

DCE

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

ASSIGNMENTS
(For July 2015 and January 2016 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	} Last Date of Submission of Assignments :
Course 2	
Course 3	
Course 4	
Course 5	

For July 2015 session: 31st March 2016.
For January 2016 session: 30th September 2016.

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 2016, you should submit your assignments in 2017, 2018 or 2019 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.

DCE – 1
Assignment
(General Principles of Writing)

Programme Code: DCE
Assignment Code: DCE/TMA/ 2015-16
Maximum Marks: 100

1. What do you understand by the terms 'authenticity' and 'credibility'? Illustrate with appropriate examples, citing the differences in perception of a child reader and an adult reader. 20
2. Write a brief account in the autobiographical mode of the life of a woman in a traditional family. 20
3. What is the significance of research into locale, customs etc when writing a story? Explain with examples. 20
4. A man who has taken great risks at the stock market is faced with financial ruin. He has a family and old parents to support. Write a monologue that expresses his thoughts and anguish. 20
5. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE - By W B Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee;
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

- (i) What are the literary devices that have been used in the poem? Give examples. 2
- (ii) One generally associates nights with darkness. Why does the poet use the phrase 'midnight's all a glimmer'?' 2
- (iii) What are the specific points that tell you about how the poet has planned this in great detail? 2
- (iv) Does the poet repeat a line or phrase? Why do you think he does so? 2
- (v) When the poet talks about 'pavements grey', what does he wish to convey? 2
6. Explain the importance of Notes and Footnotes in a manuscript, with illustrations. 10

DCE-2 FEATURE WRITING

Max. Marks: 100

Programme: DCE

Assignment Code: DCE 2/ TMA/1/2015-2016

1. We all know that women compare themselves to the female images they see portrayed on TV, films and advertising. At the conscious as well as subconscious levels these media images lower self-esteem and affect behavior. They exert pressure on women to conform. Keeping this in mind write an article for a magazine on the following:
“How accurately are women portrayed in the media?”
(20)
2. This question has two parts a and b. In the first part write a review of a book that you have read. Keep the issues of subject, style and relevance in mind. Now for part b write another review of the **same** book but write a review that can be classified as a “bad” review i.e. instead of your comments being honest, sensitive and illuminating, they should be provocative and subjective. The difference between a good review and a bad review should clearly emerge through your answer.
(10+10=20)
3. This question also has **two** parts a and b.
 - a) Write a travel article about a town or city that is aimed at college students.
 - b) Now write another article about the **same** town or city but your target readers should be retired pensioners.
Remember the place you are promoting is the same, but your slant will be completely different depending on whom you are writing for.
(10+10=20)
4. You have been sent to interview a lawyer who is defending a man who has opened fire on school children killing many of them. Your job is ask ten question to the lawyer and to provide ten answers to those questions so as to find out why he or she wants to defend a criminal who has committed such a heinous crime in front of many witnesses. Your questions should be such that the lawyer cannot give simple yes or no answers. He would have to give explanations to each question.
(20)
5. Write a short feature on any **one** of the following topics:
 - a) Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional
 - b) Omens and superstitionsRemember that any topic can have various slants. Choose your focus so that you can do justice to the topic and give precise information instead of rambling in various directions.
(20)

DCE – 3
SHORT STORY

Max. Marks: 100
Programme: DCE
Assignment Code: DCE 3/TMA/1/2015-2016

1. Given below are a few ideas for building a story. Choose any **one** of them and write a story around it.

- a) A woman suspects her husband of having an affair and decides to spy on him. What she discovers is not what she is expecting-----
- b) A baby sitter is snooping around her employer's house and finds a disturbing photograph.....
- c) A man has to tell his wife and her family that he wants a divorce. He is shocked by their reaction to his news.....

25

2. Writing for children involves choosing appropriate themes which can also transmit moral and social values to children. At the same time the language should be simple and clear. Given below are a few ideas for writing stories for children. Choose **one** and build a short story around it. You can make it serious or humorous.

