

ESAMI PRELIMINARI, INTEGRATIVI, IDONEITA'	
MATERIA	LINGUA INGLESE
CLASSE - INDIRIZZO	5 LSU/LES

## HISTORY AND LITERATURE:

### The Victorian Age (1837 – 1901)

- **Historical background:**
  - The early Victorian age: the lives of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; major reforms; Chartism; foreign policy; the Great Exhibition; city life in Victorian Britain; the workhouses; the Victorian compromise; Victorian architecture in London.
  - the later years of Queen Victoria's reign: the period following Prince Albert's death; the expansion of the British Empire; the end of the Victorian era; Victorian urban society; the changing role of women; social Darwinism; late Victorian thinkers, including Karl Marx.
  - the American Civil War: the abolitionist movement; the electoral votes of 1860; secession and the Confederacy; the causes and consequences of the Civil War; the reasons for and consequences of expansion and settlement in the American West.
- **Literary context:**
  - Early Victorian literature: main features and characteristics.
  - Rudyard Kipling: *The White Man's Burden*;
  - Aestheticism: origin, features and main theorists.
- **Charles Dickens:** life and major works; *Oliver Twist*: plot, setting, structure, characters, themes, style and didactic aim; *Hard Times*: plot and themes.
- **The Brontë sisters:** lives and major works; *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*: analysis limited to one novel chosen by the candidate, with reference to plot, setting, structure, characters, themes and style.
- **Robert Louis Stevenson:** life and major works; *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*: plot, setting, structure, characters, themes, style.
- **Oscar Wilde:** life and major works; the concepts of life as a work of art and art as a work of genius; the concept of paradox; *The Picture of Dorian Gray*: analysis of the Preface, themes and style; *The Importance of Being Earnest*: plot, setting, structure, characters, themes and style.

### The Modern Age (1901 – 1945)

- **Historical background:**
  - From the Edwardian Age to the First World War: the origins of the Welfare State; the Suffragettes; the Easter Rising in Ireland; World War I.
  - Sigmund Freud and psychoanalysis: *The Interpretation of Dreams*.
  - Carl Gustav Jung: the collective unconscious.

- William James and Henri Bergson: a new concept of time - historical vs. psychological time.
- The inter-war years and World War II: the Commonwealth of Nations; the economic boom after WWI; the negative effects of the war on economy; key events leading up to World War II; World War II and the end of the conflict.
- The USA in the first half of the 20th century: the Wall Street Crash; the Great Depression; the New Deal; WWII and the atomic bomb.
- **Literary context:**
  - War poetry; the modernist novel: the shift from the Victorian to the modern novel; the stream of consciousness and the interior monologue - extreme, indirect and direct (with two levels of narration and with the mind level); psychological novelists and modernist novelists; the dystopian novel.
- **Wilfred Owen:** *Dulce et decorum est*.
- **James Joyce:** life and major works; the theme of paralysis and the concept of epiphany; *Dubliners*: structure and style; *Ulysses*: analysis of one extract chosen by the candidate.
- **Virginia Woolf:** life and major works; the Bloomsbury Group; *Mrs Dalloway*: plot, setting and narrative technique.
- **George Orwell:** life and major works; *Nineteen Eighty-Four*: plot, setting, themes and style.

#### **The Contemporary Age (from 1946 to present days)**

- **Ian McEwan:** study of one novel chosen by the candidate.
- **Kazuo Ishiguro:** *Never Let Me Go*.
- **Carol Ann Duffy:** study of two poems chosen by the candidate.