Candidates planning to take the field examination in Middle English will compose a list of works in consultation with members of their examination committee. For both the major and the minor field exam, the list will include the required primary reading outlined below. For the major field exam, the list will also include further primary reading (approximately 25-30 items) and secondary reading (approximately 25 items). For the minor field exam, the list will include further primary reading (approximately 20 items) and secondary reading (5-6 items). A full reading list, containing recommended editions of the primary works listed below, further suggestions for primary reading, and details of secondary works in the field, is available to aid students in drawing up their supplemental lists. Students may also make their own proposals of primary or secondary works not included on this reading list. When submitting their lists, candidates should specify the particular editions to be used for their study and for the examination. A brief written rationale for the optional elements of the reading program should accompany the completed examination list.

**Primary Works**

**Early Middle English:**
- *The Owl and the Nightingale*
- *Ancrene Wisse*
- *Lazamon: Brut*
- Selections from *Early Middle English Verse and Prose*, ed. J.A.W. Bennett and G.V. Smithers

**Chaucer, Geoffrey**
- *Canterbury Tales*
- *Troilus and Criseyde*
- *Book of the Duchess*
- *House of Fame*
- *Parliament of Fowls*
- *Legend of Good Women*

Selected source study: one or more of: Vergil (*Aeneid*, Books IV and VI; Ovid, *Metamorphoses* and *Heroides*; Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*; Macrobius, *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio*; Alan of Lille, *De Planctu Naturae, Anticlaudianus; Romance of the Rose*; Dante, *Divine Comedy*

**Gawain-Poet**
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- *Pearl*
- *Patience*
- *Cleanness*

**Langland, William**
- *Piers Plowman*, B- and C-Texts

**One** of the following:
A. Middle English Drama
   Two of the following play-cycles:
   The York Plays
   The Chester Mystery Cycle
   The Towneley Plays and The Wakefield Pageants in the Towneley Cycle
   The N-Town Play
   Plus a selection of non-cycle plays chosen from one of the following
   Medieval Drama, ed. David Bevington
   The Macro Plays, ed. Mark Eccles
   Non-Cycle Plays and Fragments, ed. Norman Davis
   The Late Medieval Religious Plays of Bodleian MSS. Digby 133 and E. Museo 160, ed. Donald C. Baker, John L. Murphy and Louis B. Hall Jr

B. Malory, Sir Thomas
   Works, ed. Eugene Vinaver

C. 15th-Century English Poetry
   Lydgate, John,
   The Minor Poems, ed. H. N. MacCracken
   Troy Book or Siege of Thebes or Fall of Princes
   Hoccleve, Thomas,
   Regement of Princes
   Minor Poems, ed. F. J. Furnivall and I. Gollancz
   Skelton, John
   Complete English Poems, ed. John Scattergood

D. 15th-Century Scottish Poetry
   Robert Henryson, Poems, ed. Denton Fox
   William Dunbar, Poems, ed. James Kinsley
   Gavin Douglas, Selections, ed. D. F. C. Coldwell
   Longer Scottish Poems, ed. Priscilla Bawcutt and Felicity Riddy
Middle English Reading List

This reading list supplements the Reading List for Field Examinations in Middle English Literature, and should be read in conjunction with it. It specifies recommended editions of the primary works listed as required reading for the Middle English field examination (see sections 1a-4a, 9a-12a), and also contains further suggestions for primary reading, and details of secondary works in the field, as an aid to students in drawing up their supplemental lists. In each of the optional sections, notional requirements are suggested, with the aim of helping to give the list a proper range and coherence. Students may also make their own proposals of primary or secondary works not included on this reading list.

