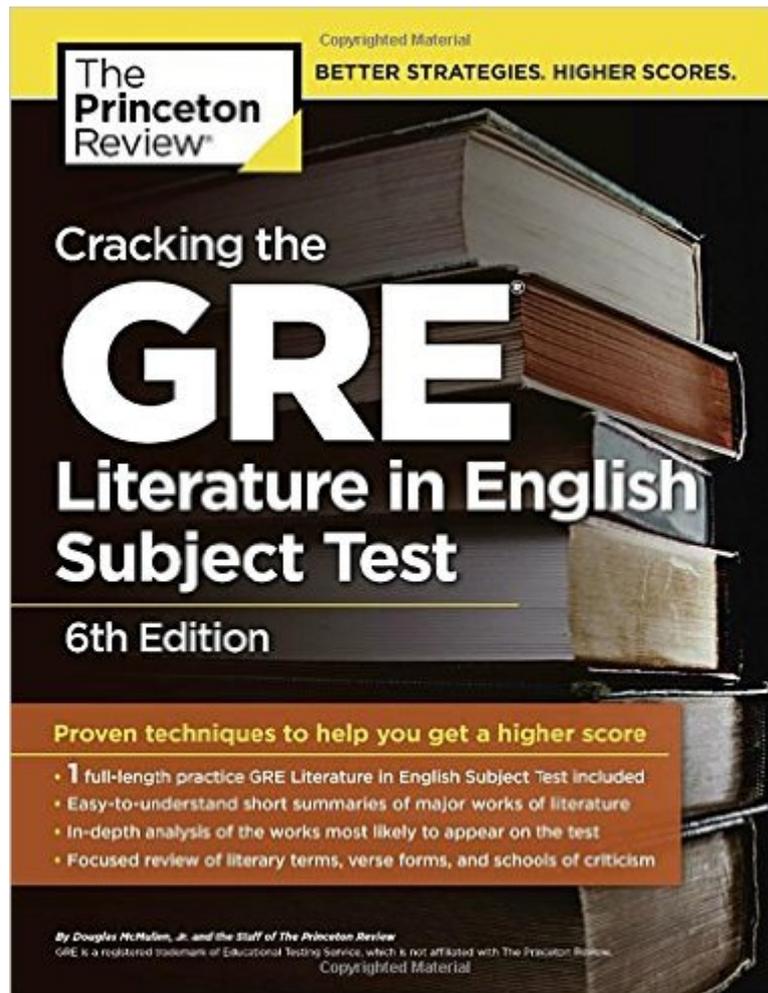


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# Cracking The GRE Literature In English Subject Test, 6th Edition (Graduate School Test Preparation)



## Synopsis

Getting a high score on the GRE Literature in English Subject Test isn't about memorizing every book and lit crit article ever written—it's about targeting how you prepare for the exam itself. We teach you only the information you'll need, along with the best strategies for the day of the test. With this book, you'll learn how to:

- Use our strategies and techniques to boost your accuracy
- Perfect your pacing and familiarize yourself with the test format
- Understand the books that are most likely to appear on the test
- Differentiate literary themes and schools of thought

Cracking the GRE Literature in English Test, 6th Edition also includes a full-length practice GRE Literature Subject Test.

## Book Information

Series: Graduate School Test Preparation (Book 6)

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Princeton Review; 6 edition (February 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375429719

ISBN-13: 978-0375429712

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.6 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,834 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Graduate School > GRE](#) #120 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods](#) #328 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is pretty good if you want to study for the GRE Literature in English Subject test. The most helpful part of this book is that it gives 'A', 'B' and 'C' lists of material that is likely to show up on the exam. It also summarizes some of the more important works. The book basically acts as a study guide as well as a strategy guide for the test. Not only does it talk about the works and authors one should know, it also gives tips on how to answer questions on the test that one doesn't know. Along with this book, you MUST get certain books in the Norton Anthology series (Middle Ages, Romantic Age, Victorian Age and Modern Age). Even the book recommends that you do this. Other helpful books for the GRE Literature in English Subject test include [Longman Guide to](#)

Shakespeare's Characters: A Who's Who of Shakespeare, Literature: A Portable Anthology and Literature: A Pocket Anthology (4th Edition)

In general, I found this text useful. More than anything, it gave me a better understanding of the thought process behind the test. I am used to standardized exams in which the test taker is expected to have a decent chance of answering a large percentage of the questions; the GRE in Literature does not operate under the same principle. After reading this booklet, I understood that the GRE in Literature is not something you're supposed to master; it's something you are supposed to survive. That tip alone helped me prepare mentally for the exam. In terms of actual test prep material, the book provides very basic breakdowns of the items you are most likely to see on the test. The book's explanations are generally helpful. Additionally, the book has a playful style which makes reading the whole thing easier. This feels more like studying with an entertaining and knowledgeable friend than with a dry and stuff professor. However, the book does have some serious flaws. First, it needed a significant proof reading. There are several typos, places in which type setting mangles meaning, and one answer to the practice test that provides answers completely unrelated to the question under consideration. This last mistake was particularly frustrating, as it was obvious and egregious. Moreover, I at times found the book's playful tone to stretch into condescension. This is entirely a personal reaction, but when reviewing the answers to the provided practice test, I was frustrated to see the phrase "This should have been easy" next to answers about materials that were never covered in the book nor seemed to me to be common knowledge (admittedly my knowledge of 17th century French poets is low). Again, this is personal, but it happened enough for me that it hurt my interest in the book. Final verdict: worth the price, but only because the price wasn't outrageous. If you can, I'd recommend also tracking down Norton's Anthology of English Literature. It is mentioned several times in the Princeton Review textbook and is a good guide for a lot of the material on the test.

This book isn't perfect, but I found it quite useful. It helped me focus my studies, instead of just trying to reread every piece of literature ever written. It also helped me prepare psychologically by showing me what the test looks like and helping me pace myself. After I took the practice test, I felt much calmer going in to take the actual exam.

There are about two dozen errors in this text ranging from grammatical to logistical, but the biggest error was thinking this would help on the test. It desperately needs to be revised to include some

more 20th c. poetry (including Bishop, Creeley, and way more Harlem Renaissance), and there wasn't a single line of "Walk Whitman" on the test (see the last page of this book). The most useful information from this text was the refresher on certain poetic structures, and the warnings about Shakespeare and Chaucer which were pretty predictable.

This book gets you prepped for the basics of the test and more importantly points you to the major works that you should revisit and schools of critical theory that will be focused on in the test. Do not expect to simply read this book and be ready, you have a lot of work ahead of you when studying for this monster.

This book is indisputably the MOST IMPORTANT BOOK you will read if you are planning on taking this test. I read and re-read, worked and re-worked this book religiously. Obviously, they change the test each time it is taken, but I can say in all honesty that at least half of what the writers of this book said would most likely be on this test WAS on this test. When I took it, I thought to myself "Thank goodness I read that book, or I would be on the brink of a panic attack." Do yourself a favor if you're taking this test: buy this book. Read this book before you embark on any list of things you should or shouldn't read for this test. Do absolutely everything the book says. THEN, and only then, plug your knowledge with the works it highlights as being important (for me, this was most having to review Shakespeare, because they are not kidding when they tell you in this book that Shakespeare will be all over this test). I would have paid double for this book--it is absolutely worth the advice it gives and the piece of mind you will have when you walk into that test, confident that you have thoroughly reviewed everything to the best of your ability.

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