

**POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN WRITINGS FROM INDIA  
(PGDWI)**

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

**MEG 05: Literary Criticism & Theory**

**MEG 07: Indian English Literature**

**MEG 10: English Studies in India**

**MEG 14: Contemporary Indian Literature in English Translation**



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

**ASSIGNMENTS  
FOR  
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN WRITINGS FROM INDIA  
(PGDWI)**

**Programme: PGDWI/2023-2024  
Course Code: MEG – 05, 07, 10 & 14**

Dear Student

You are required to do one assignment for each of the following courses of the PG Diploma in Writings from India Programme. This is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and carries 100 marks each. Each assignment covers the entire course of MEG – 05, MEG 07, MEG 10 & MEG 14.

**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 assignment 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:

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

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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 **31<sup>st</sup> March** (For July session) and **30<sup>th</sup> September** (For January 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!**

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

**Course code: MEG – 05/TMA/2023-2024**  
**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 07: INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2023-24**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

**Course Code: MEG-07/ TMA/2023-24**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Write short note on: (4 x 5 = 20)
  - a) Message of Sri Aurobindo in 'Life and Death'.
  - b) Ruskin Bond's Art of Story Telling
  - c) Narrative techniques in Gajar Halwa
  - d) Central theme of poem 'My Grandmother's House by Kamala Das.
2. Comment on the problems and challenges faced by the Post 1930s Novelists. (20)
3. Attempt a character sketch of the Astrologer. How does this story evoke sympathy/anger? (20)
4. Examine the treatment of time in 'Clear Light of Day'. (20)
5. Trace the origin of Indian English Poetry. (20)

**MEG - 10**  
**ENGLISH STUDIES IN INDIA**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2023 - 2024**  
**(Based on Blocks 1 – 8)**

**Course code: MEG – 10/ TMA / 2023 -24**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions.**

1. Do you think Macaulay defends the introduction of English in India? How does he do so? Discuss. (20)
2. Assess Toru Dutt's literary output in English with reference to either her translations or her poetry. (20)
3. From a reading of Bankim's *Rajmohun's Wife*, what do you think 'transgression' implies? Does Matangini transgress in that sense? Elucidate. (20)
4. Critically examine the role of English Literature in English Language Teaching. (20)
5. How does Ngugi Wa Thiong'o advocate 'decolonisation' of the mind with reference to African literature? (20)

**MEG-14**  
**Assignment 2023 - 2024**  
**Contemporary Indian Literature in English Translation**

**Course Code: MEG-14/TMA/2023-2024**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Attempt any five of the following. All question carry equal marks.**

1. What is the role of two major Sanskrit epics in the construction of Indian culture? 20
2. Which character(s) do you like the most in the novel "Samskara"? Why? 20
3. Do any of the character(s) surprise you at any stage in the novel 'Tamas'? Who are they? 20
4. Bring out the silver lining in the story "Birthday". 20
5. Discuss the symbols in the story "The Empty Chest". 20
6. Discuss the significance of images related to spirit and matter in the poem "Just Once Try". 20
7. Write a note on the contemporary relevance of Tughlaq. 20