



MEER SIR ACADEMY

JMI MA English Entrance Test Syllabus

Department of English Jamia Millia Islamia

Complete examination pattern, topic-wise syllabus and preparation framework for the objective and subjective sections.

Total Marks 100

Part A 40 Marks | Part B 60 Marks

Examination pattern

The entrance test has two parts. Part A tests breadth of literary knowledge through objective questions, while Part B tests interpretation, critical reasoning and reflective academic writing through two essays.

Part	Question format	Questions	Marks	Focus
A	Objective type	40	40	Literary history, genres, terms, movements, theory, criticism and the literary world
B	Subjective essays	2	60	Critical engagement with theory or criticism and reflective writing on literature

Part A Objective Component

Part A consists of 40 objective questions carrying one mark each. Preparation should combine factual recall with the ability to identify texts, authors, periods, forms, concepts and critical approaches.

Area	Indicative preparation coverage
Events in the literary world	Major literary awards, important publications, notable authors, journals, anniversaries, debates and significant contemporary literary developments.
History of English literature	Major periods from Old English to contemporary literature; historical contexts, defining characteristics, representative authors and important works.



Area	Indicative preparation coverage
Literary terms and genres	Poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction forms; devices, narrative techniques, prosody, rhetoric and frequently used critical terminology.
Classical literature	Greek and Roman literary traditions, epic, tragedy, comedy, classical criticism, mythology and their influence on later English literature.
Literary movements	Renaissance, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Victorianism, Modernism, Postmodernism and other major intellectual and aesthetic movements.
Literary theory and criticism	Classical, humanist, formalist, structuralist, poststructuralist, Marxist, feminist, psychoanalytic, postcolonial and reader-oriented approaches.

High-yield revision method

- Prepare a period-wise timeline with authors, works, genres and major historical events.
- Create concise cards for literary terms, movements and critical theories.
- Revise author-work-period associations and commonly confused concepts through MCQs.
- Follow reliable literary news and major awards alongside the static syllabus.

3 Part B subjective component

Part B contains two compulsory subjective questions of 30 marks each. Successful answers should present a clear argument, analyse the prompt closely, use relevant literary or theoretical evidence, and remain coherent throughout.

Question	Task	Marks	What the answer must demonstrate
1	Essay critiquing an excerpt or quotation from literary theory or criticism	30	Accurate interpretation, recognition of assumptions and concepts, critical evaluation, contextual awareness and a reasoned conclusion.
2	Reflective essay on authors, texts, movements or critical perceptions	30	Independent engagement, meaningful connections, textual awareness, balanced reflection and organised academic expression.

Suggested structure for the critical essay

Stage	Purpose
Introduction	Identify the central claim of the excerpt and state the direction of your critique.
Conceptual explanation	Clarify key terms, theoretical assumptions and the critical tradition involved.



Stage	Purpose
Analysis	Examine the strengths, limits, implications and possible tensions in the statement.
Application	Use suitable literary examples, texts, theorists or contrasting perspectives.
Conclusion	Offer a concise, balanced judgement that follows from the analysis.

Suggested structure for the reflective essay

- Begin with a focused interpretation of the topic rather than a general biography or summary.
- Develop two or three connected ideas about the author, text, movement or critical perception.
- Use specific textual or literary references without turning the essay into a list of facts.
- Include your reasoned reflection while maintaining an academic tone.
- End by explaining the wider literary significance of the discussion.

Detailed topic checklist

Domain	Topics for revision
Periods	Old English, Middle English, Renaissance, Restoration, Augustan, Romantic, Victorian, Modern and contemporary periods.
Poetry	Epic, lyric, sonnet, ode, elegy, ballad, dramatic monologue, blank verse, free verse, imagery, symbolism and metre.
Drama	Tragedy, comedy, tragicomedy, history play, revenge tragedy, comedy of manners, realism, absurd drama and dramatic technique.
Fiction	Novel, novella, short story, realism, modernist fiction, stream of consciousness, point of view, plot, character and narrative time.
Non-fiction	Essay, biography, autobiography, memoir, travel writing, letters and literary journalism.
Theory	Mimesis, catharsis, imagination, form, language, ideology, gender, class, race, colonialism, discourse, authorship and readership.
Critical practice	Close reading, interpretation of quotations, comparison of positions, evaluation of evidence and construction of an argument.

Six week preparation plan

Week	Main focus	Practice target
1	Literary periods and classical foundations	Timeline plus 100 objective questions



Week	Main focus	Practice target
2	Poetry, drama, fiction and literary terms	Genre sheets plus two sectional tests
3	Renaissance to Romantic literature	Author-work revision plus one critical essay
4	Victorian to contemporary literature	Movement matrix plus one reflective essay
5	Literary theory and criticism	Theory cards plus two quotation critiques
6	Literary events and complete revision	Two full mock tests and four timed essays

Official syllabus summary

Part A. Forty objective-type questions of one mark each, carrying 40 marks in total. Questions cover events in the literary world, the history of English literature, literary terms and genres, classical literature, literary movements, and literary theory and criticism.

Part B. Two subjective questions carrying 60 marks in total. One 30-mark essay critiques an excerpt or quotation from literary theory or criticism. The second 30-mark reflective essay addresses authors, texts, movements or critical perceptions.

Important note

Candidates should confirm the final admission instructions, test duration, marking rules and any subsequent syllabus revision from the official Jamia Millia Islamia admission portal before the examination.

Prepared by Meer Sir Academy