

LANGUAGE: TRAINING FOR INVALSI TEST

LISTENING AND READING COMPREHENSION (CEFR* LEVELS B1 AND B2)

* *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*

* * *

LITERATURE

MODULE 1 – “LE MYTHE DU BON SAUVAGE”: MAN IS GOOD BY NATURE BUT CORRUPTED BY SOCIETY

William Blake - “The Lamb”, “The Tyger”, “London”: themes of the poems. Dual vision of God and dominant colours in “Songs of Innocence” and “Songs of Experience”.

- ART LINK: Blake’s “Elohim Creating Adam”.

Mary Shelley - “Frankenstein”: extract from Chapter 16; plot and features of the novel. Gothic elements in “Frankenstein”. Themes of the novel: Nature and Society. Ethics of Science: why “Frankenstein” is so relevant today.

- *Speaking about the movie*: “Mary Shelley's Frankenstein” (1994).

Historical and social background: The Industrial Revolution.

Cultural background: Leading ideas of Romanticism. Contrasting qualities of Neoclassicism and Romanticism.

The Gothic Novel.

MODULE 2 – A DIFFERENT VIEW OF VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Charlotte Brontë - extract from “Jane Eyre”, Chapter 26; plot of the novel. Features of the novel: use of the first-person narrator. Themes of the novel: the role of women in Victorian England. Gothic elements in “Jane Eyre”.

- *Speaking about the movie*: “Jane Eyre” (2011).

Charles Dickens - life and main works. “Oliver Twist”: plot of the novel and extract from Chapter Two. Themes of the novel. Dickens’s style.

- *Speaking about the movie*: “Oliver Twist” (2005).

Social background: Poverty in Victorian Britain.

MODULE 3 – A DIFFERENT VIEW OF AMERICA

Walt Whitman : “I Hear America Singing”; themes of the poem.

linking past and present:

Bruce Springsteen : “Born in the U.S.A.”; themes of the song.

Historical and social background: The Vietnam War.

- *Speaking about the movie*: “Hair” (1979).

- ART LINK: Edward Hopper’s “Gas”.

MODULE 4 – ART FOR ART’S SAKE?

Oscar Wilde : life; extract from “The Picture of Dorian Gray”, Chapter 2; plot and themes of the novel. “The Picture of Dorian Gray”: Preface.

Social background: Respectability (and hypocrisy) in Victorian society.

Cultural background: The Aesthetic Movement.

- *Speaking about the movie:* “Dorian Gray” (2009).
 - ART LINK: Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s “Lady Lilith”.

Wilfred Owen : life; “Dulce et Decorum Est”: themes of the poem. A manifesto for war poetry: the role of the poet.

Historical background: The First World War.

- *Speaking about the movie:* “All Quiet on the Western Front” (1979).

MODULE 5 – A REVOLUTIONARY WAY OF WRITING

James Joyce - “Ulysses”: extract from Molly Bloom's monologue and plot of the novel. Features of the novel: the stream of consciousness.

Modernism: Freud and the stream of consciousness. Stream of consciousness and interior monologue.

- ART LINK: Pablo Picasso’s “Weeping Woman”.

Ernest Hemingway: life and main works; extract from “The Killers” and plot of the short story. Hemingway’s style.

MODULE 6 – AN ABSURD WORLD, AN ABSURD HUMAN CONDITION

George Orwell : life and main works. “Nineteen Eighty-four”: plot of the novel and extract from Part III, Chapter 2. Themes of the novel: Memory and History, Language and Communication.

- *Speaking about the movie:* “Nineteen Eighty-Four” (1984).

Historical background: The Cold War.

Samuel Beckett : extract from “Waiting for Godot”, Act II; plot and themes of the play.

Cultural background: The Theatre of the Absurd.

- ART LINK: Alberto Giacometti’s “Walking Man”.