

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

**ASSIGNMENT  
(For July 2013 and January 2014 Sessions)**

**Compulsory Courses of M.A. English – 1<sup>st</sup> 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) 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

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ROLL NO. ....  
NAME: .....  
ADDRESS:.....  
.....  
COURSE TITLE: .....  
ASSIGNMENT NO. ....  
STUDY CENTRE: ..... DATE: .....

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- 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<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 (for July 2013 Session) and 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014 (for January 2014 Session)**. Please read the instructions given in the Programme Guide.

Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering the questions.

### GUIDELINES FOR TMA

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1. **Planning:** Read the assignment carefully. 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 units.
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 summarize 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;
- d) 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 emphasize.

You may be aware that **you need to submit your assignment 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!

**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.**

## MEG-01: BRITISH POETRY ASSIGNMENT

Programme: MEG

Max. Marks: 100

Ast code: MEG-01/TMA/2013-14

Dear Student,

In a conventional class your teacher would have discussed your assignment with you, pointed out what made a good essay and what a bad one. We have done exactly the same thing in Unit 52 of the *British Poetry* (MEG-01) course. Read it carefully and discuss it with your counselor and class-fellows at the Study Centre. Thereafter decide upon a topic, i.e. a period or literary group in the history of British poetry. You may, if you wish, select a topic from the list given in **52.2.1 (p. 70) in Block X**.

Alternatively, you could write on a British poet of your choice. You may write on a poet discussed in the units, i.e. on the syllabus, or even a poet we have not discussed in detail such as Robert Burns, G.M. Hopkins, R.S. Thomas, Ted Hughes or Seamus Heaney. You may have heard some of our lectures on The Movement, Philip Larkin and Ted Hughes on the EduSat. It may now be available on e-gyankosh on [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in). You have yet another choice. Write an essay on a famous poem in English literature. Having decided upon your topic, do your research and then **read section 36.5 in Unit 36 in Block VIII for a model essay and a format for presentation**. You may learn how to present your term paper/sessional essay from 36.5. You must not quote from unacknowledged sources.

To sum up, write an essay on a period or a literary group in British poetry or a British poet or a British poem in about 3000 words on the model provided in 36.5 (in unit 36). The full marks for the essay is 100.

We look forward to reading your sessional essay.  
Sincerely yours

Teacher

## MEG-02: BRITISH DRAMA

### ASSIGNMENT (Based on Blocks 1-9)

Programme Code: MEG  
Assignment Code: MEG-02/2013-2014

Maximum Marks: 100

Answer the following questions in 300 words each.

1. Discuss the plot of Dr. Faustus. (10)
2. How would you rate *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as a comedy? (10)
3. Comment on the indecisive bent of mind of Hamlet. (10)
4. What features make *Alchemist* an allegory? (10)
5. How is *Playboy* relevant today? (10)
6. Comment on *Pygmalion* as a Shawian play. (10)
7. What features make *Murder in the Cathedral* a poetic drama? (10)
8. Comment on the title of *Waiting for Godot*. (10)
9. Discuss the theme of *Look Back in Anger*. (10)
10. From among the plays you have read choose any **one** that you have liked giving reasons for your choice. (10)

**MEG - 03: BRITISH NOVEL**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2013- 2014**  
**(Based on Blocks (1 - 9))**

**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions.**

1. Trace the development of modern English fiction with specific reference to the major shifts in literary perspective during the nineteenth century. 20
  
2. Would it be correct to say that in *Tom Jones*, **Fielding** considers marriage to be a mere socio- economic arrangement under which women feel continuously suppressed? Discuss. 20
  
3. Discuss the metaphor of the web in the context of events and people relating to Bulstrode in *Middlemarch*. 20
  
4. Suggest the political and artistic implications of placing the conclusion of *A Passage to India* within the Orientalist paradigm. 20
  
5. How does *Realism* find expression in British fiction of the 1960s? Base your answer on your understanding of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. 20

## MEG-04: ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MEG-04/TMA/2013-14

Max. Marks: 100

**All questions are compulsory**

- 1 Write short notes on any **two** of the following. 20
  - i Competence and performance
  - ii Langue and parole
  - iii Conversion as a morphological device
  - iv Falling tone and rising tone
  
- 2 Discuss briefly the history of language planning showing clearly the focus at each stage. 20
  
- 3 Give your own definition of language. What are the characteristics of human communication and how is it different from animal communication? 20
  
- 4 What is foregrounding? Discuss this in terms of deviant examples from your reading of literature. Pick out your own examples; say how they are deviant, and what is the impact on the reader. 20
  
- 5 What is the difference between pure vowels and diphthongs? How do you describe both? 20