

CORE-1: BRITISH POETRY AND DRAMA: 14TH TO 17TH CENTURIES

The paper seeks to introduce the students to British poetry and drama from the 14th to the 17th centuries. It offers the students an exploration of certain seminal texts that set the course of British poetry and plays.

British Poetry and Drama: 14th to 17th Centuries

Unit 1

A historical overview:

The period is remarkable in many ways: 14th century poetry evokes an unmistakable sense of “modern” and the spirit of Renaissance is marked in the Elizabethan Drama. The Reformation brings about sweeping changes in religion and politics. A period of expansion of horizons: intellectual and geographical.

Unit 2

Chaucer: *The Wife of Bath's Tale* or *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Part 1, lines 1-490)

Unit 3

Thomas Campion: “Follow Thy Fair Sun, Unhappy Shadow”, Sir Philip Sidney: “Leave , O Love, which reachest but to dust”, Edmund Waller: “Go, lovely Rose”, Ben Jonson: “Song to Celia”, William Shakespeare: Sonnets: “Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?”, “When to the seasons of sweet silent thought”, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds.”

Unit 4

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth* or *Twelfth Night*.

Unit 5

Marlowe: *The Jew of Malta* or Thomas Dekker: *The Shoemaker's Holiday*.

Suggested Readings:

Weller series: *Macbeth & Twelfth Night*

Chaudhury & Goswami: *A History of English Literature: Traversing Centuries.*
Orient

Blackswan

Harold Bloom: *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*

Sanders, Andrews: *The Short Oxford History of English Literature.* Oxford: OUP