**Required Reading**

- Chaucer (section 1a), major works (*Canterbury Tales*, *Troilus and Criseyde*, *Book of the Duchess*, *House of Fame*, *Parliament of Fowls*, *Legend of Good Women*), plus source study
- Langland (section 2a), *Piers Plowman*, B- and C-Texts
- *Gawain*-Poet (section 3a) (*Sir Gawain*, *Pearl*, *Patience*, *Cleanness*)
- Texts specified in the Early Middle English section (4a)
- Primary reading listed under one of the 15th-century sections (9a-12a: Drama, Malory, 15th-Century English Poetry, 15th-Century Scottish Poetry), as specified on the Reading List.

**CHAUCER**

1a. Primary

*The following editions are recommended.*

*The Riverside Chaucer*, 3rd edition, ed. Larry D. Benson (Boston, 1987)
*The Canterbury Tales Complete*, ed. Larry D. Benson (Boston, 2000) [revised/updated version of *Riverside CT*]

*Study of Chaucer should include acquaintance with a substantial portion of his sources and analogues, which will also serve as an introduction to the wider contexts of medieval European literature. A selection from the following should be agreed on with each student.*

Latin Sources:
Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, in Chaucer's translation (in the Riverside Chaucer) a modern translation, such as the Penguin Classics version (by V.E. Watts). There is also a parallel-text version in the Loeb Classical texts series, by H.F. Stewart and E.K. Rand.

Vernacular Sources:

For more detailed source-study, consult the following:

Correale, Robert M., and Mary Hamel, *Sources and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales*, vol. I (Cambridge, 2002) [updated version of Bryan and Dempster, with facing-page translations]
Gordon, R.K., *The Story of Troilus* (1934; repr. Toronto, 1978) [Benoit de Ste-Maure (selected); Filostrato; Troilus; Testament of Cresseid]
Havely, N.R., *Chaucer's Boccaccio* (Cambridge, 1980) [translation of Filostrato and excerpts from Teseida and Filocolo, with translated excerpts from other Troilus stories in appendices]
Miller, Robert P., *Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds* (Oxford, 1977) [thematically organised translation of key sources on love, marriage, the friars, the three estates, etc.]

1b. Secondary

For a succinct introduction to Chaucer criticism, see the bibliographical guide at the back of *The Cambridge Chaucer Companion*, ed. P. Boitani and J. Mann. The following list is very selective.

Boitani, Piero, *Chaucer and the Imaginary World of Fame* (Cambridge, 1984)
Brewer, Derek, *Tradition and Innovation in Chaucer* (London, 1982) [collected essays]
Brewer, Derek, *Chaucer and his World* (London, 1978)
Burnley, David, *Chaucer's Language and the Philosophers' Tradition* (Cambridge, 1979)
Cooper, Helen, *The Structure of the Canterbury Tales* (London, 1983)
———, *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales* (Oxford, 1989; 2nd edn, 1996) [a tale-by-tale guide to the CT, with selected bibliography for each individual section]
Frank, Robert Worth, Jr., *Chaucer and the Legend of Good Women* (Cambridge, Mass., 1972)
Leicester, H. Marshall, *The Disenchanted Self: Representing the Subject in the Canterbury Tales* (Berkeley, 1990)
Lowes, John Livingston, *Geoffrey Chaucer* (1934; repr. Bloomington, 1958) [includes good introduction to astrology, Chaucer's life, Chaucer's reading]
Mann, Jill, *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire* (Cambridge, 1973)
———, *Feminizing Chaucer*, new edn (Cambridge, 2002)
Patterson, Lee, *Chaucer and the Subject of History* (London, 1991)
Wallace, David, *Chaucerian Polity: Absolutist Lineages and Associational Forms in England and Italy* (Stanford, Ca., 1997)
Windeatt, Barry, *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: Troilus and Criseyde* (Oxford, 1992) [comprehensive account of previous work on all aspects of the poem, with further reading on each, and new insights of its own]

