

Victorian

period list for PhD oral examination, 2020, compiled by Shalmi Barman

* indicates overlap with field list (Bibliography, Textual Studies, and Book History)

Prose fiction

1. Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)
2. William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (1848)
3. Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton* (1848)
4. Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (1853)
5. Charlotte Brontë, *Villette* (1853)
6. George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss* (1860)
7. Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865)
8. Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone* (1868)
9. Anthony Trollope, *The Way We Live Now* (1875)
10. Thomas Hardy, *The Return of the Native* (1878)
12. Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881)
12. Margaret Oliphant, *Hester* (1883)
13. Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island* (1883)
14. William Morris, *News from Nowhere* (1891)
15. George Gissing, *New Grub Street* (1891)
16. Ella Hepworth Dixon, *The Story of a Modern Woman* (1894)

Poetry

17. Alfred Tennyson:

“Mariana”, “The Lady of Shalott”, “The Palace of Art”, “The Lotos Eaters”, “Ulysses” (1842);
selections from *In Memoriam* (Prologue, IV-VII, XXX, XLIX-LV, LXXVI, CXIII-CXVI, Epilogue)
(1849); “Maud” (1855); “Tithonus” (1864); “The Holy Grail” (1869)

18. Robert Browning:

“My Last Duchess”, “Porphyria’s Lover” (1842); “The Bishop Orders His Tomb At St. Praxed’s
Church”, “Meeting at Night”, “Parting at Morning” (1845); “A Woman’s Last Word”, “Fra Lippo
Lippi”, “An Epistle Containing the Strange Medical Experience of Karshish, the Arab Physician”,

“Andrea del Sarto”, “Two in the Campagna” (1855); “Caliban Upon Setebos” (1864)

19. Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

“The Cry of the Children” (1844); selections from *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (IV, IX, XIII, XVII, XXIX, XXXV, XLII, XLIII, XLIV) (1850); *Aurora Leigh* (1856); “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point” (1850); “A Curse For a Nation” (1860); “A Musical Instrument” (1862)

20. Christina Rossetti:

“Goblin Market”, “A Triad”, “A Birthday”, “After Death”, “An Apple Gathering”, “Song (When I am dead, my dearest)”, “The Convent Threshold”, “Up-Hill”, “A Better Resurrection”, “The World” (1862); “Maiden-Song”, “Jessie Cameron”, “A Royal Princess”, “L.E.L.”, “Eve” (1866); “In An Artist’s Studio” (1896)

21. Algernon Charles Swinburne:

“Laus Veneris”, “The Triumph of Time”, “Anactoria”, “Before the Mirror”, “A Song in Time of Revolution, 1860”, “Dolores”, “The Garden of Proserpine” (1866); “At a Month’s End” (1878); “The Roundel”, “Three Faces” (1883)

22. Dante Gabriel Rossetti:

“Of Life, Love, and Death: Sixteen Sonnets” (1869); “The Blessed Damozel”, “Jenny”, “Sister Helen” (1870)

23. Gerard Manley Hopkins:

“The Wreck of the Deutschland”, “God’s Grandeur”, “Spring”, “The Windhover”, “Pied Beauty”, “Hurrahing in Harvest”, “Spring and Fall”, “As kingfishers catch fire”, “Carrion Comfort” (1918)

24. Augusta Webster:

“Medea in Athens”, “Circe”, “The Happiest Girl in the World”, “A Castaway”, “In An Almshouse” (1870)

25. James Thomson:

“The City of Dreadful Night”, “To Our Ladies of Death”, “Sunday at Hampstead” (1880); “Mater

Tenebarum” (1881)

26. Oscar Wilde:

“Ave Imperatrix”, “The Garden of Eros” (1881); “The Harlot’s House” (1885); “The Sphinx” (1894); “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” (1898)

Drama

27. Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White* (1871)

28. W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1878)

29. Oscar Wilde, *Salomé* (1894)

30. George Bernard Shaw, *Candida* (1898)

Non-fiction prose

31. Thomas Carlyle, “The Hero as Man of Letters” (1840), *Past and Present* (1843)

32. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848, trans. 1888)

33. John Ruskin, “Pre-Raphaelitism” (1851), “The Nature of Gothic” (1853), *Unto This Last* (1860), “The Two Boyhoods”, “Letter the 5th” (*Fors Clavigera*, 1st May 1871)

34. John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* (1863)

35. John Henry Newman, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (1864)

36. Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy* (1869)

37. Walter Pater, *The Renaissance* (1873), “The Child in the House” (1878), “Style” (1888)

38. *Henry Mayhew, “Of the Street-Sellers of Stationery, Literature, and the Fine Arts,” Ch. 11 in *London Labor and the London Poor* (1851); Charles Booth, Part I of *Life and Labour of the People* vol. I (1889)

39. Thomas Carlyle, "Occasional Discourse on the Negro Question" (1849); J. S. Mill, "The Negro Question" (1850); Mary Seacole, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857)

40. Edward Carpenter, "Desirable Mansions" (1883); William Morris, "Useful Work Versus Useless Toil" (1884); Oscar Wilde, "The Soul of Man Under Socialism" (1891)

41. Eliza Lynn Linton, "The Girl of the Period" (1868); Frances Power Cobbe, "Duties of Women as Citizens of the State" (1882); Mona Caird, "Defence of the So-Called 'Wild Women'" (1892); Sarah Grand, "The New Aspect of the Woman Question" (1894); Ouida, "The New Woman" (1894); Marie Corelli, "The Modern Marriage Market" (1898)

Secondary reading

1. Robin Gilmour, *The Victorian Period, 1830-1890*
2. Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society, 1780-1950*
3. *Richard Altick, *The English Common Reader: A Social History of the Mass Reading Public, 1800-1900*
4. Isobel Armstrong, *Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics and Politics*
5. Nina Auerbach, *Woman and the Demon: The Life of a Victorian Myth*
6. Regenia Gagnier, *Individualism, Decadence and Globalization: On the Relationship of Part to Whole, 1859-1920*