# **PART ONE: PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

## **COURSE RECORD INFORMATION**

Name and level of final & intermediate  Awards:	BA (Hons) English Literature
Awarding Body:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of Delivery:	University of Westminster, Regent Site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Nigel Mapp
Course URL:	westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/englis
	h/undergraduate-courses/full-time/u09fulit-
	ba-honours-english-literature
Mode of Study:	
UW Course Code:	SSL ENQ LITSLIT
JACS Code:	Q320
UCAS Code:	Q300
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group:	English
Professional Body Accreditation:	None
Date of initial course approval/last	2009
review:	
Date of Programme Specification:	2009

# **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The University will admit students to its courses on the basis of the following principles:

- i. reasonable expectation that the applicant will be able to fulfil the objectives of the course and achieve the standard required for the award;
- ii. students would normally be admitted at the start of the course only;
- iii. the University's specific requirements for admission to the programme leading to a particular award;

iv. the University will seek at all times to ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants, and will act within the law at all times.

In considering individual applicants for admission to a course the University will seek evidence of personal, professional and/or educational experience that provides indications of ability to meet the demands of the programme.

The numbers of students admitted to a specific course, or programme of study, will be determined by the resources allocated to the course so as to ensure that both academic standards and the interests of those students enrolled are safeguarded.

# **General Entry Requirements**

These regulations define standard minimum entry requirements for awards of the University, based on nationally recognised formal minimum levels of attainment. These should be seen as benchmarks only. The University recognises that a wide variety of other qualifications and learning may provide appropriate evidence of an applicant's suitability for admission. The University will use its discretion to interpret such formal minimum attainment levels in terms of equivalence, with advice from external agencies where appropriate. The University will continue to take cognisance of new developments in secondary and further education in considering applicants for admission.

The University wishes to encourage applications from non-traditional students, including mature students, and course-specific entry requirements will be framed to encourage such applications.

The University will consider applications for deferred entry.

General minimum entry requirements expressed in terms of standard UK academic qualifications:

University of Westminster Award	General Minimum Entry Requirements
Certificate of Higher Education	As for Bachelors degree
Diploma of Higher Education	As for Bachelors degree
Bachelors degree with honours/ Bachelors degree	Two GCE A level or Vocational A level passes, plus three GCSEs at grade C or above (including English Language and Mathematics) Or Three GCE A level or Vocational A level passes, plus one GCSE at grade C or above (including English Language and Mathematics) Or Five passes in the Scottish Higher certificate of Education, of which three are

at Higher grade (including English Language and Mathematics)

Or

Four passes in the Scottish Higher certificate of Education, all of which are at Higher grade (including English Language and Mathematics)

Or

Advanced General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ)

Or

International or Welsh Baccalaureate

Two Advanced Supplementary or Advanced Subsidiary (AS) passes will normally be regarded as the equivalent of one A level pass; four AS passes may be offered in lieu of two A level passes.

Applicants should not normally be required to offer more than five different subjects in all at A level (often referred to as A2), AS, GCSE, and Scottish Certificate of Education Qualifications.

Key Skills will be taken into account as part of a candidate's application but certification will not normally be a requirement for entry.

Other qualifications that will be accepted for entry include:

- NCVQ recognised awards, including relevant GNVQ at level 3
- BTEC/SCOTVEC normally at Higher National level
- Irish Leaving Certificate Higher Certificate with passes in five subjects at Higher level
- Passes in Open University courses
- Pass in a recognised Access course
- Pass in a recognised Foundation course
- Advanced Modern Apprenticeship with level 3 qualifications

International/Overseas qualifications may be accepted in accordance with guidance from the National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (NARIC), as indicated in the University's prospectuses.

A variety of vocational, professional and other qualifications are acceptable for entry purposes, as is uncertificated prior learning or prior experiential learning, provided that, in the view of the staff responsible, the applicant has demonstrated the potential to succeed.

# **English Language Proficiency**

Candidates for admission to courses validated by the University or offered on its behalf by another institution should have sufficient command of the language(s) in which the course is taught to meet all the requirements of the course. New undergraduate students who have not had their secondary education in the medium

of English should have attained the equivalent of IELTS 6.5 for admission to English Literature or Linguistics, and IELTS 7 for admission to English Language.

