Renaissance British Literature

The works which are numbered and marked with asterisks represent the core list for which all graduate students taking the Renaissance exam are responsible. The list as a whole is a fuller list from which students may wish to supplement the core list, according to their particular interests.

(1)*Sir Thomas More, Utopia
Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder, Complete Poems
Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, The Poems of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey
Edmund Spenser
    The Shepheardes Calendar
(2) *The Faerie Queene, Books 1 and 3
    Epithalamion
Sir Walter Ralegh
    “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”
    “What is our life?”
    “Sir Walter Ralegh to His Son”
    “The Lie”
    “Methought I saw the grave where Laura lay”
    “Nature, that washed her hands in milk”
    “The Author’s Epitaph, Made by Himself”
Sir Philip Sidney
(3) *Astrophil and Stella
    The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia, Books I and II
Thomas Kyd, The Spanish Tragedy
(4) *Christopher Marlowe (both)
    The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus
    “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
William Shakespeare
(5) *The Sonnets
    As You Like It
(6) *Twelfth Night
(7) *The Merchant of Venice
(8) *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2
(9) *Hamlet
(10) *Othello
(11) *King Lear
(12) *Macbeth
(13) *The Tempest
Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke
    The Psalms of Sir Philip Sidney and the Countess of Pembroke
Amelia Lanyer
    “Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum”
(14) **“The Description of Cook-ham”
(15) John Donne, *Complete Poems*, including
  *Holy Sonnets*
  *“A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”*
  *“The Flea”*
  *“The Sun Rising”*
  *“The Ecstasy”*
  *“The Canonization”*

Ben Jonson
  *The Alchemist*

(16) *Volpone* and “To Penshurst”
  “On My First Son”
  “Ode to Himself”

Lady Mary Wroth, “Pamphilia to Amphilanthus”

Francis Bacon
  “Of Truth”
  “Of Marriage and the Single Life”
  “Of Superstition”
  “The Advancement of Learning” (“The Abuses of Language”)

John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*

Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Maryam, the Fair Queen of Jewry*

George Chapman, *Bussy d’Ambois*

John Ford, *‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore*

Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling*

(17) Robert Herrick, *Poems*, including
  *“To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time”*
  *“Corinna’s Gone A-Maying”*
  *“Delight in Disorder”*

(18) George Herbert, *The Temple*, including
  *“The Collar”*
  *“Love III”*
  *“The Pulley”*
  *“The Altar”*
  *“Jordan I”*
  *“Jordan II”*

(19) Andrew Marvell
  *“To His Coy Mistress”*
  *“The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Fawn”*
  *“An Horatian Ode”*
  “The Mower’s Song”
  “Damon the Mower”
  “The Garden”
  “The Mower Against Gardens”
John Milton
    “On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity”
    “L’Allegro”
    “Il Penseroso”
(20a) *“Lycidas”
(20b) *Paradise Lost
    “Of Reformation Touching Church Discipline”
Robert Burton, “Democritus Junior to the Reader” (from Anatomy of Melancholy)
Thomas Browne, Religio Medici

Continental Backgrounds

Baldassare Castiglione, The Book of the Courtier
Erasmus, The Praise of Folly
Martin Luther, The Bondage of the Will
Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince
Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, Oration on the Dignity of Man

Secondary Sources

Classical and Early Modern:

(1) *Aristotle, Poetics
(2)*Plato, The Republic
(3)*John Milton, Areopagitica
(4)*Sir Philip Sidney, Defense of Poesy

Modern:

Mikhail Bakhtin, Rabelais and His World (1968)
David Bevington, From Mankind to Marlowe: Growth and Structure in the Popular Drama of Tudor England (1962)


Stanley Fish, ed., *Seventeenth-Century Prose: Modern Essays in Criticism* (1971)


Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down: Radical Ideas during the English Revolution* (1972)


Peter Laslett, *The World We Have Lost: England Before the Industrial Age* (1971)


C. S. Lewis, *English Literature in the Sixteenth Century, Excluding Drama* (1968)


Annabel M. Patterson, *Censorship and Interpretation: The Conditions of Writing And Reading in Early Modern England* (1984)


E. M. W. Tillyard, *The Elizabethan World Picture* (1943)