

**THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD 500 007**



**SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
M.A. English
COURSE IV BRITISH LITERATURE — II
(This set of assignments is printed on 2 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 suitably and adequately illustrated with references to the texts discussed in the Blocks.
3. Answers copied verbatim from the course material, the internet, or other sources, will be awarded poor grades.
4. Acknowledge any sources that you refer to, either by citing them within your answers, or by listing them at the end.

**Assignment 1
(Based on Block I)**

Attempt all of the following questions (around 500-750 words each).

1. How do Romantic poets visualize the role played by creative imagination in transforming the individual of Society?
2. In Unit 2, Section 2.2.2.1, you saw how Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner" uses extensive Christian symbolism. Quote lines from the poem that you think illustrate this.
3. Cite and explain instances of Nature images used by Wordsworths in "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
4. Explain two salient features of Victorian poetry that clearly distinguish it from the poetry of the preceding age.
5. The dramatic monologue is often considered the single most important contribution of the Victorian poets. Compare Browning's use of the form in "My Last Duchess" with Arnold's use of it in "Dover Beach".

**Assignment 2
(Based on Block II)**

Attempt all of the following questions (around 500-750 words each).

1. What do you understand by the term 'Sensation novel'? Which of the prescribed novels displays the characteristics of this genre?
2. Can Jane Austen be considered a proto-feminist writer? Discuss with reference to the issues that she takes up in her novel *Emma*.
3. In Unit 3 you were introduced to the traditional Humanist as well as some recent socio-political readings (Marxist and Feminist) of Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering*

Heights. What major change do you notice between the Humanist and the socio-political interpretations?

4. As you learnt in Unit 4, Charles Dickens's novel *Hard Times* is set against the background of the Industrial Revolution, increasing mechanization of life, class exploitation and a utilitarian philosophy that justified the state of affairs. Demonstrate how the novel functions as a critique of this social and intellectual scenario.
5. Comment on the characterization of Tess in Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

Assignment 3
(Based on Block 3)

Attempt all of the following questions (around 500-750 words each).

1. Explain in your own words the distinction made in the Block between the two traditions of English poetry in the 20th century, viz. (i) the native English (Unmodernist) Tradition and (ii) the Modernist Tradition.
2. Write a critical note on Dada and Surrealism.
3. Examine the role of W.H Auden and Dylan Thomas poetry, during the Second World War and its aftermath, particularly with regards to themes and attitudes. Discuss at least one poem in detail.
4. Examine the impact of T.S. Eliot or W.B. Yeats on the Modernist poetry.
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. Give an account of the major genres of 20th century drama. Discuss at least one example from each genre.
2. Explain the themes of *Murder in the Cathedral*.
3. *The Birthday Party* as an Absurd play – Discuss.
4. *Look Back in Anger* as a “problem play” – Discuss.
5. Do you think the sea is also one of the living characters in *Riders to the Sea*? Explain in your own words.

Assignment 5
(Based on Block V)

Attempt all of the following questions (around 500-750 words each).

1. Write a note on the literary and cultural back grounds to the 20th century novel.
2. Explain Lawrence's idea of the “New Women” as seen in *The Rainbow*.
3. *Ulysses* as a modernist novel - Discuss
4. Demonstrate the themes of *Lord Jim*.
5. Write a note Compare *Lord Jim* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* with regard to their structure and technique

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