

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD 500 007



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

COURSE VI: POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURES IN ENGLISH
ASSIGNMENTS (2020 – 2021)
(This set of assignments has 2 printed pages.)

Assignment I
(Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures)

1. Do you think that Postcolonial literatures do represent unheard, suppressed and marginalized voices for us? What is your understanding after reading the material?
2. What is M.K. Gandhi's contribution to the intellectual ideas that fostered contemporary Postcolonial Theory?
3. Comment on Frantz Fanon's position on the colonized person's craving for the colonizer's language. Use the essay in the Appendix to answer.
4. How does Gayatri Chakrabarti Spivak frame her arguments for Postcolonial Studies?

Assignment II
(Writings of the Colonizers)

1. Explain what Macaulay means by the term "imperishable Empire" in his speech.
2. Do you think Flora Annie Steele makes a correct assessment of the nature of Indian servants in the household?
3. The general understanding of the rulers was that the colonized will not be able to represent themselves. Do you agree with this view? Discuss with examples from the texts you have read.
4. What are the various ways in which you can interpret E.M. Forster's novel *A Passage to India*. Which approach do you prefer personally?

**Assignment III
(Postcolonial Writings – I)**

1. What is Chinua Achebe's distinctive contribution to the understanding of the African world in his novel *Things Fall Apart*? Discuss with reference to the representation of the tribal world in the novel.
2. "We become what we see of ourselves in the eyes of others."
Comment on the characterization of Ralph Singh as the protagonist and narrator of V.S. Naipaul's *The Mimic Men*.

**Assignment IV
(Postcolonial Writings – II)**

1. "I learnt of human needs, frailties, cruelties and joys ... I have many teachers."
Analyze the quality of "innocence" in the narrator of Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *Cracking India*. Support your answer with relevant quotations from the text.
2. "We were German, English, Hungarian, African – all of us insignificant to them." Comment on the various characters depicted in Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* with suitable references from the text.

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