

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BRITISH LITERATURE (PGDBLT)

ASSIGNMENT

(For July, 2023 and January, 2024 sessions)

MEG01: British Poetry

MEG02: British Drama

MEG 03: British Novel

MEG05: Literary Criticism & Theory



School of Humanities

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

**ASSIGNMENTS
FOR
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BRITISH
LITERATURE (PGDBLT)**

**Programme : PGDBLT
Course Code: MEG –01, 02, 03 & 05**

Dear Student

You are required to do one assignment for each of the following courses of the PG Diploma in British Literature Programme. This is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and carries 100 marks each. Each assignment covers the entire course of MEG – 01, MEG 02, MEG 03 & MEG 05.

Aims: These TMAs are concerned mainly with assessing your application and understanding of the course materials. You are not required to reproduce chunks of information from the course materials but to use the skills of critical appreciation that you may have acquired during the course of study. These assignments aim to teach as well as to assess your performance. Please ensure that you read all the texts prescribed in the courses. **Let me repeat: you must read all the texts/ critical essays prescribed.** Do make points as you go along. If there is anything you do not understand, please ask your Counsellor at the Study Centre for clarification. Once you are able to do the assignments satisfactorily, you will be ready to take the exam with confidence.

Instructions: Before attempting the assignments, please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Write your enrolment number, name, full address and date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
2. Write the course title, assignment number and the name of the study centre you are attached to in the centre of the first page of your response sheet(s).

The top of the first page of your response sheet should look like this:

	ENROLMENTNO:..... NAME:

	ADDRESS:.....
COURSE TITLE:	
COURSE CODE:	STUDYCENTRE:.....
DATE:	

3. Use A 4size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
4. Write the relevant question under each answer.
5. You should write in your own handwriting.

6. **Submission:** The completed assignment should be sent to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you by **31st March 2023** (if enrolled in the July 2022 Session) and **30th Sept, 2023** (if enrolled in the January 2023 session).

Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering questions.

GUIDELINES FOR TMAs

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1. **Planning:** Read the questions carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange these in a logical order. And please write the answers in your own words. Do not reproduce passages from the study materials.
2. **Organisation :** Be a little more selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarise your response to the question. In the course of your answer, you may like to make references to other texts or critics as this will add some depth to your analysis.

Make sure that your answer:

- (a) Is logical and coherent;
 - (b) Has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
 - (c) Is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
 - (e) does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.
3. **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasise.

You may be aware that **you need to submit your assignments before you can appear for the Term End Exams. Please remember to keep a copy of your completed assignment, just in case the one you submitted is lost in transit.**

Good luck with your work!

MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH (MEG-1)
BRITISH POETRY
ASSIGNMENT
(Based on Blocks (1 - 10))

Course Code: MEG-01
Assignment Code: MEG-01/TMA/2023-24
Max. Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. Question number 1 is compulsory.

1. Explain any **two** of the excerpts of poems given below with reference to their context:

10 X 2 = 20

(i) *Ye Presences of Nature, in the sky
And on the earth ! Ye Visions of the hills !
And Souls of lonely places ! can I think
A vulgar hope was yours when ye employed
Such ministry..*

(ii) *Tyger ! Tyger ! burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?*

(iii) *My first thought was, he lied in every word,
That hoary cripple, with malicious eye
Askance to watch the workings of his lie*

(iv) *Dying
Is an art, like everything else.
I do it exceptionally well.*

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|----|--|----|
| 2. | Discuss Chaucer's handling of the fable in 'The Nun's Priest's Tale'. | 20 |
| 3. | Consider 'The Garden' by Andrew Marvell as a didactic poem. | 20 |
| 4. | Attempt a critical appreciation of 'The Triumph of Life' by P.B. Shelley. | 20 |
| 5. | What was the Reformation? What relations can you identify and trace between the Renaissance and the Reformation. | 20 |
| 6. | Bring out the theme of 'Church Going' by Philip Larkin. | 20 |

**MEG 02:BRITISH DRAMA
(Based on Blocks (1-9))**

**MEG-02/TMA 01/2023-24
Max. Marks: 100**

Section A is compulsory. Attempt any four questions in Section B

Section A

1. Critically comment on the following passages with reference to the context, in not more than 150 words each: (4x5=20)
- (a) O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven, It had the primal eldest curse upon't A brother's murder! Pray can I not. Though inclination be as sharp as will.
- (b) Galatea never does quite like Pygmalion: relation to her is too godlike to be altogether agreeable.
- (c) What boots it then to think of God or heaven? Away with such fancies and despair; Despair in God, and trust in Beelzebub ... Abjure this magic, turn to God again.
- (d) Astride of a grave and a difficult birth
Down in the hole, lingeringly,
the gravedigger puts on the forceps.
We have time to grow old. The air is full of our cries. But habit is a great deadener.

Section B

1. "Beckett rejects the received logic of form and conventional structure." Critically comment. (20)
2. Discuss the typical Shakespearean comic elements in the play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (20)
3. What do you think is the dominant quality of Hamlet's character? Discuss with suitable examples. (20)
4. Can *The Alchemist* be understood as a satire? Give suitable examples. (20)
5. Discuss the play *Pygmalion* as a romance? Elaborate. (20)
6. Discuss the art of characterisation in *The Playboy of the Western World*? (20)
7. Discuss *Murder in the Cathedral* as a poetic drama. (20)
8. Comment on the historical significance of *Look Back in Anger*. (20)
9. Discuss the Romantic and Modernist conceptions of character in the presentation of Jimmy as the play's protagonist. (20)

**ASSIGNMENT
MEG-03
BRITISH NOVEL**

**Programme: MEG/2023/2024
Course Code: MEG 03 Max. Marks: 100**

Answer all questions in this assignment.

1. Comment on Fielding's narrative strategies in *Tom Jones*. 20

2. Discuss the ways in which *Pride and Prejudice* foregrounds the social and economic realities of women's lives in Jane Austen's time. 20

3. How does Dickens's novel *Great Expectations* engage with the theme of upward social mobility and self-improvement? 20

4. Discuss the ways in which forces of race and class shape characters and episodes in *A Passage to India*. 20

5. Comment on Muriel Spark's narrative technique in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. 20

MEG – 05
Literary Criticism & Theory
ASSIGNMENT 2023 - 2024
Based on Blocks (1 – 8)

Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions.

1. Why does Plato want the artists to be kept away from the ideal state? Discuss. 20

2. Examine the purpose spontaneity, emotions and personality serve in Wordsworth's theory of poetry. 20

3. Write short notes on the following: 4 x 5 = 20
 - (a) Peripetia
 - (b) Sphota
 - (c) Class ideology
 - (d) Poetic Diction

4. Discuss briefly, the ideas of Marx and Engels on class relations. 20

5. Comment on Mary Wollstonecraft's contributions to the rights of women. 20