



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University
Prof. G. Ram Reddy Marg, Road No. 46, Jubilee Hills,
Hyderabad 500 033**

Instructions to the students of the PG programme in English (2019-2020)

Dear Student,

Welcome to the MA English programme. We are glad you have taken a decision to join this programme. Studying on your own through the distance mode can be very challenging. You must prepare for it by setting aside some time for reading the prescribed books and the course material on a regular basis everyday. As a student of literature, you ought to read the original works of great writers (primary texts) in addition to the course material prescribed for study in order to make the most of this programme.

As you know, assignments are a compulsory component of this programme and working through them will give you practice in writing answers as well as motivate you to study further. This note includes the assignments you have to submit for this academic year.

1. Given below are ten assignments (two for each of the courses) of the MA (previous) programme in English for the academic year 2019-2020.
2. The assignments are compulsory and carry a weightage of 30% marks in your final assessment. You have to answer two assignments per course of 15 marks each and submit them to the head of the study centre for evaluation. You have to submit the assignments on or before the schedule, which is mentioned below. Each assignment carries 15 marks. You are required to secure a minimum pass mark of 6 out of 15 marks (i.e. 40%) in each of the assignments in order to become eligible for award of the degree. If you fail to secure a minimum pass mark of 12 out of 30 marks in both the assignments put together for each course, you will have to re-submit the assignments before the year-end examination.
3. If, for some unavoidable reason, you are unable to submit an assignment or do not get pass marks in it, you are allowed to re-submit the assignment. You will be allowed to re-submit the assignments only once in an academic year. If you again fail to secure the required minimum marks in the re-submitted assignments, you have to attempt the assignments of the fresh batch of the next academic year and submit them. Your final results will not be declared until you fulfil the requirements of assignment submission and secure a pass in all the papers of the year-end examination.

4. While answering the assignments you are required to follow the instructions given below:

- Use A-4 size paper. Leave wide margins on both sides for the comments of evaluators.
- Write your name, admission number, name of the study centre, programme code, course title and number, and assignment number, clearly on page one at the top right hand corner.
- Answer the assignments in your own handwriting. Typed, photocopied, computer-printed answers shall not be accepted.
- Copying or resorting to malpractice shall attract penal measures up to debarring you from writing the year-end examination.
- Retain a photocopy of your assignments for your personal record with the date of submission entered on it.
- Don't copy answers from the course material. Answer in your own words and refer to standard journals and texts for supporting and illustrating your points of description.
- Don't submit printed articles as your answer to the assignments.
- Write each assignment in about 500 words.

The schedules for submission of assignments for all the five courses I, II, III, IV, V are as follows:

1st assignment – on or before

2nd assignment – on or before

You must strictly adhere to the schedules for submission of assignments. No special permission for extension of submission deadlines will be entertained.

Please feel free to contact the Department of English for any further clarification regarding the programme.

Good luck

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Faculty of Arts

M. A. (English) – (P) 2019-2020

Course I: Survey of British Literature

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Write an Essay on the Renaissance Drama.
- 2) Write a short note on
 - a) the Major characters of King Lear
 - b) Lear's Condition in Act 2

Section B

- 3) Write a note on Bacon's style giving illustrations from the texts you have studied?
- 4) Critically analyse the character of Satan.

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Critically evaluate John Keats as a Romantic poet?

- 2) Write a short note on
 - a) the theme of *Hard Times*
 - b) W. B. Yeats' concept of history and culture

Section B

- 3) Critically analyse *Sons and Lovers* as a psychological novel.

- 4) Write a short note on
 - a) the tragedy of Prufrock
 - b) *Waiting for Godot* as an Absurd Play



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Course II: American Literature

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Discuss three recurring themes in American literature and show their inter-relationships.
- 2) Write a note on the literary form of native American Literature

Section B

- 3) Write a short note on
 - a) "realism"
 - b) "naturalism".
- 4) Examine the themes and theories of Poe in relation to his "Tales".

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) What is the theme of *Moby Dick*?

- 2) Why is *Huckleberry Finn* considered as a great classic?

Section B

- 3) Write a brief note on
 - a) Longfellow's poetry
 - b) main ideas of Emerson's philosophy

- 4) Consider Albee's *The American Dream* as a satire on contemporary American Society and its values.



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Course III: English in India

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) List some of the features found in the written English during the initial stages of English in India.
- 2) Explain the circumstances that led to the establishment of universities in India.

Section B

- 3) Discuss the impact of National Education Movement of 1920-22 on English education in India
- 4) What is the result of Wood's Despatch

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Trace the early nationalistic thought in India

- 2) Discuss the recommendations of the Kothari Commission with reference to English in India.

Section B

- 3) What is the connection between English and Information Technology?