### AIMS OF THE COURSE

The English Literature course aims to:

- provide a broad and balanced knowledge of English literature, including a substantial number of authors and texts from several different periods of literary history and from the principal genres of fiction, poetry and drama;
- develop knowledge of the relationships between texts and the cultural and sociohistorical contexts in which they are produced and read;
- develop knowledge of the role of critical and theoretical traditions in shaping literary history;
- enable students to engage in independent critical thinking and judgement;
- engage students imaginatively in the process of reading and analysing complex and sophisticated literary texts;
- provide a basis for further study in English or related disciplines and for teachers of English at all levels;
- provide an intellectually stimulating and satisfying experience of learning and studying;
- consolidate a knowledge of useful and precise critical terminology;
- enhance awareness of how literature and language produce and reflect cultural change and difference;
- produce the ability to select, evaluate and deploy critical frameworks in the analysis of texts;
- develop critical skills in the close reading of texts;
- encourage a responsiveness to the role of language in the creation of literary meaning;
- extend skills of clear and effective communication, both oral and written;
- · develop skills of reasoning and the construction of argument;
- foster the bibliographic skills specific to English, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of bibliographical conventions;
- enhance the ability to process diverse and complex information in a structured way;
- consolidate competence in planning and execution of essays and project work;
- provide opportunities to develop the ability to work with, and in relation to, others;
- develop research skills to a high level;
- develop information-technology skills such as word-processing and electronic data access information.

### **EMPLOYMENT AND FURTHER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

career development skills are embedded in all courses;

- opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students;
- staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision;
- staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will then inform the service delivered to students.

English is widely recognised by employers as a desirable degree subject for graduates as it fosters skills in clear and effective communication, independent thought and critical judgement, research and presentation, and a wide-ranging cultural and historical awareness. Although all modules foster these transferable skills, they are specifically highlighted in the level 4 module *Introduction to Literary Studies* and there is a specific work placement module available at level 6. These skills are also appropriate as preparation for further study, and both MA and PhD programmes are offered in the department.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Learning outcomes are statements detailing what successful students will have achieved as the result of learning. They are threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

These are the learning outcomes of the English Literature degree:

## **Knowledge and Understanding**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of English literature, including a substantial number of authors and texts from several different periods of literary history and from the principal genres of fiction, poetry and drama;
- show a detailed and flexible knowledge of the relations between texts and their cultural and socio-historical contexts;
- show a detailed knowledge of the role of critical and theoretical traditions in shaping literary history;
- show a detailed awareness of how literature and language produce and reflect cultural change and difference.

# **Specific Skills**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- identify, evaluate, select and deploy precise and appropriate critical frameworks and terminology;
- demonstrate sophisticated critical skills in the close reading of texts:
- discuss in detail the role of language in the creation of literary meaning;
- fully and confidently utilize the bibliographic skills specific to English, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of bibliographical conventions.

### **Key Transferable skills**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- engage in independent critical thinking and judgement at a high level;
- communicate clearly and effectively in a variety of oral and written formats, in a sophisticated academic register;
- demonstrate advanced skills of reasoning and the construction of complex argument;
- present diverse and complex information with clarity;
- exhibit high competence in planning and execution of essays and project work;
- work with, and in relation to, others in a reflective fashion;
- demonstrate advanced research skills;
- demonstrate clear ability in the use of information-technology, including word processing and electronic data access information.

# LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

A number of different teaching styles may be expected, according to the nature of the subject matter covered in the different modules. Each of the modules on the programme conforms to the general emphasis on seminar and tutorial-based activities. However, within that general approach, individual modules have their own characteristic features of delivery, depending on their focus. While occasional lectures will be used to provide a common framework and foundation, the emphasis within the teaching is student rather than teacher-centred.

Assessment methods also vary, but include short and extended essays, textual analysis, oral presentations, reviews, case studies and some formal unseen examinations.

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

All courses offered at the University of Westminster are modular. A module is an area of study such as *Modern British Theatre*, *Critical Theory*, or *Modernism*. The degree normally lasts for 3 years:

LEVEL 4 First year
LEVEL 5 Second year
LEVEL 6 Third year

Each year is divided into two semesters:

Semester One September to December Semester Two January to June

There are twelve learning and teaching weeks in each semester. These may consist of different activities – some will be seminar sessions, others will be lectures or

workshops or tutorials. For each module, there is also a programme of independent study devised by the module leader.

