

**Master's Degree Programme in English
(MEG)**

ASSIGNMENT

(For July 2018 and January 2019 Sessions)

Compulsory Courses of M.A. English – 1st Year)

British Poetry-01

British Drama-02

British Novel-03

Aspects of Language-04



School of Humanities

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068

Master's Degree in English

Assignments for 1st year Compulsory Courses

Course Code: MEG

Dear Student,

This booklet contains all the assignments of the Compulsory Courses of MA (English) 1st year namely:

MEG-01	British Poetry
MEG-02	British Drama
MEG-03	British Novel
MEG-04	Aspects of Language

Each course will comprise one assignment of 100 marks. This assignment will be tutor marked.

Aims: The TMAs are concerned mainly with assessing your application and understanding of the course material. You are not required to reproduce chunks of information from the course material but to use the skills of critical appreciation that you may have acquired during the course of study. These assignments aim to teach as well as to assess your performance. Please ensure that you read the texts and the accompanying study guides that we have prepared for you. **Let me repeat: you must read all the texts 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 assignment please read the following instructions carefully.

- 1 Read the detailed instructions about the assignments given in the Programme Guide for Elective Courses.
- 2 Write your roll no. name, full address and date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
- 3 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:

ROLL NO.
NAME:
ADDRESS:.....
.....

COURSE TITLE:
ASSIGNMENT NO.
STUDY CENTRE: DATE:

- 4 Use only foolscap size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
- 5 Write the relevant question number with each answer.
- 6 You should write in your own handwriting.
- 7 **Submission:** The completed assignment should be sent to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you by **31 March 2019** (if enrolled in the July 2018 session) and **30th Sept, 2019** (if enrolled in the January 2019 session).

MEG – 01: BRITISH POETRY
ASSIGNMENT 2018 - 2019
(Based on Blocks (1 - 10))

Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions.

1. Explain any **two** of the excerpts of poems given below with reference to their context:
10 X 2 = 20

(i) *Oh there is blessing in this gentle breeze,
A visitant that while it fans my cheek
Doth seem half conscious of the joy it brings
From the green fields, and from yon azure sky.*

(ii) *We sat grown quiet at the name of love;
We saw the last embers of daylight die,
And in the trembling blue-green of the sky
A moon, worn as if it had been a shell
Washed by time's waters as they rose and fell
About the stars and broke in days and years.*

(iii) *All humane things are subject to decay,
And, when Fate summons, Monarchs must obey:*

(iv) *And thereupon
That beautiful mild woman for whose sake
There's many a one shall find out all heartache
On finding that her voice is sweet and low
Replied, 'To be born woman is to know,
Although they do not talk of it at school-
That we must labour to be beautiful.'*

(v) *Tyger! Tyger! burning bright,
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry*

(vi) *I wonder by my troth, what thou, and I
Did, till we lov'd? were we not wean'd till
then?
But suck'd on countrey pleasures, childishly?
Or snorted we i' the seaven sleepers den?*

2. What are the main features of metaphysical poetry? Give examples from the poets and the poems in the course. 20

3. Does the Dejection: An Ode contain any elements of what comprises Romanticism? Discuss with examples. 20

4. Write an essay on Dylan Thomas's use of images in his poetry? 20

5. Would you consider Sylvia Plath's *Daddy* to be an expression against the voice of patriarchy? Comment critically. 20

MEG – 02: BRITISH DRAMA
ASSIGNMENT 2018 - 2019
(Based on Blocks (1 - 09))

Course Code: MEG-02
Assignment Code: MEG-02/TMA/2018-19
Max. Marks: 100

Answer any **five** questions

1. Would you call the character of Dr. Faustus 'heroic'? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
2. Discuss the play within the play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (20)
3. What is the importance of Hamlet's soliloquies in the play? (20)
4. Can *The Alchemist* be considered an allegory? Give a reasoned answer. (20)
5. What are the comic strategies used in *The Playboy of the Western World*? (20)
6. Can Eliza in *Pygmalion* be termed as feminist? Elaborate. (20)
7. Discuss *Murder in the Cathedral* as a poetic drama. (20)
8. Comment on the title of *Look Back in Anger*. (20)
9. Discuss *Waiting for Godot* from the perspective of the theatre of the Absurd. (20)

MEG – 03: BRITISH NOVEL
ASSIGNMENT 2018 - 2019
(Based on Blocks (1 - 9))

Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions.

1. Trace the evolution of the British Novel during the nineteenth century. 20

2. Would it be correct to say that Heathcliff is ‘dark’ and ‘evil’? Discuss in the light of your understanding and analysis of *Wuthering Heights*. 20

3. Would you consider the novel *Great Expectations* to be the story of Pip’s education in life? 20

4. Examine Dorothea’s ideas of marriage in *Middlemarch*? 20

5. Would you agree that the major characters of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* reflect conflicting aspects of morality? 20

MEG – 04: ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE
ASSIGNMENT 2018 - 2019
(Based on Blocks (1 - 9))

Course Code: MEG-04/TMA/2018-19

Max. Marks: 100

- 1 Write short notes on the following: 20
 - i Sociolinguistics and sociology of language
 - ii Language as an act of identity
 - iii The notion of a Speech Community
 - iv Types of Negation and its interaction with Scope
- 2 Why is language planning essential in any country? What are the factors which influence language planning? 20
- 3 How is inflectional morphology different from derivational morphology? Discuss, give examples. 20
- 4 What is the difference between the Generativists and Structuralist? In what way have the Generative insights into language contributed to linguistic theory? 20
- 5 Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow: 20

My Father's Hands

My father's hands
are beautiful, they can
fix this moth's wing and make
machines
they can mend the fuse when the
world
goes dark
can make light swim and walls jump
in around me again
I can see my mother's face again.

You must take good care of them with
your finest creams
never let the nails break or
skin go dry, only those wise fingers
know how to fix the thing
that makes my doll cry and they make
small animals out of clay.

Never let blades or anything sharp
and hurtful near them
don't let bees or nettles
sting them don't let fire or burning oil
try them

My father's hands are beautiful, take
good care of them.

By Jeni Cowzyn

- i Pick out the verbs that describe what the father's hand do. 2
- ii What do you usually fix? What is fixed in line 3? What does this tell us about the father? 3
- iii What usually 'goes dark' (line 6)? What do you think the speaker means when she says 'the world goes dark'? How can the father 'mend the fuse'? 3
- iv 'can make light swim and walls jump in around me again' (lines 7-8). What do you think this sentence means? What does it tell us about the father in the poem? 3
- v What does the speaker mean when she says 'I can see my mother's face again' (line 9)? What do you think has happened to the mother? 3
- vi Many capital letters and full stops have not been used. What is the effect of leaving them out the poem? 2
- vii What kind of a person is the father in the poem? Write a short passage on him. How does his daughter feel about him? 4