

List of Terms for the Comprehensive Examination in English

Part D of the examination will call for short, specific definitions of terms from this list.

Citing examples of such is also helpful to illustrate comprehension of the term.

alexandrine	convention	flashback	mimesis	prose	disbelief
allegory	couplet	flat character	modernism	prose poem	symbol,
alliteration	courtly love	foil	monologue	prosody	symbolism
allusion	cultural studies	foot	motif	protagonist	synaesthesia
ambiguity	dactyl	formalism	motivation	psychoanalytic	synecdoche
anachronism	decadence	frame story	muses	criticism	syntax
anapest	deconstruction	free verse	myth	pun	tenor and
anaphora	decorum	genre	naturalism	pyrrhic	vehicle
antagonist	denotation	gothic	negative	quatrain	terza rima
anticlimax	denouement	haiku	capability	queer theory	text
antihero	deus ex	hamartia	neoclassicism	reader-	thick
apostrophe	machina	hegemony	neologism	response	description
archaism	diction	heroic couplet	New Criticism	criticism	tone
archetype	didactic	hubris	New	realism	tragedy
aside	doggerel	hyperbole	Historicism	resolution	tragic flaw
assonance	dramatic irony	hypotaxis	novel	rhyme	Transcendent-
ballad	dramatic	iamb	novella	rhyme royal	alism
bathos	monologue	ideology	objective	rhythm	trochee
beast fable	eclogue	idyll	correlative	rising action	trope
bildungsroman	elegy	image, imagery	occasional	roman a clef	turning point
binary	elision	imagism	verse	romance	unities
opposition	end stopped	in medias res	octave	Romanticism	verisimilitude
black humor	enjambment	intentional	ode	round character	villanelle
blank verse	envoy, envoi	fallacy	omniscient	satire	wit
bombast	epic	interior	point of view	scansion	
burlesque	epic simile	monologue	onomatopoeia	scheme	
cacophony	epigram	internal rhyme	oxymoron	sentimentalism	
caesura	epigraph	irony	paradox	sestet	
canon	epilogue	kenning	parallelism	sestina	
canto	epiphany	lampoon	parataxis	setting	
carpe diem	episodic	lay, lai	parody	simile	
catastrophe	epistolary	leitmotif	paronomasia	slant rhyme	
catharsis	epithalamion	litotes	pastoral	soliloquy	
chorus	essentialism	local color	pathetic fallacy	sonnet	
classic,	euphony	logocentric	pentameter	spondee	
classical	existentialism	lyric	persona	stanza	
classicism	explication de	malapropism	personification	stock character	
climax	texte	Marxist	phallogocentric	stream of	
close reading	eye-rhyme	criticism	picaresque	consciousness	
closet drama	fabliau	masculine	plot	stress	
comedy	falling action	ending	poetic diction	strophe	
conceit	farce	melodrama	point of view	structuralism	
confessional	feminine	metafiction	Postcolonial-	style	
poetry	rhyme	metaphor	ism	sublime	
connotation	figure of	meter	postmodernism	surrealism	
consonance	speech	metonymy	prologue	suspension of	