

**DCE**

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

**ASSIGNMENTS**  
**(For July 2024 and January 2025 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: For July 2024 Session: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 For January 2025 Session: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025</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 01**  
**GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF WRITING**  
**ASSIGNMENT July 2024 -January 2025**

**Max. Marks: 100**  
**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 1/ TMA/1/2024-2025**

**NOTE: Answer any five questions in all. Choose at least two questions from each section.**

**SECTION A**

1. What do you understand by the term Creative Impulse? Discuss writing as a form of self-expression. 20
2. What do you understand by the term Monologue? Distinguish between a dialogue and a monologue. Give examples to discuss the role of each of them. 20
3. Comment on the significance of Climax in a Formula story. Discuss the four major types of formula stories that have typical endings. 20
4. (a) 'Command of language is essential for clarity in writing'. Discuss. 20  
(b) What role does authenticity play in good writing? What do you understand by Authorial Voice?
5. Write short notes on: 20
  - a) Proofreading
  - b) Editing
  - c) Footnotes
  - d) Imagery and symbols.

**SECTION B**

6. 'Where are you going' ? Asked Maria. 'Outside, 'said Bruno angrily. 'If it's any of your business. 'He had walked slowly but once he left the room he went more quickly towards the stairs and then ran down them at a great pace, suddenly feeling that if he didn't get out of the house soon he was going to faint away. And within a few seconds, he was outside and he started to run up and down the driveway, eager to do something active, anything that would tire him out. In the distance, he could see the gate that led to the road that led to the train station that led home, but the idea of going there, the idea of running away and being left on his own without anyone at all, was even more unpleasant to him than the idea of staying. The given passage is taken from a story about a nine-year-old boy whose family has just moved to a new town where he has no one to play with.
  - (a) Having read the passage. Write a possible opening paragraph of the story. (250words) 05
  - (b) What kind of 'ending' would you like to give to your story: a typical or a surprise ending? Why? 05
  - (c) Write an outline of the ending. (b+c15words) 10

7. The author of the given passage has successfully established the authenticity of the child's experience making the account credible and readable. Elaborate on this statement. (400words). 20

8. Read the following poem and answer the question that follows :

Where the Mind is Without Fear  
Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up  
into fragments' by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from the depths of truth;  
Where tireless striving? stretches its arms towards  
perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its  
way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-  
widening thought and action .... Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,  
Let my country awake.

*RABINDRANATH TAGORE*

- (a) What are the figures of speech used by the poet to express his ideas? Identify them and describe their impact on the reader. 10
- (b) Describe in your own words the kind of world envisioned in the poem. 10

**DCE-2**  
**Feature Writing**  
**Assignment for July, 2024-January, 2025**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 2/ TMA/2024-2025**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

1. While writing an article about women, an unbiased attitude towards them should preferably be used. Do you agree ? Substantiate your answer with examples of gender. 20
2. Subject, style and relevance are the three concerns which go into a reviewer's final judgement. Assess the importance of each. 20
3. Discuss the importance of additional props like photographs, sketches and maps for travel writers of both categories- personal and promotional. 20
4. Imagine you are to interview the chief minister of your state. 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. Gender - sensitivity in writing about women.
  - b. The art of Interviewing
  - c. Life without internet

**DCE – 3**  
**Short Story**  
**Assignment for July, 2024-January, 2025**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 3/TMA/2024-2025**  
**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: 20  

A government agent arrests the wrong man, and he begs his wife to find evidence before he becomes the scapegoat for a cover up. Your story should revolve around this situation and reach a plausible conclusion.
  
2. Write a short story for children on one of the following: 20
  - a. Fantasy in children’s stories
  - b. My most difficult decision
  - c. The event that changed your life
  
3. Write a mystery/detective story around the following situation: 20

A wealthy businessman is blackmailed by an unknown assailant and must race to uncover their identity before they ruin his life.
  
4. Use the opening sentence given below to write a short story: 20

It had been the happiest day of his life...
  