**Essay Collections**

Benson, C. David, *Critical Essays on Chaucer's 'Troilus and Criseyde' and his Major Early Poems* (Milton Keynes, 1991)
Boitani, Piero, ed., *The European Tragedy of Troilus* (Oxford, 1989) [the Troilus story from antiquity, through the Middle Ages, to modern times]
Boitani, Piero, and Jill Mann, ed., *The Cambridge Chaucer Companion* (Cambridge, 1986) [this and the following volume have selected bibliographical guides to the study of Chaucer]
Brewer, Derek, ed., *Writers and their Background: Geoffrey Chaucer* (London, 1974) [systematic survey of Chaucer's relation to history, language, other literatures, science, religion and philosophy, visual arts]
Salu, Mary, ed., *Essays on Troilus and Criseyde* (Cambridge, 1979)

**Influence**


**LANGLAND**

**2a. Primary**

*The following editions are recommended:*


The overlaps and differences between the different versions of the poem can be most easily studied in the parallel-text versions of W.W. Skeat (2 vols, Oxford, 1886) and A.V.C. Schmidt (vol. I, London, New York, 1995)
2b. Secondary


Clopper, Lawrence M., *“Songs of Rechelesnesse”: Langland and the Franciscans* (Ann Arbor, 1997)
Frank, Robert W., Jr, *Piers Plowman and the Scheme of Salvation* (New Haven, 1957)

THE GAWAIN-POET

3a. Primary

*The following editions are recommended:*

*Pearl*, ed. E.V. Gordon (Oxford, 1953)
*Cleanness*, ed. J.J. Anderson (Manchester, 1977)

All four poems are edited by Malcolm Andrew and Ronald Waldron, *The Poems of the Pearl Manuscript*, with very full notes, glossary, and introduction., and also (with glosses on the same page) by A.C. Cawley and J.J. Anderson, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Cleanness, Patience* (Everyman, London, 1991)

3b. Secondary

Bishop, Ian, *Pearl in its Setting* (Oxford, 1968)
EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH

4a. Primary

The Owl and the Nightingale, ed. E.G. Stanley, corr. impression (London, 1962)
The Owl and the Nightingale: Text and Translation, ed. Neil Cartlidge (Exeter, 2001)
Early Middle English Verse and Prose, ed. J.A.W. Bennett and G.V. Smithers (Oxford, 1966): V (The Fox and the Wolf); VI (Dame Sirith); VIII (Lyrics); IX (Cokaygne); XV (De Clerico et Puella); XIX (Sawles Warde)

4b. Secondary

Hume, Kathryn, The Owl and the Nightingale: The Poem and its Critics (1975)
Veldhoen, N.H.G.E., and H. Aertsen, ed., Companion to Early Middle English Literature, (Amsterdam, 1990) [essays on lyric, saints' lives, Havelok, Foris and Blancheflour, Dame Sirith and De Clerico et Puella, Fox and Wolf, Cokaygne]
Vinaver, Eugene, The Rise of Romance (1971), Ch. 1-3

GOWER

5a. Primary

Notional requirement: the Confessio Amantis, and Gower’s Latin and French works in translation.

5b. Secondary

Olsson, Kurt, John Gower and the Structures of Conversion: A Reading of the Confessio Amantis
(Cambridge, 1992)
Simpson, James, Sciences and the Self in Medieval Poetry (Cambridge 1995), Chapters 5-8

ROMANCES AND NARRATIVE VERSE

6a. Primary

Notional requirement: at least eight romances (unabridged) chosen from the following collections:

Middle English Verse Romances, ed. D.B. Sands (New York, 1966)
Six Middle English Romances, ed. Maldwyn Mills (Everyman: London, 1973)
Middle English Romances: authoritative texts, sources and background criticism, ed. Stephen H. S.
Shepherd (Norton, New York, 1995)
Amis and Amiloun, Robert of Cisyle, and Sir Amadace, ed. Edward E. Foster (Kalamazoo, 1997)
King Arthur’s Death: The Middle English The Stanzaic Morte Arthur and The Alliterative Morte Arthur,
The Middle English Breton Lays, ed. Anne Laskaya and Eve Salisbury (Kalamazoo, 1995)
Sir Gawain: Eleven Romances and Tales, ed. Thomas Hahn (Kalamazoo, 1995)
Sir Perceval of Galles and Ywain and Gawain, ed. Mary Flowers Braswell (Kalamazoo, 1995)
Three Middle English Charlemagne Romances, ed. Alan Lupack (Kalamazoo, 1990)