Modules in English Literature are worth either 30 UK credits (15 ECTS) (eg 1ENL460: *Introduction to Literary Studies*, 1ENL560: *Critical Perspectives*) or 15 UK credits (7.5 ECTS). In any year of your degree you will normally take modules making a total of 120 credits.

You are able to take English Literature as a single subject, or as a Major, Joint or Minor combination with any of the following subjects:

Linguistics

English Language

History

A Modern Language (possible combinations depend on the languages and levels that are being offered in any year).

If you think that you have chosen a combination inappropriate for you, you should see the Course Leader immediately as it may be possible to change your programme.

The course structure and available modules for the different combinations are summarised in diagrams below.

There are two types of module on the English Literature programmes: cores and options.

CORE modules are those that you must take; OPTIONS are those that you choose.

The number of core and option modules that you will take in English Literature depends upon whether you are doing a Single, Major, Joint or Minor degree.

## **University of Westminster Elective Modules**

Students can select an Elective module at an appropriate Level from a number of modules from any course, Department or Faculty across the University. In addition, the University offers Polylang modules, a University-wide scheme aimed at providing wider access to language modules for all undergraduate students. All Polylang language modules have been designed by a team of specialists for non-specialists from other disciplines. Details are available from your Course Leader or the Polylang Office at Regent Street. Please see *Essential Westminster 2014-2015: The Student Guide* for details.

Some modules are not available as Elective modules. Timetabling constraints, prerequisites and limited availability of places may further restrict choice. You may select additional course specific option modules from your own course as Elective modules. The structure of the course is summarized in diagrams on the following pages.

# Single Honours English Literature

LEVEL FOUR CORE MODULES		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies		
1ENL461 The Victorians		
1ENL462 Renaissance Literature	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry	
LEVEL FOUR: OPTIONAL MODULES choose one in each semester		
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre Studies	
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary Britain	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His Contemporaries	

LEVEL FIVE CORE MODULES		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives		
1ENL561 Modernism and Early Twentieth Century		
LEVEL FIVE OPTION MODULES:		
choose two in each semester		
1ENL562 Reading Gender	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel	
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings	
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities	
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature	

LEVEL SIX CORE MODULES		
1ENL655 Dissertation/Project or 1ENL656 Extended Essay		
LEVEL SIX OPTION MODULES:		
With 1ENL655, choose three additional modules in each semester.		
With 1ENL656, choose three additional modules in the semester where		
you are taking the Extended Essay, and four in the other.		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds	
1ENL662 Modern British Theatre	1ENL663.2 Special Topic	
1ENL663.1 Special Topic	1ENL665 Literature and	
	Psychoanalysis	
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism	
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL670 Modern Poetry	
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	1ENL695 Internship	

# **Major English Literature**

LEVEL FOUR CORE MODULES		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies		
1ENL461 Victorians		
1ENL462 Renaissance Literature		
LEVEL FOUR OPTION MODULES		
choose one *		
	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry	
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre	
	Studies	
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His	
Britain	Contemporaries	

<sup>\*</sup> which can be from either semester, depending on your minor subject choices

LEVEL FIVE CORE MODULES		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives		
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-Twentieth Century		
LEVEL FIVE OPTION MODULES		
choose one in each semester		
1ENL562 Reading Gender	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel	
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings	
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities	
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature	

LEVEL SIX CORE MODULES		
1ENL655 Dissertation/Project or 1ENL656 Extended Essay		
LEVEL SIX OPTION MODULES		
With 1ENL655, choose two additional modules in each semester.		
With 1ENL656, choose two additional modules in the semester where		
you are taking the Extended Essay, and three in the other.		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds	
1ENL662 Modern British Theatre	1ENL663.2 Special Topic	
1ENL663.1 Special Topic	1ENL665 Lit and Psychoanalysis	
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism	
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL670 Modern Poetry	
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	1ENL695 Internship	

# **Joint Honours English Literature**

LEVEL FOUR CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studie	es
LEVEL FOUR OPTION MODULES	
choose one 30 credit module or two 15 credit modules	
1ENL461 Victorians	
1ENL462 Renaissance Literature	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre
	Studies
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His
Britain	Contemporaries

LEVEL FIVE CORE MODULES		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives OR		
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-Twentieth Century		
LEVEL FIVE OPTION MODULES		
choose one in each semester*		
1ENL562 Reading Gender	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel	
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings	
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities	
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature	

<sup>\*</sup> You may choose both 1ENL560 and 1ENL561 if you wish, but no options.

