These notes are provided for second- and final-year candidates in the UCL-based BA Examinations, full-year affiliate students, and students from other departments taking English course units. They are only a guide, and are not necessarily binding on examiners. They should be read in conjunction with those passages in the English Department’s ‘Guidance on Examinations 2017-18’ (Appendix 3 of the English Department Undergraduate Handbook 2017-18, online here: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english/current-students/undergraduate), and UCL's examination guidance (available at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/exams_and_awards) including the ‘UCL Examination Guide for Candidates 2017-18’ -- https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/sites/students/files/ucl-examinations-candidate-guide.pdf --that set out the formal examination requirements.

Candidates are warned against the use of substantially the same material twice within the same paper or in the examination as a whole.

The examiners’ intention in setting 6-hour papers is to give candidates additional reading time. In the case of the Chaucer and Shakespeare papers the intention is to allow time for use of the plain texts provided; in the case of Critical Commentary and Analysis the intention is to allow candidates sufficient time to read through and reflect on the set passages. There is no requirement that candidates should write longer answers than they would in 3-hour papers.

Where examinations contain questions on set works or set authors, these works or authors are named in the relevant description.

The setting, scrutinizing, and marking of all examination papers and other forms of assessment is the responsibility of the Board of Examiners of the BA in English, which consists of members of the Department of English appointed to serve as examiners and at least one External Examiner.

**Chaucer and his Literary Background**

Time: 6 hours. A plain text of Chaucer (ed. Robinson) will be provided.

Candidates must answer three questions: EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2 (NOT BOTH) and two others. Question 1 will require commentary on a single passage. Question 2 will require comparison of two passages. In each of these questions there will be a choice of passages for discussion. The other questions will be essay questions.

Candidates should note that the term ‘work’ in this paper can be applied to a part or parts of *The Canterbury Tales*. Answers addressing *The Canterbury Tales* as a ‘work’ need not discuss it in its entirety.

Between 1.00 p.m. and 1.45 p.m. candidates will be able, if they wish, to leave their desks to have lunch. The examination will finish at 4.00 p.m. Candidates should not discuss the paper or use
mobile phones during the lunch break.

**Shakespeare**

Time: 6 hours. A plain text of Shakespeare’s works (The Arden Shakespeare Complete Works) will be provided.

Candidates must answer three questions: one question from Section A and two from Section B.

Section A consists of questions on the set plays, and includes optional passages for commentary. The set plays are *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *1 Henry IV*, *Macbeth* and *The Winter’s Tale*.

Section B consists of general questions. Answers in Section B should, unless otherwise specified, discuss AT LEAST TWO WORKS BY SHAKESPEARE. Any set play not used in a Section A answer may be used in answering a Section B question, but each Section B answer may discuss no more than one set play.

Between 1.00 p.m. and 1.45 p.m. candidates will be able, if they wish, to leave their desks to have lunch. The examination will finish at 4.00 p.m. Candidates must not discuss the paper or use mobile phones during the lunch break.

**Critical Commentary and Analysis**

Time: 6 hours

The examination will consist of passages of prose and verse for comment and comparison. Candidates must answer any three questions. None of the questions is compulsory.

Between 1.00 p.m. and 1.45 p.m. candidates will be able, if they wish, to leave their desks to have lunch. The examination will finish at 4.00 p.m. Candidates should not discuss the paper or use mobile phones during the lunch break.

**Renaissance Literature**

Time: 3 hours

The paper will be divided into two sections. Three questions must be answered, including at least one from each section; i.e. you must answer one from Section A, one from Section B, and a third from either section.

Section A will contain questions on the four set authors (Sidney, Spenser, Donne, and Jonson).

Section B will contain questions on a variety of authors, genres and topics. Answers in Section B should refer to AT LEAST TWO WORKS unless otherwise indicated.

Answers may refer to works by Shakespeare but should not be based on them, since there is a separate Shakespeare paper. E.g. if an answer requires reference to at least two works, a Shakespeare work may be included in the discussion as a third work, but must not be one of the two main works discussed.
The Restoration and Eighteenth Century

Time: 3 hours

Candidates must answer three questions: Question 1 and two others.

Question 1 will require commentary on a single passage. Passages will be taken from the set works: from the poems of Rochester (those included in the prescribed ‘Oxford World’s Classics’ edition); from Pope, either Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot or An Epistle to a Lady; from Richardson, Pamela; and from either Johnson, A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland or Boswell, The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides.

The rest of the paper will contain essay questions on a variety of authors, works and topics.

The Seventeenth Century

Time: 3 hours

The examination will consist of two sections. Candidates must answer three questions, one from Section A and two from Section B.

Section A will require commentary on a single passage. Passages will be taken from the set works: A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle, Marvell’s Poems, The Pilgrim’s Progress, The Rover.