- a) An internet café is the location, “crime doesn't pay” is the theme; and a mirror plays a significant part in the story.
- b) A bus-stop is the location; “sell-preservation” is the theme and a diamond ring plays a significant part in the story.
- c) A picnic is the location; “honesty is the best policy” is the theme; and a fur coat plays a significant part in the story.

25

3. A popular format for the short story is the ‘twist in the tale’ ending. It should come as a complete surprise to the reader but has to be set up properly. A few signs or clues should be given throughout the story so that the readers don't feel cheated. A story idea is being provided below. Build a story around it but give the story a surprise ending. You could also make it into an open-ended story.

Your mom is in poor health. You spend most of your time looking after her. One day she calls you and say that she needs to tell you a story about her past. What she reveals comes as a complete surprise/shock to you.....

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4. Build up a detective story on the following lines:

We were extremely happy when we bought the new house. We assumed that the scratches on the inside of the basement door had been made by a dog. But the neighbours said that the previous owners didn't have a dog. The next morning the scratched had multiplied.....

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DCE – 4
WRITING FOR MEDIA: RADIO TELEVISION

Max. Marks: 100
Programme: DCE
Assignment Code: DCE 4/ TMA/1/2015-2016

1. Write a Radio play illustrating the idea contained in **one** of the following:
 - a) Man is the maker of his own destiny
 - b) All that glitters is not gold
 - c) A burnt child dreads the fire.

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2. You have been sent as a **Radio** reporter to cover the site of the disastrous floods of 2014 in Srinagar. Write out a radio commentary of what you see there including a couple of interviews with some survivors.

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3. Write Public Service Announcements to be relayed over TV on any **two** of the following topics. Suggest visuals, narration, sound effects and dialogues wherever required.
 - a) India's unity in diversity
 - b) Say NO to drugs
 - c) Each one teach one
 - d) Respect Women

12½+12½=25

4. Choose any **one** of the following themes and prepare a TV documentary. (Refer to 3.6 of Block 4 of your course for the format).
 - a) Keep your city clean
 - b) Dowry deaths
 - c) Film award ceremony

25

DCE – 5
Assignment
(Writing Poetry)

Programme Code:
DCE Assignment Code: DCE5/TMA/2015-16
Maximum Marks: 100

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

MORE ABOUT PEOPLE By Ogden Nash

When people aren't asking questions
They're making suggestions
And when they're not doing one of those
They're either looking over your shoulder or stepping on your toes
And then as if that weren't enough to annoy you
They employ you.
Anybody at leisure
Incurs everybody's displeasure.
It seems to be very irking
To people at work to see other people not working,
So they tell you that work is wonderful medicine,
Just look at Firestone and Ford and Edison,
And they lecture you till they're out of breath or something
And then if you don't succumb they starve you to death or something.
All of which results in a nasty quirk:
That if you don't want to work you have to work to earn enough money so that you won't
have to work.

- (i) There is a repetition of 'or something' in the poem. See if you can come up with another word that rhymes with 'something' and which would fit in with the meaning of the line. 5
- (ii) When certain events lead to a result that leads back to the same events again, it is a sequence that is known as a vicious circle. Pick out an example of this from the poem and then write one of your own. 5
- (iii) Rewrite the poem in the form of a short prose paragraph. 5
- (iv) What is the tone of the poem? What features indicate the poet's attitude? 5
2. Write a short poem with an open ending. 20
3. Write two verses on the theme of motherhood using simile and metaphor. 20
4. What do you understand by 'free verse'? Write a stanza on any theme in free verse and then re write it with rhyme. 20
5. (i) What are the images that spring to your mind when you think of schooldays? Using those images, write a poem for children. 10
- (ii) How can one use colloquialisms in writing poetry? Write a poem using colloquialisms and the local contexts of your region. 10