Unit X: Research Methods and Materials in English

- Library and Archival Research
- Digital Humanities and Online Resources
- Preparing Project Proposals and Research Papers