Section B will consist of essay questions on a variety of authors, works, and topics. ‘The period’ means 1625 to 1700. Unless otherwise stated, questions in Section B must be answered with reference to at least two works.

Candidates may include in their answers to Section B discussion of set works not used in answering Section A.

Eighteenth-Century Literature

The examination will consist of two sections. Candidates must answer three questions, one from Section A and two from Section B.

Section A will consist of questions on the set works (Addison and Steele’s Tatler and Spectator; Pope and Montagu’s Epistles; Richardson’s Pamela; Johnson’s Rasselas; Burney’s Evelina; and Cowper’s Task).

Section B will consist of questions on a variety of topics. ‘The period’ means 1700 to 1789. Unless otherwise stated, questions in Section B must be answered with reference to at least two works.

Candidates may include in their answers to Section B discussion of set works not used in answering Section A.
The Romantic Period

Time: 3 hours

The paper will be divided into two sections. Section A will contain questions on the authors of the recommended works. Section B will contain questions on authors, genres and topics which require reference to AT LEAST TWO AUTHORS, unless otherwise indicated. Three questions must be answered, including at least one from each section; i.e. you must answer one from Section A, one from Section B, and a third from either section.

The Victorian Period

Time: 3 hours

The examination will consist of two sections. Candidates must answer three questions, one from Section A and two from Section B.

Section A will consist of questions on the seven set works: Tennyson’s poetry, Browning’s poetry, Christina Rossetti's poetry, Villette, Great Expectations, Middlemarch, Tess of the d’Urbervilles.

Section B will consist of questions on a variety of authors, genres, and topics, and 'the period' means 1830-1900. Unless otherwise stated, each question in Section B must be answered with reference to AT LEAST TWO WORKS.

Candidates may include in their answers in Section B discussion of set works not used in answering Section A. For example, if they have not answered on Great Expectations in Section A, and choose to answer on Dickens in Section B, they may include Great Expectations in their discussion. If they have written their Section A answer on Great Expectations, they may refer to Dickens’s works in answering a question in Section B, providing they do not base their answer primarily on Dickens. In the cases of Tennyson, Browning, and Christina Rossetti, where ‘set works’ refers to a volume of selected poems, they may base an answer in Section B on the work of any of these poets without restriction, provided they have not answered on that poet in Section A.

Modern Literature I

Time: 3 hours.

Candidates must answer three questions. The paper will be in two sections, Section A containing questions on each of the eight set works, and Section B containing questions on a variety of authors and topics. Candidates will be required to answer one question from Section A and two from Section B.

In Section B, ‘work’ and ‘works’ include drama and film as well as fiction and other varieties of prose and poetry; ‘authors’ includes those producing work in all these forms; and ‘the period’ means 1900 to 1950. If an author of the period produced significant works before or after the period, you may discuss those works, but you should base your answer on works produced within the period.
Candidates may include in Section B discussion of set texts not answered on in Section A. For example, if you have not answered on *To the Lighthouse* in Section A, you may make use of *To the Lighthouse* in Section B.

**Modern Literature II**

Time: 3 hours

Candidates must answer three questions. The paper will be in two sections, Section A containing questions on each of the twelve set works, and Section B containing questions on a variety of authors and topics. Candidates will be required to answer one question from Section A and two from Section B.

In Section B, ‘work’ and ‘works’ are to be understood as including drama, television, film, graphic novels, and song as well as fiction and other varieties of prose and poetry; ‘authors’ is to be understood as including those producing work in all these forms; and ‘the period’ means 1950 to the present day. If an author of the period produced significant works before the period, candidates may discuss those works, but should base their answers primarily on works produced within the period.

Answers to questions in Section B should make reference to at least two works of the period. Candidates may include in Section B discussion of set works not used in answering Section A. For example, if they have not answered on *Vertigo* in Section A, and choose to answer on Hitchcock in Section B, they may include *Vertigo* in their discussion. If they have written their Section A answer on *Vertigo*, they may refer to Hitchcock’s works in answering a question in Section B, provided they do not base their answer primarily on Hitchcock.

**American Literature to 1900**

Time: 3 hours

Candidates may choose any three questions. They must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether in this paper or in other parts of the examination. Questions either relate specifically to the set texts or to more general topics where any work or works from the period may be discussed.

**London in Literature**

Time: 3 hours

Candidates must answer three questions; Question 1 and two others. Question 1 will require commentary on one out of six passages taken from the seven set works taught in seminars during the autumn term: Middleton, *A Chaste Maid*; Gay, *Trivia*; Boswell, *London Journal*; essays by Hazlitt & Lamb; Dickens, *Oliver Twist*; Conrad, *The Secret Agent*; Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*. The rest of the paper will consist of essay questions on works (including drama, film, song, television, and work in other media) and topics related to London.
Old Icelandic Literature

Time: 3 hours

Candidates must answer three questions, Question 1 and two others. Question 1 requires translation of three out of six passages from Old Icelandic texts studied in class. The rest of the questions are essay questions on Old Icelandic literature studied in class, and one optional question requiring critical commentary on two of the three passages which the candidate has translated in Question 1.

