1.1. Structure of the test
• The test doesn’t require that you know certain works of literature
• It doesn’t require you to know about historical contexts
• It does, however, assume that you have read a good amount of poetry, drama and prose.
• This test assumes you have a “broad knowledge of literature”
• It also assumes you have a “familiarity with basic literary terminology”
• This course is equivalent to two semesters of a college foundations course on literature.
80 multiple choice questions to be answered in 98 minutes. Some of these are pretest questions and will not be scored.
There is also an optional essay section. You have to write two essays in 90 minutes.

- One essay is an analysis of a short poem.
- The other essay is on a generalization (technique, function, etc.) on literature applied to a novel, short story or play.
1.2 What we will do
In this class we will:

• Go over each genre (poetry, drama and prose) and review key terms and examples.

• Discuss some strategies for writing the essays
1.3. What you need to demonstrate
The official CLEP guidelines explain you must “demonstrate the following abilities”:

• “Ability to read prose, poetry and drama with understanding”
• “Ability to analyze the elements of a literary passage and to respond to nuances of meaning, tone, imagery and style”
• “Ability to interpret metaphors, to recognize rhetorical and stylistic devices, to perceive relationships between parts and wholes, and to grasp a speaker’s or author’s attitudes”
• “Knowledge of the means by which literary effects are achieved”
• “Familiarity with the basic terminology used to discuss literary texts”
1.4 Breakdown of the test
CLEP guidelines also explain that the test is about these topics and percentages:

**Genre**

- 35%–45% Poetry
- 35%–45% Prose (fiction and nonfiction)
- 15%–30% Drama
National Tradition
50%–65% British Literature
30%–45% American Literature
5%–15% Works in Translation
Period
3%–7% Classical and pre-Renaissance
20%–30% Renaissance and 17th Century
35%–45% 18th and 19th Centuries
25%–35% 20th and 21st Centuries