

(For Roll numbers starting with 19)
THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD 500 007



SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
M.A. ENGLISH – PART I

COURSE IV: BRITISH LITERATURE-II

(This set of assignments has 2 printed pages.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Each Assignment is based on one Block of the course material; so read the Block, and the texts discussed in it, before attempting the Assignments for that Block.
2. Answers should be appropriately and adequately illustrated with references to the texts studied in the Units. Answers lifted verbatim from the course material, the internet, or other sources will be awarded poor grades.

Assignment 1
(Based on Block I)

ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).

1. Explain a few characteristic features of Victorian Poetry that clearly distinguish it from the Romantic Poetry.
2. Talk about the Imagery and Synesthesia in John Keats' poetry with special reference to his *Ode to a Nightingale*.
3. Discuss P.B Shelley's *Ozymandias* as a metaphor for the ephemerality and mutability of power.
4. Identify the characteristic features that mark the writings of the Victorian Era. How do you think the major socio-political developments of the age permeated into the literary/creative space?
5. "Matthew Arnold's *The Scholar Gipsy* does not observe the typical conventions of a pastoral elegy yet it embodies the spirit of the form".
Talk about the above statement with reference to Arnold's poem, its tone, and setting.

**ASSIGNMENT 2
(BASED ON BLOCK II)**

ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).

1. Write a note on the socio-cultural factors that determined the texture of the novel in the nineteenth century.
2. Pick any Jane Austen novel of your choice and talk about the feminist issues that pervade through her narratives.
3. Talk about the theme of revenge and repetition in Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights*.
4. "Now, what I want is, Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life." Discuss Charles Dickens' novel *Hard Times* as a critique of the Utilitarian philosophy.
5. Judith Weissmann says of Tess, "As a character, she rises above her fellow heroines to full tragic consciousness of the wrong that has been done her." Reflect upon the statement with reference to Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

**ASSIGNMENT 3
(BASED ON BLOCK III and IV)**

ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).

1. Read units I and II of Block III and reflect upon the features that characterized Modernist Poetry. Also, talk about decadence in poetry and how the modernists reacted to it.
2. Write a critical note on Imagism as a poetic movement.
3. Briefly discuss the various identifying features of Absurd drama with special reference to the works of Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, and Eugene Ionesco.
4. Elaborate on the theme of suffering and transcendence in T. S Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*.
5. Discuss the major themes of G. B Shaw's *Arms and the Man*.

**ASSIGNMENT 4
(BASED ON BLOCK V)**

ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).

1. How do you explain the difference between Modernism and Postmodernism in the literature and arts of 20th century?
2. What are some of the salient features of Postmodern novels? Talk about it in context of any Postmodern novel of your choice.
3. Why does Joseph Conrad employ multiple narrators in his novel *Lord Jim*? Discuss.
4. Compare and contrast the female characters in D. H Lawrence's *The Rainbow*. How do you see these women evolve over generations?
5. Write a note on James Joyce's *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* as a *Künstlerroman* of an artist-hero.

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