Old English Literature I

Time: 3 hours

The examination will consist of three sections. Candidates must answer Section A and Section B and one question from Section C. Marks will be divided equally between the three sections.

Section A will require translation of passages from Old English prose and verse studied in seminars, including at least one passage from Beowulf. Section B will require critical commentary and analysis of two of the passages already translated in Section A, including at least one from Beowulf. Answers should take the form of two separate commentaries, not a comparison. Section C will contain essay questions.

Old English Literature II

Time: 3 hours

The examination will consist of three sections. Candidates must answer Section A and Section B and one question from Section C. Marks will be divided equally between the three sections.

Section A will require translation of passages from Old English prose and verse studied in seminars. Section B will require critical commentary and analysis of two of the passages already translated in Section A, one verse and one prose. Answers should take the form of two separate commentaries, not a comparison. Section C will contain essay questions.

Middle English Literature I

Time: 3 hours

Candidates must answer three questions: EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2 (NOT BOTH) and two others. Question 1 will require commentary on one passage. Question 2 will require comparison of two passages. There will be a choice of passages in each of these questions. The passages will be drawn from works studied in seminars. The remainder of the paper will consist of essay questions.
Middle English Literature II

Time: 3 hours

Candidates must answer three questions: EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2 (NOT BOTH) and two others. Question 1 will require commentary on one passage. Question 2 will require comparison of two passages. There will be a choice of passages in each of these questions. The passages will be drawn from works studied in seminars. The remainder of the paper will consist of essay questions.

Modern English Language

Time: 3 hours

The paper will consist of essay questions on the syntax, semantics, and lexicology of modern English. Three questions must be answered. There will be no compulsory questions.

The History of the English Language

Time: 3 hours

Candidates will be required to answer three questions. The paper will not be divided into sections and there will be no compulsory questions.

ENGL6001: Narrative Texts (1 course unit)

Time: 2 hours

Candidates must answer two questions, Question 1 and one other. You should divide your time equally between the two answers.

Question 1 will consist of two pairs of passages for comparison from the Narrative Texts; candidates will be asked to write on one of these pairs.

The other questions will all be essay questions, which must be answered with reference to at least two Narrative Texts.

Candidates must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether in this paper or in other parts of the examination.

ENGL6020: Intellectual and Cultural Sources (1 course unit)

Time: 2 hours

Candidates will be asked to answer two questions, Question 1 and one other. You should divide your time equally between the two answers.

Question 1 will consist of eight passages for commentary taken from any of the works in the Intellectual and Cultural Sources course, and candidates will be asked to write on two of the passages.
The other questions will all be essay questions, which must be answered with reference to at least two works from the Intellectual and Cultural Sources course.

Candidates must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether in this paper or in other parts of the examination.

**MDVLGE05: Old and Middle English (1 course unit)**

Time: 3 hours

The examination will consist of Question 1 (Old English commentary and unseen translation), Question 2 (Middle English commentaries) and a choice of essay questions (Old and Middle English). Candidate must answer Question 1, Question 2 and one essay question. Marks will be divided equally between the three questions.

Question 1 (Old English) will consist of two elements. Candidates will firstly be asked to write a commentary on a passage from *The Wanderer* (the set text) and will then need to complete a short translation of an unseen piece of Old English.

Question 2 (Middle English) will consist of four passages for commentary taken from the prescribed Middle English texts. Candidates will be asked to write on two of these passages (a separate commentary should be written for each).

The remainder of the questions (Old and Middle English) will consist of essay questions on a range of Old and Middle English topics.

**MDVLGE08: Introduction to Old English (0.5 course unit)**

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates must answer two questions: Question 1, and one other question.

Question 1 will consist of a commentary on a passage from *The Wanderer* (the set text) and a short unseen passage of Old English for translation. Candidates should either comment on the passage from *The Wanderer* or translate the unseen passage.

The remainder of the questions will consist of essay questions on a range of Old English topics.

**ENGL6019: Criticism and Theory (1 course unit)**

Time: 3 hours 30 minutes

The examination will consist of three questions. Candidates must answer all three questions.

Question 1 offers a choice of unseen passages of poetry for critical analysis.

Question 2 offers a choice of unseen passages of prose for critical analysis.

Question 3 offers passages from five of the ten set texts on the Criticism course (drawn from the
Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism). Candidates will be asked to choose one passage and discuss its critical ideas, methods and style.