

**DCE**

**ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET**  
**Assignment for Courses 1,2,3,4 & 5**

**Assignment**  
**(for July, 2014 & January, 2015 Sessions)**

**Diploma in Creative Writing in English**  
**(DCE)**



**School of Humanities**  
**Indira Gandhi National Open University**  
**Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068**

# Diploma in Creative Writing in English

## Dear Student,

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 & 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 & 5.

Following is the calendar for submission of assignments:

- Course 1
- Course 2
- Course 3
- Course 4
- Course 5

**Submission of Assignment:** The completed assignment should be sent to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you by **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 (for July, 2014 session) and 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 (for January, 2015 session)**. Please read the instructions given in the Programme Guide.

All the assignments must be submitted on or before the date set.

All assignments pertaining to any Course must be submitted in one batch. **No place meal submission acceptable.**

In case you are not able to keep this deadline in the first year, say 2013, you should submit your assignments in 2014, 2015 or 2016 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 enrollment. Irrespective of your year of enrollment, **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.

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Enrollment No.: .....

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Course Title:.....

Assignment No.:.....

Study Centre:.....

Date:.....

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### **PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABOVE FORMAT STRICTLY TO FACILITATE EVALUATION AND TO AVOID DELY.**

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 cm's 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 examination.*

## DCE-1

### Assignment (General Principles of Writing)

Programme Code: DCE  
Assignment Code: DCE1/TMA/2014-15  
Maximum Marks: 100

1. What is the significance of teaching to write creatively? Are writers born with an urge to write or they acquire the skills through perspiration? What prompts you to be a writer? (500 words) (20)
2. Write down in the diary-writing mode an incident that has inspired you to write. (500 words) (20)
3. How important is Language in writing? What features in writing help in comprehending the meaning that is conveyed? (300 words) (10)
4. Recalling your varied experiences, write the opening lines of a story and also provide possible ending of the story. (300 words) (20)
5. Read the following stanza from the poem *Water Picture* by May Swenson and answer questions that follow:

In the pond in the park  
all things are doubled:  
Long buildings hang and  
wriggle gently. Chimneys  
are bent legs bouncing  
on clouds below. A flag  
wags like a fishhook  
down there in the sky.

The arched stone bridge  
is an eye, with underlid  
in the water. In its lens  
dip crinkled heads with hats  
that don't fall off. Dogs go by,  
barking on their backs.  
A baby, taken to feed the  
ducks, dangles upside down  
a pink balloon for a buoy.

Treetops deploy a haze of  
cherry bloom for roots,  
where birds coast belly up  
in the glass bowl of a hill;  
from its bottom a bunch  
of peanut- munching children  
is suspended by their  
sneakers, waveringly.

A swan, with twin necks  
forming the figure three,  
steers between two dimpled  
towers doubled. Fondly  
hissing, she kisses herself,  
and all the scene is troubled:  
water-windows splinter,  
tree-limbs tangle, the bridge  
folds like a fan.

- (i) The objects reflected in the water are compared with different things. Note down the comparisons. (5)
  - (ii) Discuss the use of literary devices in the poem. (5)
  - (iii) Develop a prose piece around the same theme. (8)
  - (iv) Comment on the significance of the title Water Picture. (2)
6. Write a passage of 100 words that has grammatical and editing errors. Show correction and then write the corrected version. (10)

## DCE-2

### Assignment (Feature Articles)

Programme Code: DCE  
Assignment Code: DCE2/TMA/2014-15  
Maximum Marks: 100

1. Write an article for a magazine on a topic of your choice. (1000 words) (25)
  
2. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in not more than 250 words each: (10X2 = 20)
  - (i) Role of pictures in writing.
  - (ii) Writing for women.
  - (iii) Interviewing rural women.
  
3. Write down 10 questions you would wish to ask a celebrity of your choice. You must also write their answers. (20)
  
4. Write the review of a novel or a non-fiction book you have read. (500-1000 words) (25)
  
5. Discuss the processes involved in writing a feature and its finished form before sending it to press. (300 words) (10)

**DCE – 3**  
**SHORT STORY**

**Max. Marks: 100**  
**Programme: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE 3/TMA/1/2014-2015**

1. Given below is a story idea. Your task is to build a story around it. You can choose to make your story serious or comic, depending on whichever you think you can handle better:

The protagonist of your story has been invited by the boss for dinner. Naturally your protagonist wants to create a good impression. However, the spouse has a tendency to drink too much and then talk too much. Your story should revolve around this situation, and reach a plausible conclusion.

