

**DCE**

**ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET**  
**Assignments for Courses 1,2,3,4,5**

**ASSIGNMENTS**  
**(For July 2023 and January 2024 Sessions)**

**Diploma in Creative Writing in English**  
**(DCE)**



**School of Humanities**  
**Indira Gandhi National Open University**  
**Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068**

# Diploma in Creative Writing in English

## DCE

**Dear Students,**

We hope you are already familiar with the system of evaluation to be followed for the Diploma in Creative Writing in English. At this stage you should read again the pages of the Programme Guide that give the details of the evaluation procedure. A weightage of 30 per cent, as you are aware, has been earmarked for Continuous Evaluation, which would consist of one assignment per Course.

The Assignment booklet for Courses 1,2,3,4 and 5 is being sent herewith. It has a total of 5 assignments, of which 4 must be submitted by you. The assignment for Course 1 is **compulsory** and every student must attempt this. You are required to do the assignments for only three courses, out of DCE-2,3,4 and 5.

Following is the calendar for submission of assignments:

Course 1	}	<b>Last Date of Submission of Assignments:</b> <b>For July 2023 Session: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b> <b>For January 2024 Session: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
Course 2		
Course 3		
Course 4		
Course 5		

All assignments must be submitted on or before the date set.

All assignments pertaining to any Course must be submitted in one batch. **No piecemeal submission is acceptable.**

In case you are not able to keep this deadline in the first year, say 2023, you should submit your assignments in 2024, 2025 or 2026 that is, you have a total of 3 years to submit your assignment.

At the commencement of every academic year, your progress will be intimated and you will be asked your plan of studies for that year. At this stage, please ask for the assignment Booklet of **that** year, not for your year of enrolment. Irrespective of your year of enrolment, **you do the assignment in force for the year in which you submit it.**

Do not plan to take the terminal examination for any course if you have not done the assignments set for it first. You will not be permitted to do so.

## **Instructions for submitting your assignments**

1. You should attach a slip in the following format to the top of the relevant course assignments

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Programme Code:\_\_\_\_\_ Course Title:\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolment No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

### **For Office Use**

Assignment No.\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_

Grades: Enrolment No.\_\_\_\_\_

Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Date sent on \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluated by \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABOVE FORMAT STRICTLY TO FACILITATE EVALUATION AND TO AVOID DELAY.

2. The answer sheets should be complete in all respects. Make sure you have answered all the questions in an assignment before you submit it.
3. Use only foolscap size writing paper (but not of very thin variety), for writing your answer.
4. Leave 5 cms margin on the left, top and bottom of your answer scripts so that comments, if any, can be made.
5. Start every assignment on a fresh sheet so that you can prepare separate sets for each block.
6. You should not send printed articles as your answers to assignments.
7. Please write **ASSIGNMENT FOR DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH** on top of the cover in which you send your answer/response sheets.

**DCE- 1**  
**General Principles of Writing**  
**Assignment for July, 2023-January, 2024**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 1/ TMA/2023-2024**  
**Maximum Marks:100**

**Attempt ALL the questions**

1. Give below is a passage from **The Road** (Mulk Raj Anand, Sterling, Delhi), which needs editing. Read it closely to incorporate such editorial changes as punctuation marks, break up of sentences, paragraphing, spellings, use of capital letters, etc. (20)

“after the first round of prayers pandit Suraj Mani felt that he had been constrained to neglect so august a personality as a landlord Thakur Singh when the latter, had come, into the temple; so he caressed his white beard into the necessary dignity and issued out, his staff into his right hand; rosary into his left. The Sun was breathing fire across the world; as it moved angrily over the planes into the hills wih divid Haryana from Rajasthan. Pandit Suraj Mani looked up at Surya for a moment and, then withdrawing his gaze quickly, preyed for mercy.