6b. Secondary

Aertsen, Henk, and Alasdair A. MacDonald, Companion to Middle English Romance (Amsterdam, 1990)
Crane, Susan, Insular Romance: Politics, Faith and Culture in Anglo-Norman and Middle English
Literature (Berkeley, 1986)
Fewster, Carol, Traditionality and Genre in Middle English Romance (Cambridge, 1987)
Ganim, John, Style and Consciousness in Middle English Narrative (Princeton, 1983)
Ramsey, Lee C., Chivalric Romances: Popular Literature in Medieval England (Bloomingtont, 1983)
Weiss, Judith, Jennifer Fellows, and Morgan Dickson, Medieval Insular Romance: Translation and
Innovation (Cambridge, 2000)
Wittig, Susan, Stylistic and Narrative Structure in the Middle English Romances (Austin, Texas, 1978)

LYRICS, CAROLS AND BALLADS

7a. Primary
**Notional requirement: a selection from the following anthologies, to be agreed on with each student.**

*The Harley Lyrics: the Middle English Lyrics of MS. Harley 2253*, ed. G.L. Brook, 4th edn (Manchester, 1968)

**7b. Secondary**


**Mystics and Religious Prose**

**Notional requirement: any three of the following works/authors, to be agreed on with each student. Where alternative editions are given, students may use either/any.**

**8a. Primary**

Julian of Norwich
*The Shewings of Julian of Norwich*, ed. Georgia Ronan Crampton, TEAMS pbk (Kalamazoo, 1994)
*A Revelation of Love*, ed. Marion Glasscoe (Exeter, 1976)
*A Book of Showings to the Anchoress Julian of Norwich*, ed. Edmund Colledge and James Walsh, 2 vols (Toronto, 1978)
Margery Kempe
*The Book of Margery Kempe*, ed. Lynn Staley, TEAMS pbk (Kalamazoo, 1996)


*The Cloud of Unknowing*, ed. Patrick J. Gallacher, TEAMS pbk (Kalamazoo, 1997)


**8b. Secondary**


Beer, Frances, *Women and Mystical Experience in the Middle Ages* (Woodbridge, 1992)


Staley, Lynn, *Margery Kempe’s Dissenting Fictions* (University Park, Pa., 1994)

Watson, Nicholas, *Richard Rolle and the Invention of Authority*, (Cambridge, 1991)

**DRAMA**

**9a. Primary**

*The following editions are recommended:*

Cycle Plays


*The Towneley Plays*, ed. A.C. Cawley and M. Stevens, EETS (London, 1994); also

*The Wakefield Pageants in the Towneley Cycle*, ed. A.C. Cawley (Manchester, 1958)


Non-cycle plays

*Medieval Drama*, ed. David Bevington (Boston, 1975) [a very wide-ranging and useful anthology]


**9b. Secondary**

Gibson, Gail, *Theatre of Devotion: East Anglian Drama and Society in the Late Middle Ages* (Chicago, 1989)
Nelson, Alan, *The Medieval English Stage* (Chicago, 1974)
Neuss, Paula, ed., *Aspects of Early English Drama* (Cambridge, 1983)
Rubin, Miri, *Corpus Christi: The Eucharist in Late Medieval Culture* (Cambridge, 1991)
Stevens, Martin, *Four Middle English Mystery Cycles* (Princeton, 1987)
Twycross, Meg, ed., *Festive Drama* (Cambridge, 1996)

MALORY

10a. Primary

The following edition is recommended:


