

**POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THE NOVEL
(PGDNOV)**

**ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET
(For July, 2023 and January, 2024 sessions)**

MEG 05: Literary Criticism & Theory

MEG 03: British Novel

MEG11: American Novel

MEG 19: Australian Novel



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

**ASSIGNMENTS
FOR
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THE NOVEL
(PGDNOV)**

**Programme: PGDNOV
Course Code: MEG – 03, 05, 11 & 19**

Dear learner

You are required to do one assignment each for the following courses of the 'PG Diploma in The Novel' Programme. These are Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA) and carry 100 marks each. Each assignment covers the entire course of MEG 03, MEG 05, MEG 11 & MEG 19.

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 must 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:

	ENROLMENT NO:
	NAME:
	ADDRESS:
COURSE TITLE:	
COURSE CODE:	STUDY CENTRE:
DATE:	

3. Use A 4 size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
4. Write the relevant question number with 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** (for June examination) and **30th September** (for December examination).

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.**

Last dates for submission: **31st March** (for June examination) and **30th September** (for December examination).

Good luck with your work!

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 that 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)

MEG 03: BRITISH NOVEL

MEG-03/TMA 01/2023-24

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 11: AMERICAN NOVEL
ASSIGNMENT 2023-24
(Based on Blocks (1-9))

Course Code: MEG-11/ 2023-24
Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Critically examine the chief characteristics of Black American Women's writings. Illustrate your answer with reference to the novel prescribed in your syllabus. 20
2. Discuss the common themes in the novels of Theodore Dreiser. Answer with suitable examples. 20
3. Would you agree that Faulkner explores the issue of racial identity through the portrayal of the character of Joe Christmas in *Light in August*? 20
4. Critically comment on the concept of the "American Dream" in *The Great Gatsby*. 20
5. Discuss the major themes and characters of the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. 20

MEG 19: THE AUSTRALIAN NOVEL

Programme: PGDNOV/2023- 2024

Course Code: MEG 19

Max. Marks: 100

Answer all the questions in this assignment.

1. Consider *The Tree of Man* by Patrick White as a pioneer novel. (20)

2. Explain the significance of the title of Yasmine Gooneratne's novel *A Change of Skies*. (20)

3. "Kim Scott's novel *Benang* is a polyphonic text." Comment on this statement. (20)

4. Discuss with suitable examples, how Peter Carey mingles 'fiction' with 'historical accounts' in his effort to arrive at a 'true history' of a social outlaw, in *True History of the Kelly Gang*. (20)

5. Write short notes of around 200 words each on the following: (10+10=20)
 - a. Trace the development of the novel in nineteenth century Australia, and critically evaluate its themes and concerns.

 - b. Examine how Keneally engages with the complex nature of righteousness and virtue through the character Oskar Schindler in *Schindler's Ark*.