But as the flaming heat scotched his face, he knew that this God had no mercy that his anger was more intense them ever; and that the endless temper of the sun was about to eat up the world, which was full of bad deeds. Surely it had been said in the puranic holy texts that in the kali yog, the Sun would get more hot and burn the universe into ashes because the karma of sins must get its first reward. And the gossip that panditji had heard of the explosions of the suns energy, which had poisoned the water of the ocan, confirmed him in his prognostications. Why, the breaking of Dharam, by I ambardar Dhooli Singh and his followers was only one sign of the spreiding evil of this dark age; the sparks of heat burnt all over the priests face and covered him by a scowl of hatrid against sinfull man-kind. Landlord Thakur Singh and his son, Sajnu, were seated below the papal tree, almost as if by the instinctive knowledge that the gods were on there side, they were waiting for the minister of devine wishes Pandit Suraj Mani.

2. Distinguish between creative and non-creative writing. Can the distinction be maintained in all cases? (70 words) (5)
3. What are the essential aspects of a literary work? Does context mean only the transcription of actual experience? (70 words) (5)
4. What does ‘structure’ mean? (50 words) (5)
5. Why is critical reading necessary for an aspiring writer? (50 words) (5)
6. Given below is an extract from the story ‘The Babus of Nayanjore’ by Rabindranath Tagore (Ten Tales for Indian Students, OUP). (20)

The protagonist is talking to himself, trying to understand why he dislikes Kailas Babu. Re-write his self-analysis in the form of a dialogue with an intimate friend. (200 words)

When I sit down and try to analyse the thoughts and feelings that I had towards Kailas Babu, I see that there was a still deeper reason for my dislike. I will now explain.

Though I am the son of a rich man, and might have wasted time at college, my industry was such that I took my M.A. degree in Calcutta University when quite young. My moral character was flawless. In addition, my outward appearance was so handsome, that if I were to call myself beautiful, it might be thought a mark of self-estimation, but could not be considered an untruth.

There could be no question that among the young men of Bengal I was regarded by parents generally as a very eligible match. I myself was quite clear on the point, and had determined to obtain my full value in the marriage market.

7. How will you distinguish a creative impulse from an emotional reaction? (10)  
Why is distancing from the object necessary in any creative writing?
8. What is the nature and function of the climax in a story? (10)  
What is an uncomplicated climax and where is it easily identifiable?
9. Explain the kinds of editing. (10)
10. Dialogue can play an important role in Dramatising ideas. Comment. (10)

**DCE-2**  
**Feature Writing**  
**Assignment for July, 2023-January, 2024**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 2/ TMA/2023-2024**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

1. How is specialisation important? Plan an outline of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of women in fiction written in English by Indians. (20)
2. Why is it difficult to find a well-informed reviewer? What is the Review Editor's task? Write a review of a latest book you have read recently. (20)
3. What are the different types of travel articles current today? How does a general informative article differ from a promotional article? (20)
4. Imagine you are to interview the education minister of the country. Write 10 questions you wish to ask and 10 possible answers to those questions. (20)
5. Write a short feature on any one of the following topics: (20)
  - a) The relevance of Creative Writing in English in today's world
  - b) The game of cricket/football
  - c) Life without Mobile phone

**DCE – 3**  
**Short Story**  
**Assignment for July, 2023-January, 2024**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 3/TMA/2023-2024**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

1. Given below is a story idea. Your task is to build a story around it. You can choose to make your story serious or comic, depending on whichever you think you can handle better:  
A poor young boy or girl comes into an unexpected fortune. Not all fortunes are good. Sometimes discovering a fortune will destroy your life. Your story should revolve around this situation and reach a plausible conclusion. (20)
2. Write a short story for children on one of the following: (20)
  - a) One day travel at moon
  - b) Why a fruit falls on the ground
  - (c) Write about a day from the perspective of a bird.
3. Write a mystery/detective story around the following situation: (20)  
The mysterious disappearance of a young girl from a small-town leaves everyone wondering what happened to her and where she could be.
4. Use the opening sentence given below to write a short story: (20)  
As our eyes met across the busy cafe tables, I was struck with the feeling that I already knew her...
5. Write a short story on any topic that appeals to you showing your flair for either comedy writing or serious/tragic writing. (20)

**DCE – 4**  
**Writing for Media: Radio Television**  
**Assignment for July, 2023-January, 2024**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 4/ TMA/2023-2024**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

1. Write a Radio documentary on any one of the following: (20)
  - a) The impact of Covid 19 on school going children.
  - b) Online Education
  