- 4) What are the roles assigned to English in contemporary India?



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Course IV: The Growth and Structure of English

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) State the major changes that have taken place in the English language with regard to spelling and grammar.
- 2) Illustrate the use of language study.

Section B

- 3) Describe and illustrate the three different functions of intonation in English.
- 4) Write a note on borrowings from other foreign languages (Greek, Latin, French & Scandinavian) in English vocabulary.

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Describe the articulation of all the central vowels of English and draw suitable diagrams to illustrate.
- 2) Discuss the different approaches to the study of meaning.

Section B

- 3) Discuss and illustrate
 - a) denotation and connotation
 - b) change of meaning
- 4) Assign a functional label to each of the underlined phrases in the following sentences:
 - i) She touched it softly.
 - ii) They chose him their leader.
 - iii) We blamed her for everything.
 - iv) I bought her a nice gift.
 - v) They lived happily everafter.



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Course V: Literary Criticism

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Discuss Aristotle's views on diction and style.
- 2) Assess the contribution of Wordsworth to the Romantic criticism.

Section B

- 3) Critically assess the contribution of Arnold as a critic.
- 4) What is a "historical sense," according to Eliot.

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Discuss the merits and demerits of formalistic criticism.

- 2) What are the literary influences on Freud?

Section B

- 3) Critically comment on Gynocriticism.

- 4) Explain the terms *langage*, *langue* and *parole*.



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Course VI: Indian Writing in English

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Write a short note on the importance of Soob Row's Report..
- 2) Write an short note on the context behind Macaulay's "Minute".

Section B

- 3) Discuss Gurajada's play as a Comedy of Manners.
- 4) Write an essay on how the *Train to Pakistan* provides a social history of Partition.

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Write an essay analyzing "Lihaaf" as the growing up story of a girl-child.

- 2) Write a brief note on the evolution of the woman's self in *My Story*.

Section B

- 3) How does Anita Desai deal with the issue of the personal and political.

- 4) Write an essay on how Hoshang Merchant's poems thematize writing.



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Course VII: Aspects of Language and their Relation to Literature

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Define
 - a) dialectic
 - b) the purpose of rhetoric

- 2) Comment briefly on
 - a) Language as Social Identity
 - b) Ambiguity as Literary Language

Section B

- 3) Write a short note on
 - a) Alliteration & onomatopoeia
 - b) Imagery and Symbolism

- 4) Mention any two forms of prose as a literary language and comment on them.

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Explain the theoretical base of Structuralism.
- 2) How does Derrida inaugurate post-structuralism?

Section B

- 3) Write a short note on
 - a) Form and technique of a short story
 - b) Form and technique of a novel
- 4) Briefly comment upon
 - a) *vakrokti*
 - b) influence of *dhvani* theory in Indian poetry



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Course VIII: English in Use: The Abilities of Individuals

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Explain how signs help people to communicate.
- 2) Write a note on the uses of proficiency scales.

Section B

- 3) Write a note on the Word Level Strategies
- 4) Describe the structure of two types of texts that you have studied?

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Discuss some of the features of good writing.

- 2) What roles do proficiency in grammar and vocabulary play in the process of writing?

Section B

- 3) Write a short note on
 - a) writer's purpose
 - b) formative and summative assessment

- 4) What are the skills involved in speaking and listening.



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Course IX: Indian English Literature

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Discuss Derozio's poetry of social change.
- 2) Is India the 'great house' in Ramanujan's poem?

Section B

- 3) What are the three themes connected to the theme of individualism in Indian women's poetry?
- 4) Mention the three ways through which Diaspora literature the exile's consciousness in three ways.

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) What aspects of the Indian state and politics come in for attention in Mistry's *A Fine Balance*?
- 2) Mention the ways in which history is worked through in the postmodern Indian novel.

Section B

- 3) Write an essay on mysticism in Aurobindo's poetry.
- 4) How does 'nation' figure as a theme in early Indian fiction in English?



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Course X: English Language Teaching in India

ASSIGNMENT – 1

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) What are the major approaches to English language teaching that have been followed in India?
- 2) Write a critical essay on the roles of English teachers in the language class room.

Section B

- 3) Write a short note on
 - a) BICS
 - b) CALP
- 4) What is the difference between exercise, activity and task?

ASSIGNMENT – 2

Answer any two questions selecting one from each section

Marks: 15

Section A

- 1) Why is it essential for a teacher to be informed about the language system and the principles of language learning?

- 2) Explain how theoretical positions have had an impact on the practices of teaching English in schools and colleges in India.

Section B

- 3) Write a short note on
 - a) different types of language tests.
 - b) acculturation

- 4) Write a short note on
 - a) B F Skinner's concept of language as verbal behaviour
 - b) the features of the communicative language classrooms.