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you to

**Take a
Closer
Look...**

For more information
about this GRE Subject
Test, contact the GRE
Program:

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Educational Testing Service
Rosedale Road
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The GRE[®] Literature in English Test

Does your graduate department require or recommend that graduate applicants take the Literature in English Test offered by the *Graduate Record Examinations[®]* Program?

This Subject Test can be very useful in distinguishing among candidates whose credentials are otherwise similar. The test measures undergraduate achievement and provides a common yardstick for comparing the qualifications of students from a variety of colleges and universities with different standards. Consider these factors:

Predictive validity

Subject Test scores are a valid predictor of graduate school performance, as confirmed by a recent meta-analysis performed by independent researchers of over 1,700 studies containing validity data for GRE tests.* This study showed that GRE Subject Tests are reliable predictors of a range of outcome measures, including first-year graduate grade-point average, cumulative graduate grade-point average, comprehensive examination scores, publication citation counts, and faculty ratings. For more information about the predictive validity of the GRE tests, visit www.ets.org/gre/validity.html.

Content that reflects today's curricula

The test contains about 230 multiple-choice questions on poetry, drama, biography, the essay, the short story, the novel, criticism, literary theory, and the history of the language. Some questions are based on short works reprinted in their entirety, some on excerpts from longer works. There is increased emphasis on the following: American literature through 1925; American, British, and World literatures after 1925; and theoretical criticism. A brief summary of test topics can be found on the back of this sheet. Additional information about the test and a full-length practice test are provided FREE with test registration and can be downloaded at www.ets.org/gre/greprep.

Developed by leading educators in the field

The content and scope of each edition of the test are specified and reviewed by a distinguished team of undergraduate and graduate faculty representing colleges and universities across the country.

*Source: "A comprehensive meta-analysis of the predictive validity of the Graduate Record Examinations[®]: Implications for graduate student selection and performance." Kuncel, Nathan R.; Hezlett, Sarah A.; Ones, Deniz S., *Psychological Bulletin*, January 2001, Vol. 127(1), 162-181.

Who develops the GRE Literature in English Test?

Individuals who serve or have recently served on the Committee of Examiners are faculty members from the following institutions:

Boston University

Johns Hopkins University

Rutgers University

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of Chicago

University of Iowa

University of Texas, Austin

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Virginia Commonwealth University

Committee members are selected with the advice of the Modern Language Association of America.

Test questions are written by committee members and by other subject-matter specialists from ETS and colleges and universities across the country.

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Test Content

The test emphasizes authors, works, genres, and movements. The questions may be somewhat arbitrarily classified into two groups: factual and analytical. The factual questions may require a student to identify characteristics of literary or critical movements, to assign a literary work to the period in which it was written, to identify a writer or work described in a brief critical comment, or to determine the period or author of a work on the basis of the style and content of a short excerpt. The analytical questions test the ability to read a literary text perceptively. Students are asked to examine a given passage of prose or poetry and to answer questions about meaning, form and structure, literary techniques, and various aspects of language.

The approximate distribution of questions according to content categories is indicated by the following outline:

I. LITERARY ANALYSIS (40-55%)

Questions that require an ability to interpret given passages of prose and poetry. Such questions may involve recognition of conventions and genres, allusions and references, meaning and tone, grammatical structures and rhetorical strategies, and literary techniques.

II. IDENTIFICATION (15-20%)

Identification of date, author, or work by style and content.

III. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS (20-25%)

Questions on literary, cultural, and intellectual history, as well as identification of author or work through a critical statement or biographical information. Also identification of details of character, plot, or setting of a work.

IV. HISTORY AND THEORY OF LITERARY CRITICISM (10-15%)

Identification and analysis of the characteristics and methods of various critical and theoretical approaches.

The literary-historical scope of the test follows the distribution below:

1. Continental, Classical, and Comparative Literature through 1925 (5-10%)
2. British Literature to 1660 (including Milton) (25-30%)
3. British Literature 1660-1925 (25-35%)
4. American Literature through 1925 (15-25%)
5. American, British, and World Literatures after 1925 (20-30%)



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