Day 1: Historical Poetry from the English Language Tradition
Students should read and understand the following list of texts as well as the historical and aesthetic contexts from which they emerged. They should similarly be familiar with the major poetic movements/developments that led to the emergence of these writers and their works and able to articulate how each writer/text might be positioned in terms of those developments.

1. Shakespeare (1564-1616), Sonnets
2. John Donne (1572-1631), Selected Poems
3. John Milton (1608-1674), Paradise Lost
4. William Blake (1757-1827), Songs of Innocence and of Experience
5. William Wordsworth (1770-1850), Selected Poems
6. John Keats (1795-1821), Selected Poems
7. Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861), Sonnets from the Portuguese
8. Robert Browning (1812-1889), Dramatic Lyrics & Men and Women
9. Walt Whitman (1819-1892), Leaves of Grass
10. Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), Selected
11. Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889), all poems
12. W.B. Yeats (1865-1939), Selected
13. Gertrude Stein (1874-1946), Tender Buttons
14. Robert Frost (1874-1963), Selected Poems
15. Wallace Stevens (1879-1955), Selected Poems
16. William Carlos Williams (1883-1963), Selected Poems
17. H.D. (1886-1961), Selected Poems
18. Marianne Moore (1887-1972), Selected Poems
20. Claude McKay (1889-1948), Selected Poems
21. Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), Selected Poems
22. Langston Hughes (1902-1967), Selected Poems
23. W.H. Auden (1907-1973), Selected Poems
24. Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979), Collected Poems
**Day 2: Contemporary Poetry**

For this portion of the exam students will develop a list of at least 30 books of poetry. This list may include historical poets (*who are not already represented* in the “Historical Poetry from the English Language Tradition” list) as a way to contextualize and/or demonstrate aesthetic genealogy for your contemporary focus. However, the majority of the poets on this list should have work published after 1950. The list should be centered around one (or a combination) of the following:

- A literary theme (motherhood, wilderness, the erotic, theological questioning, etc.)
- A literary movement (imagism, surrealism, romanticism, etc.)
- A theoretical framework (race theory, disability poetry, queer poetics etc.)
- A formal interest (history of the sonnet, verse novels, song forms, etc.)
- Poetry in translation

Please note that you might build a list that combines these categories, for example “Wilderness and Queer Poetics,” “Motherhood and Race Theory,” “Erotic Disability Poetry in Translation,” etc.

**Critical Texts**

Below, you will find a list of essays on poetry and poetics that you will read in preparation for the “Historical Poetry” exam. In addition to these works, you will develop a list of at least 15 additional essays on poetry and poetics that clarify, contextualize, and support your scholarly thinking about your chosen list of poets for the “Contemporary Poetry” exam.

1. William Wordsworth, “Preface to the Lyrical Ballads” (1798)
2. John Keats, Selection from Keats’s Letters (1815-1821)
3. W.B. Yeats, “The Symbolism of Poetry” (1900)
4. Ezra Pound, “A Retrospect” (1918)
6. André Breton, “Manifesto of Surrealism” (1924)
8. William Empson, “Seven Types of Ambiguity” (1930)
11. Marina Tsvetaeva, “Poets with History and Poets Without History” (1935)
12. Robert Frost, “The Figure a Poem Makes” (1939)
13. Wallace Stevens, “Imagination as Value” (1942)