LEVEL SIX OPTION MODULES	
Choose two in each semester	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL656.1 Extended Essay*	1ENL656.2 Extended Essay*
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds
1ENL662 Studies in British Theatre	1ENL663.2 Special Topic
1ENL663.1 Special Topic	1ENL665 Literature and
	Psychoanalysis
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL670 Modern Poetry
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	

<sup>\*</sup> You may only take one dissertation/extended essay module, either in Literature or your other joint subject.

# **Minor English Literature**

LEVEL FOUR MODULES		
Semester One	Semester Two	
Choose one 30 credit or two 15 credit modules		
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies		
1ENL461 Victorians		
1ENL462 Renaissance Literature	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry	
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre Studies	
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His	
Britain	Contemporaries	

LEVEL FIVE MODULES		
Choose one 30 credit or two 15 credit modules		
Semester One	Semester Two	
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives		
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-Twentieth Century		
1ENL562 Reading Gender	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel	
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings	
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities	
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature	

LEVEL SIX MODULES Choose two modules	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds
1ENL662 Modern British Theatre	1ENL663.2 Special Topic
1ENL663.1 Special Topic	1ENL665 Literature and
	Psychoanalysis
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL670 Modern Poetry
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	

## **ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

The BA Honours English Literature and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called *Essential Westminster*, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with Section 17: Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses and

relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at <u>westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations</u>.

#### **Award**

To qualify for the award of BA (Hons) English Literature, a student must have:

- obtained at least 360 credits including:
  - passed 75 credits at credit Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4: and
  - passed a minimum of 120 Credits at credit Level 5 or higher; and
  - passed a minimum of 120 credits at credit Level 6 or higher.
- attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at credit Levels 5 and
   6; and
- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant course scheme.

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria: the average of the best 105 credits passed at credit Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded, and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at credit Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

#### SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Upon arrival, an orientation programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated an academic tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

<u>Student Affairs</u> provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the

chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The Student Affairs Hub is located at 101 New Cavendish Street, Cavendish House (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), with an additional office located at the Harrow Campus.

westminster.ac.uk/study/new-students/when-you-arrive

The <u>University of Westminster Students' Union</u> also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University. <a href="http://www.uwsu.com/">http://www.uwsu.com/</a>

#### REFERENCE POINTS FOR THE COURSE

### Internal

Primary internal reference points for teaching, learning and assessment policies on the BA English Literature are the University Handbook of Academic Regulations, the Quality Assurance Handbook, and the Guide to Higher Education and Career Management Skills produced by the Educational Initiative Centre (EIC).

The course structure meets the requirements of the modular frameworks and the academic regulations of the University, as well as of the Faculty Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy. At the same time, it is designed to take account of both the University Policies on skills development and employability.

### **External**

The primary external reference point for the academic infrastructure of the course is the Quality Assurance Agency (qaa.ac.uk); in particular, the Code of Practice for the assurance of quality and standards, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), and the details of programme specifications. For credit level descriptors, the reference point is the South England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (seec-office.org.uk). Reference may also be made to the materials provided by the English subject centre of the Higher Education Academy (heacademy.ac.uk).

### **QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT**

# **Course Management**

The Course is hosted in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, one of the Departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on the Regent site. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader within the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, and each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

The course teaching team consists of staff from the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies. Key members of the course team meet regularly each year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of the course. Staff undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or research and scholarly activity. Staff teaching on the course also attend events organised by

the Faculty Academic Standards and the Faculty Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

# Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2009. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

# Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee which meets once a semester with course leaders and the Head of Department (see section 5.3 of this Handbook).

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course, please see: westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/english/undergraduate-courses/full-time/u09fulit-ba-honours-english-literature

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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