LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

The public assessment of this subject is based on the *Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4−6) Literature in English* jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Candidates should refer to the Guide for the knowledge, understanding and skills, etc. they are required to demonstrate in the assessment.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessment objectives of Literature in English are to evaluate the following:

(a)   candidates' familiarity with the background and content of literary and film texts as well as the techniques employed by the writers/filmmakers in their works;

(b)   candidates' ability to articulate an informed personal response;

(c)   candidates' ability to write clear, succinct answers which demonstrate critical and analytical skills; and

(d)   candidates' ability to express themselves freely, informally and imaginatively in SBA work, which relates topics of literary significance to issues of importance in contemporary culture.

MODE OF ASSESSMENT

The table outlines the various components of the public assessment of Literature in English in the 2024 HKDSE:

Component		Weighting	Duration
Public Examination	Paper 1 Essay Writing	50%	3 hours
	Paper 2 Appreciation	30%	2 hours
	School Based Assessment (SBA)	20%	-

PUBLIC EXAMINATION

Paper 1   Essay Writing   (3 hours)   (50%)

This paper will be divided into two parts. Part I (30% of the subject mark) will comprise four sections, A – D. Candidates may choose to answer a question on **one** of two novels in Section A, **one** of two plays in Section B, and **one** of two films in Section C. Section D will cover short stories. In Part I there will be two questions on each text. Part II (20% of the subject mark) will comprise eight questions requiring comparisons of two or more of the set texts from Part I. Candidates must answer three questions from the paper as a whole, two from Part I (taken from different sections) and one from Part II, *which must cover those genres the candidate has not already covered in Part I*. All questions will require essay-type answers, with some inviting imaginative expansion of texts.

Paper 2   Appreciation   (2 hours)   **(30%)**

This paper will be divided into 3 sections. Candidates must choose one question from a choice of four in Section A, one question from a choice of two in Section B and one question from a choice of two in Section C. Multi-part questions will invite critical analyses of a single passage from either of the prescribed novels or the prescribed plays in Section A (10% of the subject mark), two or three set poems either by the same or different poets in Section B (12% of the subject mark), and one or two unseen poems in Section C (8% of the subject mark). For the Unseen Poetry section, candidates should study a broad range of modern poetry, including themes such as love, nature, war, death and animals. Candidates will be expected to show an ability to understand the thought and feeling in the poetry, and the ways in which these are conveyed. Copies of the set and unseen poems will be included in the question paper.

School Based Assessment (SBA)   **(20%)**

The SBA component of Literature in English constitutes 20% of the total weighting for the subject. It involves the preparation of an extended essay on a theme/work/writer connected to the learner's study in the subject OR an analytical study/review of a film/play/performance, OR (a) piece(s) of creative writing, of around 2000 to 2500 words.

Work for the SBA should be related to, but not exclusively or extensively based on, the set texts. Learners can use the texts they study as an inspiration for their SBA work, but they should not include detailed analysis of those works. Instead they should focus on other arts-related materials. In the context of this subject, 'arts' refers to activities such as literature, cinema, television, music, painting and dance, which people can take part in for the purposes of enjoyment, or to create various impressions and/or meanings.

The main prose or film works chosen for study should have been written or made originally in English. Studies of other cultural media should centre on the works of English-speaking artists or performers. Candidates should be encouraged to make connections between what they read and things occurring in Hong Kong and around the world. Cross-cultural references can be made in the work, e.g. comparing the set film with local films/television. Extended essays which deal exclusively with such subjects as history, sociology, psychology, scientific or liberal studies are not appropriate.

Candidates are required to safe keep their SBA work for inspection and authentication purposes until the release of the HKDSE results.

The detailed requirements, regulations, assessment criteria and guidelines are provided in the *SBA Handbook for HKDSE Literature in English* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority.

Private candidates need not complete the SBA component. Their subject result will be based entirely on the public examination result.

THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is based on the study of **one** set of texts, which will vary over time. The set offers a choice of one of two novels, one of two plays, one of two films, a set of short stories, and a set of poems selected from a given volume. The texts will be examined as follows:

Genre	Paper(s)
Novels	1 Part I Section A, Part II & 2 Section A (text analysis)
Plays	1 Part I Section B, Part II & 2 Section A (text analysis)
Films	1 Part I Section C, Part II
Short stories	1 Part I Section D, Part II
Poetry	2 Section B (comparison of works by one or more poets)

LIST OF SET TEXTS
FOR THE 2024 HKDSE LITERATURE IN ENGLISH EXAMINATION

Novels: *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald **OR** *Rebecca*, Daphne du Maurier

Plays: *The Merchant of Venice*, William Shakespeare **OR** *Educating Rita*, Willy Russell

Films: *The Remains of the Day* (1993) Dir: James Ivory **OR** *Vertigo* (1958) Dir: Alfred Hitchcock

Short stories:

Lorrie Moore:	How to Become a Writer
Jhumpa Lahiri:	A Temporary Matter
Tim O'Brien:	The Things They Carried
James Thurber:	The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Anita Desai:	Games at Twilight
Ray Bradbury:	The Veldt
Roald Dahl:	Parson's Pleasure
Kate Chopin:	The Story of an Hour

Poetry: From *The Rattle Bag* ed. S. Heaney & T. Hughes, Faber and Faber

William Carlos Williams:	'Flowers by the Sea', 'The Last Words of My English Grandmother', 'Raleigh Was Right'
William Blake:	'The Chimney Sweeper', 'A Poison Tree', 'The Tyger'
Thomas Hardy:	'Afterwards', 'Bags of Meat', 'Weathers'
E. E. Cummings:	'Buffalo Bill's', 'maggie and millie and mollie and may', 'nobody loses all the time'
Emily Dickinson:	'Like Rain it sounded till it curved', 'There came a Wind like a Bugle', 'There's a certain Slant of light'