2. Write a Radio play revolving around any one of the following topics making uses of narration, dialogues and SFX: (20)
  - (a) Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.
  - (b) Scene of a cricket match going Live
  - (c) A wedding party scene
  
3. Write an interesting Public Service Announcement for TV on any one of the following topics. Suggest visuals, narration, SFX and dialogues wherever required: (20)
  - (a) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
  - (b) Say no to plastic bags
  - (c) Smoking is injurious to health
  
4. Write a TV. documentary on any one of the following topics: (20)
  - (a) Drug abuse of young people.
  - (b) Environmental pollution.
  - (c) Mental Wellness Ties to Technology
  
5. Write either a Radio or a TV talk on “National Education Policy 2020.” (20)



**DCE 5**  
**Writing Poetry**  
**Assignment for July, 2023-January, 2024**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 5/ TMA/2023-2024**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Attempt ALL the questions.**

1. (a) Distinguish between a ‘rounded ending’ and an ‘open ending’ with illustrations.  
(100 words) (10)
- (b) What role does ‘tone’ play in the ending of a poem? (50 words) (10)
2. What are the possible uses of colloquialisms in poetry? (50 words) (10)
3. Read the following poems carefully: (20)

**Conventions of Despair**

Yes, I know all that, I should be modern.  
Marry again. See strippers at the Tease.  
Touch Africa. Go to the movies

Impale a six-inch spider

Under a lens. Join the Test-  
Bans, or become The outsider.

Or pay to shake my fist  
(or whatever-you-call-it) at a psychoanalyst.  
And when I burn

I should smile, dry-eyed,  
And nurse martinis like the Marginal Man.  
But, sorry, I cannot unlearn  
Conventions of despair.  
They have their pride  
I must seek and will find

my particular hell only in my Hindu mind;  
must translate, and turn  
till I blister and roast

for certain lives to come, ‘eye-deep’,  
in those Boiling Crates of Oil, weep  
iron tears for winning what I should have lost;

see Them with lidless eyes  
saw precisely in two equal parts  
(one of the sixty-four arts  
they learn in That place)  
a once-beloved head  
at the naked parting of her hair.

(a) Make a list of colloquialism in the poem. Now try to replace them with ordinary words or expressions.

(b) Is the use of the colloquial justifiable in the poem? State your reasons clearly.

4. Attempt an analysis, in terms of meter and rhyme of any two of the following: (20)  
(in about 200 word)

a. In vain to me the smiling mornings  
    shine,  
and reddening Phoebus lifts his  
    golden fire;  
the birds in vairs their amorous  
    descant join,  
or cheerful fields resume their  
    green attire;....

b. Cruelty has a Human heart  
And Jealousy a Human Face,  
Terror, the Human Form Divine,  
And Secrecy, the Human Dress.

c. London bridge is falling down, falling  
    down, falling down  
London bridge is falling down, my fair  
    lady;  
Build it up with iron bars, iron bars,  
    iron bars  
Build it up with iron bars, my fair  
    lady.

d. There once was a man from Nantucket  
Who kept all his cash in a bucket;  
But his daughter named Nan  
Ran away with a man...

5 a. Here are the opening lines of a poem. Can you continue the theme to make up a brief poem? (10)  
The sea is calm tonight  
The tide is full, the moon lies fair  
upon.....

5 b. In the light of what you have learnt, write a brief poem on your childhood, or your experience of love, or an aspect of nature that has appealed you. (10)

6. Read the following poem and answer the questions given at the end. (10)

**The Little Boy Lost**

'Father, father, where are you going?

O do not walk so fast.

Speak father, speak to your little boy

Or else I shall be lost'.

The night was dark, no father was there,

The child was wet with dew.

The mire was deep, & the child did weep,

And away the vapour flew.

**The Little Boy Found**

The little boy lost in the lonely fen,

Led by the wand' ring light,

Began to cry, but God ever nigh

Appeared like his father in white.

He kissed the child & by the hand led

And to his mother brought,

Who in sorrow pale, thro' the lonely dale,

Her little boy weeping sought.

a. Are there any symbols in the poem? Where? (50 words)

b. What, in your opinion, makes the poem symbolic? (70 words)