

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

**ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET  
(For July, 2024 and January, 2025 session)**

MEG 04: Aspects of Language

MEG 05: Literary Criticism & Theory

MEG 07: Indian English Literature

MEG 10: English Studies in India

MEG 14: Contemporary Indian Literature in English Translation

MEG 15: Comparative Literature



**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  
Course Code: MEG – 04, 05, 07, 10, 14 & 15**

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. Depending on which year you are in (MA 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> you will also need to do MEG 05, MEG 04/ MEG 15). Hence MEG 04 and MEG 15 are also included in the TMA.

**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 2025** (if enrolled in the July 2024 Session) and **30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2025** (if enrolled in the January 2025 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 04: ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENT**  
**Assignment 2024-25**

**Course Code: MEG-04**

**Assignment Code: MEG-04/TMA/2024-2025**

**Max. Marks: 100**

1. What are the characteristics of human language? Discuss each in detail. 20
  
2. Write short notes on the following: 2×10 =20
  - a. Back-formation
  - b. Compounding
  
3. Discuss the significance and types of motivation in the context of second language learning. 20
  
4. Word is “a minimum free form.” Elaborate. 20
  
5. Write a critical note on “Indianness” in Indian English. Give relevant examples. 20

**MEG – 05: Literary Criticism & Theory**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2024 - 2025**  
**Based on Blocks (1 – 8)**

**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions.**

1. Explain and discuss Aristotle's view of literature as imitation. 20
  
2. Do you think that Wordsworth establishes a new poetic theory? What are the main features of his theory? 20
  
3. Write short notes on the following: 4x5=20
  - a) Rasa
  - (b) Catharsis
  - (c) Postmodernism
  - (d) "Woman as other"
  
4. Show how literary criticism and theory have developed a materialistic dimension based on Marxism. 20
  
5. Draw out the ideologies set forth by Mary Wollstonecraft and Virginia Woolf as pioneer feminists. 20

**MEG 07: INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2024-25**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

**Course Code: MEG-07/ 2024-25**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Write short note on: (4 x 5 = 20)
  - a) Basic Elements of a short story
  - b) Narrative techniques employed by Mulk Raj Anand in his novel *Untouchable*
  - c) Concept of myth and symbolisin as integral parts of Raja Rao's fictional art in Kanthapura
  - d) The Political Dimensions of Clear Light of Day
2. Discuss Midnight's Children as postcolonial novel. 20
3. Do you agree with the view that all Dattani characters speak the same homogenised convent English? Discuss Dattani's use of English in Tara. 20
4. Attempt a critical analysis of the poem 'Bride of Fire' by Sri Aurobindo commenting on the issues in Sri Aurobindo's poetry. 20
5. Comment on 'The Women in Kanthapura.' 20

**MEG - 10**  
**ENGLISH STUDIES IN INDIA**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2024 - 2025**  
**(Based on Blocks 1 – 8)**

**MEG 10/ TMA 01/ 2024 -25**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions.**

1. Would you agree that English Studies gained support and consolidation in post independent India? Discuss. 20
2. Do you think that Raja Ram Mohan Roy contributed effectively to the promotion of Indian English Writers? Comment 20
3. Bring out the link between language teaching and the study of literary texts. 20
4. Would you agree with Namvar Singh that 'neo-colonialism' can be resisted? Discuss 20
5. Comment on Said's *Orientalism* as the key to understanding Postcolonial Studies. 20

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

**Course Code: MEG-14**  
**Assignment Code: MEG-14/TMA/2024-25**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions given below**

1. Analyze the social context that caused the birth of Kannada novels. 10
2. Write an essay on Partition novels in Hindi. 10
3. Write a note on growth of Contemporary Indian Theatre. 10
4. What are the aims of Dalit Writings and how well does 'Karukku' achieve them? 10
5. 'Salt' combines stringent political comment with sophisticated literary technique. Discuss. 10
6. Do you think 'Birds' ends on a happy note? Give reasons for your answer. 10
7. Comment on the style and symbolism used in the story 'The Empty Chest'. 10
8. Discuss 'The Compromise' as an allegory. 10
9. Discuss the thematics and poetic-style of the poem 'Tree and the Sage'. 10
10. How does a late 20th or 21st century reader accept the re-invention of the myth of Sri Radha? 10



**MEG-15**  
**COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: THEORY AND PRACTICE**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2024-2025**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

**(COMPULSORY Component for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Choose between MEG 04/MEG 15)**

Course Code: MEG-15/ 2024-2025  
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt all the questions. All questions carry equal marks

1. Write a note on cultural diversity in the contemporary world. How do cultural studies contribute to our understanding of culture? 20
  
1. Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea* is a retelling of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. Discuss it as a Post colonial text. 20
  
3. Why do some critics describe autobiography as fiction? Explain. 20
  
4. Do you find features of magical realism in folk tales? Discuss. 20
  
5. How is 'The Palm – Wine Drinkard' compared with Ben Qkri's *The Famished Road*? 20