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, 2024-January, 2025**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 4/ TMA/2024-2025**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

1. Write a Radio documentary on any one of the following: 20
  - a) Are women safe in big cities?
  - b) The importance of education
  
2. Write a Radio play revolving around any one of the following topics making uses of narration, dialogues and SFX: 20
  - a) A bureaucrat caught red-handed taking bribe
  - b) Scene of a football match going Live
  - c) A birthday 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) Reforming the education system in India
  - b) Cyber security Measures for Digital India
  - c) Smoking is injurious to health
  
4. Write a TV. documentary on any one of the following topics: 20
  - a) Freedom of Speech and Expression
  - b) Gender Inequality and Empowerment in India
  - c) Communal Harmony and Religious Tolerance
  
5. Write either a Radio or a TV talk on “Digital Divide – Bridging the Gap.” 20



**DCE 5**  
**Writing Poetry**  
**Assignment for July, 2024-January, 2025**

**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 5/ TMA/2024-2025**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**NOTE: Answer any five questions. Attempt at least two questions from each section.**

**SECTION A**

1. Write short notes on any two of the following topics. (200 words each) 20
  - (a) Free verse
  - (b) Cliche in poetry
  - (c) Simile and Metaphor
  - (d) Connotation and Denotation
2. List some techniques necessary to make poems on social themes interesting and appealing. (450 words) 20
3. How do you define personae? Does it help the poet to depersonalize experience? Explain with the help of a poem. 20
4. The unity of a poem is the most important factor in writing poetry. How does a poet make a poem 'one harmonious whole'? 20
5. What is a cliché? Why should clichés be avoided in poetry? Can there be a poetic use of cliché? Give reasons for your answer. 20

**SECTION B**

6. Read the following poems and answer the questions below each  
*Meeting at Night* — *Robert Browning*

I

The grey sea and the long black land;  
And the yellow half-moon large and low;  
And the startled little waves that leap  
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,  
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,  
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.

II

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;  
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;  
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch  
And a blue spurt of a lighted match  
And a voice less loud, thro' its joys and fears,

Than the two hearts beating each to each!

- a) Is there any suggestion of expectancy or suspense in the poem ? How does the poet create this effect? (200 words) 10
- b) What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? Discuss the use of poetic persona. 10

7.

Read the following poems and answer the questions given below.

A BOUNDLESS MOMENT

Robert Frost

" He halted in the wind, and - what was that  
far in the maples, pale, but not a ghost?  
He stood there, bringing March against his thought,  
And yet too ready to believe the most  
"Oh that's the paradise-in bloom", I said;  
And truly it was fair enough for flowers  
had we but in us to assume in March  
Such white luxuriance of May for ours.  
We stood a moment so in a strange world,  
Myself as one his own pretense deceives;  
And then I said the truth (and we moved on).  
young beech clinging to its last year's leaves.

- a) Comment on the opening of the poem. 4
- b) Explain: 'We stood a moment so in a strange world'. 4
- c) Comment on diction in this poem. 4
- d) What is the central idea of the poem? 4
- e) Discuss the rhyme scheme used here. 4

8.

The Lost Word'

Esther Morgan

She's lost a word  
and searches for it everywhere-  
behind the sofa, at the back  
of dusty cupboards and drawers.  
She picks through the rubbish sacks.  
Under the carpet she finds lots of other  
she'd forgotten she'd swept under there  
but not the one she's looking for.  
The trouble is it's small -only two letters  
though no less valuable for that.  
She stands racking her brain  
for the last time she used it  
but all that comes to mind are failed attempts  
of someone else's tongue.

- a) Comment on the central metaphor in this poem. How does it help in achieving 'unity' of impression? (200 words) 10

- b) Is the word 'tongue' in the last line used in more than one sense? (100 words) 5
- c) What kind of opening does the poem have? How do the opening few lines set the tone/ mood of the poem? (150 words) 5
9. Write a poem on any one of the following : 20
- a) Noise
  - b) Love
  - c) Memory
  - d) Loneliness
  - e) Prayer