10b. Secondary

———, *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Malory* (Cambridge, 1993)
Kennedy, Beverly, *Knighthood in the Morte Darthur* (Cambridge, 1985)
Knight, Stephen, *The Structure of Sir Thomas Malory's Arthuriad* (Sydney, 1969)
Riddy, Felicity, *Sir Thomas Malory* (Leiden, 1987)
Spisak, James W., ed., *Studies in Malory* (Kalamazoo, 1985)
Takamiya, Toshiyuki, and Derek Brewer, ed., *Aspects of Malory* (Cambridge, 1981)
15TH-CENTURY ENGLISH POETRY (INCLUDING SKELTON)

11a. Primary

Hoccleve’s *Regement of Princes*, ed. F. J. Furnivall, EETS e.s. 72 (1897, repr. New York, 1988)


11b. Secondary

Mitchell, Jerome, *Thomas Hoccleve* (Urbana, Chicago, etc., 1968)
Perkins, Nicholas, *Hoccleve’s Regiment of Princes: Counsel and Constraint* (Cambridge, 2001)

15TH-CENTURY SCOTTISH POETRY

12a. Primary

12b. Secondary

Bawcutt, Priscilla, *Dunbar the Makar* (Oxford, 1992)
Fradenburg, Louise Olga, *City, Marriage, Tournament: Arts of Rule in Late Medieval Scotland* (Madison, 1991)

ADDITIONAL SECONDARY READING

General Literary Surveys

Pearsall, Derek, *Old and Middle English Poetry* (London, 1977)

 Literary Criticism, General

Benson, C. David, *The History of Troy in Middle English Literature* (Woodbridge, 1980)
Gradon, Pamela, *Form and Style in Early English Literature* (London, 1971)
Patterson, Lee, *Negotiating the Past: the Historical Understanding of Medieval Literature* (Madison, 1987)
Scattergood, V.J., *Politics and Poetry in Middle English Literature* (Woodbridge, 1980)
Spearing, A.C., *Medieval to Renaissance in English Poetry* (Cambridge, 1985)
Torti, Anna, *The Glass of Form: Mirroring Structures from Chaucer to Skelton* (Cambridge, 1991)
Essay Collections or Books covering several works and authors


Benson, Larry D., and John Leyerle, eds., *Chivalric Literature: Essays on Relations between Literature and Life in the Later Middle Ages* (Kalamazoo, 1980)


Boitani, Piero, and Anna Torti, eds., *Literature in Fourteenth-Century England* (Tübingen and Cambridge, 1983) [Langland, Pearl, Gawain, lyrics, drama, romance, Chaucer]


Spearing, A.C., *Readings in Medieval Poetry* (Cambridge, 1987) [narrative, romance, Chaucer, Gawain, Cleanness, Langland, alliterative poetry]


Literature and the Visual Arts


Henderson, George, *Gothic* (Harmondsworth, 1967)

Mâle, Emile, *The Gothic Image* (1913, often repr.)

Rickert, M., *Painting in Britain: The Middle Ages* (Harmondsworth, 1954)
Stone, Lawrence, *Sculpture in Britain: The Middle Ages*, 2nd edn (Harmondsworth, 1972)
Tristram, Philippa, *Figures of Life and Death in Medieval English Literature* (London, 1976)

**Historical and Cultural**

Aston, Margaret, *Lollards and Reformers: Images and Literacy in Late Medieval Religion* (London, 1984)
Cipolla, Carlo M., ed., *The Fontana Economic History of Europe: The Middle Ages* (Fontana paperback: London, 1972) [despite the forbidding title, this is a modest paperback, with a lively and readable collection of essays]
Clanchy, Michael, *From Memory to Written Record: England 1066-1307* (Oxford, 1993)
Green, Richard Firth, *Poets and Princepleasers: Literature and the English Court in the Late Middle Ages* (Toronto, 1980)
Russell, Frederick H., *The Just War in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1975)

**ANTHOLOGIES**