25

2. Given here are 12 random elements. Choose any 5 and include them in a story for children. First list out your five choices, then create a story in which all five of them play some role. A little bit of imagination will help you to develop an interesting plot. Remember, you are being trained to write creatively, so let your creative impulse soar. The 15 things are as follows:

An old enemy/Identical twins/A party invitation/A locked room/Spiders/A fake illness/ A scream/  
An unopened letter/ A stranger/ A lie that gets bigger/ A diary/ A stolen ring.

25

3. You are awakened from your midnight sleep by your dog barking frantically near the front door. Rushing to your window you look out, only to be confronted by the dark empty street with no movement. You unlock the main door and open it only to see the most horrifying/astonishing scenario that you have ever witnessed.....

Now develop this scenario into an open ended story, keeping in mind whether you want to develop it into a “horrifying” or an “astonishing” situation.

25

4. For the following question, remember that your writing training has begun and your creative writing powers are being developed by making you think of character, atmosphere, plot and narration.

Your character’s car breaks down at night while on a trip to a new place. Fortunately there is a small hotel nearby and the character decides to stay there. The hotel seems creepy (why is it creepy? Create the atmosphere). The character is taken up to his room which is even creepier, by the manager who seems very menacing. (Why is the room creepier? Create the setting. Why is the manager menacing? Describe him). Your character decides to stay on, as he has no choice. He locks his room from inside and prepares to sleep.

Now depending on how you imagine it to be –this could develop into a ghost story/crime/detective/psychological drama or even a comedy! So let your imagination go wild and let your creative juices flow, and write out this story.

25

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

**Max. Marks: 100**  
**Programme: DCE**

**Assignment Code: DCE 4/ TMA/1/2014-2015**

1. Write a **Radio** play illustrating the idea contained in **one** of the following:
  - a) People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
  - b) Nothing ventured nothing gained.
  - c) The grass is always greener on the other side.

20
  
2. Radio advertising is all about getting your message across to the listeners effectively, with impact and in a short amount of time. Visual aspect does not exist in this medium so creative, catchy jingles, punchlines and content add an instant: “grab” to keep the listeners hooked. Keeping this in mind script **two** radio advertisements from the following, suggesting sound effects, dialogues, narration and music wherever required.
  - a) A soft drink
  - b) A new shopping centre
  - c) A new cell phone
  - d) A new tonic

10x2=20
  
3. Write Public Service Announcements to be relayed over **TV** on any **two** of the following topics. Suggest visuals, SFX and dialogues wherever necessary:
  - a) Anger Management
  - b) Cancer Prevention
  - c) Do not use cell phones while driving.

10x2=20
  
4. Choose your favourite fairy tale or a story from the Panchtantra. Now adopt it as a script for TV, to be shown to children. Write out the screenplay as is shown on page 38 of Block 4 of this course. So you would divide your page into 4 columns and write under the following heads: Visual/narration/SFX/dialogues

20
  
5. Choose any **one** of the following themes and prepare either a **Radio or TV** documentary:
  - a) Child Abuse
  - b) Each One Teach One
  - c) Unauthorized Buildings

20



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

**Programme Code: DCE**  
**Assignment Code: DCE5/TMA/2014-15**  
**Maximum Marks: 100**

1. Read the following poem Composed upon Westminster Bridge by William Wordsworth and answer the questions that follow:

Earth has not anything to show more fair:  
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty:  
This city now doth like a garment wear  
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theaters, and temples lie  
open unto the fields, and to the sky  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
Never did sun more beautiful steep  
In his first splendour valley, rock or hill;  
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!  
The river glideth at his own sweet will.  
Dear God! The very houses seem asleep;  
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

- (i) Summarise the poem in your own words. (300 words) **(10)**
- (ii) What figures of speech has the poet used in the poem? Answer with examples. **(10)**
2. Write 2 verses that have the potential to be developed and 2 verses that are static verses. **(20)**
3. Hyperbole refers to overstatements or exaggeration but with the purpose of expressing the truth. Write around 6-10 lines of a poem using this device. **(20)**
4. (i) Select any statement that holds meaning for you and write down any images that the statement generates in your mind. **(10)**
- (ii) Now write a prose paragraph using the same images so that the statement becomes central to the account. **(10)**
- (iii) Now rewrite your prose account in verse form. **(10)**
5. Write a nursery rhyme which is lyrical and rhyming. **(10)**