

**DCE**

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

**ASSIGNMENTS**  
**(For July 2016 and January 2017 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

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 :</b>
Course 2	
Course 3	
Course 4	
Course 5	
	<b>For July 2016 Session: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.</b>
	<b>For January 2017 Session: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b>

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 2017, you should submit your assignments in 2018, 2019 or 2020 that is, you have a total of 1+3 years to submit your assignments.

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

Course Title _____	Name _____	For Office Use
Assignment No. _____	Address _____	Grades:
Enrolment No. _____	_____	Letter _____
Date sent on _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Evaluated by _____

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.

**Note: Remember the submission of assignment is precondition of permission of appearing in examination. If you have not submitted the assignment in time you will not be allowed to appear in the examination.**

**DCE – 1**  
**Assignment**  
**(General Principles of Writing)**

**Programme Code: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE/TMA/ 2016-17**  
**Maximum Marks: 100**

1. How is the opening important for a story? Give examples of various types of openings and analyze how they influence the reader's expectation of what will follow. 20
2. Using the omniscient mode of narration, write a short account of a man sentenced to imprisonment for a crime he did not commit. 20
3. What is a formula story? Write a short story on the theme of duty and reward on the lines of a formula story with an appropriate ending. 20
4. Write a dialogue between siblings who have just learnt that they have been adopted. How do they react? What do they plan to do? 20
5. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

At the top of a squatty, three-story brick in the quaint old Greenwich Village west of Washington Square, artists Sue and Johnsy had their studio. They had met at the table d'hote of an Eighth street "Delmonico's," and found their tastes in art, chicory salad and bishop sleeves so congenial that the joint studio resulted.

That was in May. In November a cold, unseen stranger, whom the doctors called Pneumonia, stalked about the colony, touching one here and there with his icy fingers.

Mr. Pneumonia was not what you would call a chivalric old gentleman. A mite of a little woman with blood thinned by California zephyrs was hardly fair game for the red-fisted, short-breathed old duffer. But Johnsy he smote; and she lay, scarcely moving, on her painted iron bedstead, looking through the small Dutch window-panes at the blank side of the next brick house.

One morning the busy doctor invited Sue into the hallway with a shaggy, gray eyebrow.

"She has one chance in -let us say, ten," he said, as he shook down the mercury in his clinical thermometer. "And that chance is for her to want to live. This way people have of lining-up on the side of the undertaker makes the entire pharmacopeia look silly. Your little lady has made up her mind that she's not going to get well. Has she anything on her mind?"

"She -she wanted to paint the Bay of Naples some day," said Sue.

- (i) Why did Sue and Johnsy become friends? What interests did they share? 2
- (ii) Why does the author call pneumonia 'short-breathed'? 2

(iii) Personification is a literary device in which something inanimate or abstract is described as a living being. Find an example of personification in the story and write a description of it in your own words. Write a paragraph using this device to personify something that you see commonly in your daily life (a mirror, a clock, a wall etc) 6

6. What does an editor do? How is his work an important aspect of publishing? 10

**DCE-2**  
**FEATURE WRITING**

**Max. Marks: 100**

**Programme: DCE**

**Assignment Code: DCE 2/ TMA/1/2016-2017**

1. We often come across cases of domestic violence, with women bearing the brunt of their husband's frustrations and anger. Although a number of laws are in place to protect women-this menace still exists. Keeping this in mind write a feature on "Domestic Violence and how it can be Curbed."  
(20)
2. Review a book that you have read recently. Provide an evaluative judge and a summative conclusion. Do keep in mind all the norms given in your block on Book Reviews.  
(20)
3. Write a travel article based on your visit to a foreign destination, describing in detail the tourist spots visited, dress and cuisine peculiar to that place. Remember to give a "creative slant" to your article by personalizing it. Do not make it a data based research piece."  
(20)
4. Interview a celebrity whose comments have been blown out of proportion by the media. Write up the interview in the form of ten questions and their possible answers, which will help to clear his/her image..  
(20)
5. Write a short feature on any **one** of the following topics. Remember that there are a number of perspectives to a subject. Choose the one that appeals to you most and focus on that.
  - a) Victory has many fathers---defeat is but an orphan
  - b) Youth is a blessing---old age a curse.  
(20)

**DCE – 3**  
**SHORT STORY**

**Max. Marks: 100**  
**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 3/TMA/1/2016-2017**

1. Given below is the beginning of a short story. Complete and conclude it:

I was at a wedding, enjoying myself with friends and family. The festivities were in full swing. Feeling the need for a smoke, I stepped out from the venue. Walking beside the lake, under a star-studded sky, I lost count of time, till suddenly I remembered the festivities and returned post-haste to the venue. To my utter amazement I found that the function had ended, the wedding guests had departed, and the venue was covered in darkness.

