

**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. Cite and explain instances of Nature images used by Wordsworth in his poem *Ode: Intimations of Immortality*.
3. Discuss P.B Shelley's *Ozymandias* as a metaphor for the ephemerality and mutability of power.
4. Identify the major conflicts that marked the Victorian Age.
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. How is the novel an indictment of the class system of English society near the end of the 19th Century?
2. Pick any Jane Austen novel of your choice and talk about the feminist issues that pervade through her narratives.
3. Attempt a comparative analysis of difference in the narrative technique adopted by the two major narrators of *Wuthering Heights*, Nelly and Lockwood.
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. What is the role of fate in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*? What does Hardy mean by ‘fate’? To what extent does Tess’s tragedy hinge on improbable coincidence?

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

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. Examine the role of W.H Auden and Dylan Thomas’s poetry during the Second World War and its aftermath, particularly with regards to their themes and attitude. Cite at least one poem by each as example.
4. Critically analyse the title of T.S Eliot’s *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* and talk about the poem’s themes.
5. Write a critical note on the Movement and the Group poetry.

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

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

1. Write a note on the Realist drama of late 19th and early 20th century. Discuss how the Absurdist and Existentialist drama and Theatre of Cruelty were a reaction against it.

2. Briefly discuss the various identifying features of Absurd drama with special reference to the works of Harold Pinter and Eugene Ionesco.
3. Do you think the sea is also one of the living characters in J.M Synge's *Riders to the Sea*? Explain in your own words.
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 5
(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 one 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 comparing *Lord Jim* and *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* with regard to their structure and technique.