**Esempi non esaustivi** (ovviamente) e random tematiche che potrebbero essere affrontate in corso di colloquio di esame.

Il tutto affinché possiate farvi un’idea, in qualche modo e più o meno, di che tipo di colloquio di esame potrebbe “toccarvi”.

**NB Ricordarsi che una parte di esame è costituita dall’apertura a caso dei tre testi di esame, lettura di un passo e identificazione e commento (da parte dello studente, ovviamente, non mia) dello stesso.**

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5th century Germanic invasions in England, consequences

In what way is Beowulf an (English?) epic poem?

Three chronological levels which we need to keep in mind with Beowulf concerning events, composition, manuscripts etc.

Structure of the poem, subject matter, sources and plot, incipit, characters, language, style

European Epic poems

Germanic culture and traditions and its foundational elements (kinship etc)

The theme of revenge in Beowulf

Is Beowulf a Christian poem (what’s Cain doing there?) Or a Pagan text?

Nature vs Culture

Heorot, symbolic meaning

Anglosaxon literature (apart from Beowulf). The 4 Manuscripts. Religious texts.

The Norman invasion and its consequences

Anglosaxon/Old English and Modern English

From Germanic society and culture to Medieval society

Medieval culture and Romance, Chivalric literature

Courtly love, adultery, Christian religion, Christian virtues

The Medieval Knight vs the Epic hero

The Lady of Medieval chivalric poetry

Medieval Romances in Europe

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight – composition, author

Structure, subject matter, incipit (in comparison to Beowulf too), characters, style

Iambic pentameter

Beowulf/Gawain

Grendel/The Green Knight

Heorot/Camelot

Journeying in Sir Gawain, the erring knight (il cavalier errante) (and in Beowulf?)

Lady Bertilack – Gawain’s ordeals; misogyny?

Lord Bertilack/the meeting of the two knights at the Green Chapel

Female characters in Beowulf and in Sir Gawain

Chaucer and the Canterbury Tales (The Wife of Bath!)

The War of the Roses,

The Tudor Monarchy (the five monarchs)

The Protestant Reformation –

Elizabethan drama – (theatres, actors, companies, public and private theatres, Shakespeare)

History plays, comedies, tragedies

Shakespeare’s history plays, tragedies and comedies

**The Merchant of Venice, Othello, A Midsummer’s Night Dream**

*Themes, characters, situations… both in each single play and also from a comparative/contrastive perspective*

Examples:

The perspective would be: “If you were to write an essay on XYZ, how would you go about it?”

Examples of “XYZ”:

the theme of revenge in Beowulf, in The Green Knight, in The Merchant, in Othello and in Midsummer night’s Dream

Fathers/daughters

Religion, race, geography, space (bilocations)

Christians vs Muslism vs Jews…

The Law, trial scenes

Can you see any connection between Oberon and Hrothgar? Maybe yes, maybe not.

What about Hyppolita and Portia?

What about Beowulf and Othello?

Fragmentation of the body in Beowulf, The Green Knight, Midsummer Night’s Dream, the Merchant, Othello…

Mother figures

Female twosomes/ Male twosomes

Shylock, Brabantio, Aegeus, Portia’s father

Venice, Athens, The Forest, Belmont, Cyprus – connections and divergences

War/real and metaphorical; war of the sexes

Mistakes, misunderstanding, lies and deceits

Interpretation/misinterpretations

Betrayals

Music

Incipits ad endings of the texts

Classical Mythology – references and function in the texts

Old reletionships, same-sex relationship

Animals and animal imagery

Animalized humans, real and metaphorical

Monsters

Lady Bertilack and Portia – anything in common?

Theseus and Lord Bertilack?

Food, eating, cannibalism, appetite, hunger

Magic, magic objects, powerful objects

Peripeteias (reversal of circumstances)

AND MORE…