25

2. Ideas for short stories may come from personal experiences or from observing the world around us. Write a short story for children on any **one** of the following:

- a) My Last Day in School
- b) A Failed Mission
- c) An Unforgettable Encounter.

You can make the story either a serious or a comic one, depending on what you can handle better.

25

3. Based on the following hints, build up a detective story:

A room has been ransacked.....a dead body is lying in pool of blood.....no murder-weapon is in sight..... and the doors and windows of the room are all bolted from the inside.

25

4. Write an open-ended short story on one of the following situations:

- a) Being Stalked
- b) Marooned on an Island

25

**DCE – 4**  
**WRITING FOR MEDIA: RADIO TELEVISION**

**Max. Marks: 100**  
**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 4/ TMA/1/2016-2017**

1. Write a Radio play revolving around any **one** of the following, making use of narration, dialogues and SFX:
- a) An encounter with a ghost
  - b) No pain, no gain
  - c) An idle mind is a devil's workshop.
- 25
2. Write a radio documentary on any **one** of the following:
- a) A major social issue of your town/city
  - b) Increase in cyber-crimes
- 25
3. The following exercise makes you aware of the relationship between pictures and words. Given below are fifteen picture-descriptions from which you are to write a commentary to complement ten images. Choose ten picture descriptions and arrange them so that a story emerges. Frame the commentary for the T.V. under the following three headings:
- | <b>Picture Description</b> | <b>Commentary/Dialogue</b> | <b>SFX</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
- a) An old man leaning on a stick
  - b) Cigarette-case and lighter
  - c) A child holding balloons
  - d) A doctor and a nurse
  - e) Group of shouting villagers
  - f) A funeral procession
  - g) A Snow storm
  - h) A grave yard
  - i) A frozen lake
  - j) A Man riding a horse
  - k) A locked trunk
  - l) A sweet-shop
  - m) Deserted shed
  - n) A collapsed bridge
  - o) A speeding ambulance
- 25
4. Write a Public Service announcement to be relayed over TV on any **one** of the following topics. Suggest visuals, narration, sound effects and dialogues wherever required
- a) Each one teach one
  - b) Ban female foeticide
- 25

**DCE – 5**  
**Assignment**  
**(Writing Poetry)**

**Programme Code:**  
**DCE Assignment Code: DCE5/TMA/2016-17**  
**Maximum Marks: 100**

1. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

TO THE CUCKOO

O Blithe new-comer! I have heard,  
I hear thee and rejoice.  
O Cuckoo! shall I call thee Bird,  
Or but a wandering Voice?

While I am lying on the grass  
Thy twofold shout I hear;  
From hill to hill it seems to pass,  
At once far off and near.

Though babbling only to the vale  
Of sunshine and of flowers,  
Thou bringest unto me a tale  
Of visionary hours.

Thrice welcome, darling of the Spring!  
Even yet thou art to me  
No bird, but an invisible thing,  
A voice, a mystery;

The same whom in my schoolboy days  
I listen'd to; that Cry  
Which made me look a thousand ways  
In bush, and tree, and sky.

To seek thee did I often rove  
Through woods and on the green;  
And thou wert still a hope, a love—  
Still long'd for, never seen!

And I can listen to thee yet;  
Can lie upon the plain  
And listen, till I do beget  
That golden time again.

O blessed Bird! the earth we pace  
Again appears to be  
An unsubstantial, faery place,  
That is fit home for thee!

- (i) What are the words or phrases which tell you that the poet has listened to the cuckoo's song many times earlier? 5
- (ii) This poem has been written in the form of an ode. An ode is a poem of praise and may be an address to someone or something or even a time of day. Pick out the features that characterise an ode and write a short one of your own. 10
- (iii) Look at the shift in tense throughout the poem. What sense of time does it convey? 5
2. If you were a singing bird in a cage, how would you feel if you saw another flying freely in the sky? Write a short poem describing this. 20
3. Write two verses on the theme of memories using images. 20
4. What do you understand by 'rounded ending' of a poem? Write two verses with different types of rounded ending. 20
5. (i) What are the images that come to your mind when you think of the spring season? Using those images, write a nature poem. 10
- (ii) How are clichés used in poetry? Write a short poem with clichés that have unexpected twists. 10