

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD 500 007



SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
M.A. English Semester I

COURSE III BRITISH POETRY

(This set of assignments is printed on 4 pages.)

Instructions

- Each assignment is based on one (or more) Block(s) of the course material, as indicated at the top of each assignment. Please read the Block thoroughly before attempting the assignment based on it. Read the poems discussed in the Units along with the Unit.
- Answers in each assignment should be suitably and adequately illustrated with references to the poems discussed in the Units.
- Answers lifted verbatim from the course material, the internet, or other sources will be awarded poor grades. You may refer to these sources, but you must write in your own words and acknowledge the sources referred to in your answers.
- Proof-read your answers for spelling and grammatical errors before submitting them.
- The word limit suggested for each question is meant only to guide you. Try not to *greatly exceed* or *fall greatly below* the word limit.
- For any queries, relating to this course and its assignments, please write to: csharada@efluniversity.ac.in (Dr C. Sharada)

Assignment I
(Based on Block I and Block II)

- I. In Unit 1 of Block I you learned that the English court during the Renaissance was the arena not only of political decision-making but also of literary activity. Explain, with suitable examples, how the English court influenced the creation and reception of poetry during this age. (700-800 words)
- II. In Unit 2 of Block I, you learned about the major themes and generic forms of English Renaissance poetry. Now, based on this, read the following poem and identify the poetic form it belongs to. Explain its structure and theme. (1000 words)

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

- III. In Unit 5 of Block I, Section 5.4.4 Criticism provides an overview of the different critical perspectives on *Paradise Lost* over the ages. In the light of this, how would *you* interpret the portrayal of the crucial climax in Book IX? (Do not simply summarize the views presented in the Section; try and present your own perspective. Or make an attempt to argue for /against any one perspective.) (around 1000 words)
- IV. “The tone employed in metaphysical poetry is colloquial, conversational and intensely personal.” Explain this statement with adequate illustrations from the metaphysical poems that you have studied. Does this tone make metaphysical poetry in any way different from earlier Elizabethan love poetry? Explain. (1000 words)
- V. Explain how Dryden satirizes the notion of ‘legacy’ in *MacFlecknoe*. Support your answer with adequate textual references. (1000 words)

- VI. Read the following extract from *The Rape of the Lock*. Identify the context and say what the extract describes. Comment on the style and the images used. (750-1000 words)

And now, unveil'd, the toilet stands display'd,
Each silver vase in mystic order laid.
First, robed in white, the nymph intent adores,
With head uncover'd, the cosmetic powers.
A heav'nly image in the glass appears;
To that she bends, to that her eyes she rears.
Th' inferior priestess, at her altar's side,
Trembling begins the sacred rites of Pride.
Unnumber'd treasures ope at once, and here
The various off'rings of the world appear;
From each she nicely culls with curious toil,
And decks the goddess with the glitt'ring spoil.

Assignment II
(Based on Block III and Block IV)

Attempt all of the following questions in about 1000 -1500 words each

- I. Explain the characteristic features of Victorian poetry that clearly distinguish it from Romantic poetry.
- II. Cite and explain instances of Nature images used by Wordsworth in his poem “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”.
- III. Discuss P.B Shelley’s “Ozymandias” as a metaphor for the transient nature and mutability of power.
- IV. Discuss how the Victorian Age was marked by the world's first Industrial Revolution, political reform and social change.
- V. Consider Tennyson’s “Ulysses” as a poem that embodies the modern passion for knowledge and quest for adventure.
- VI. How does Matthew Arnold lament over the loss of spirituality and moral righteousness during the Victorian period? Discuss with reference to his poems that you have studied.

Assignment III
(Based on Block V)

- I. Who are the “Unmodern Moderns”? What was their approach and style to modern aspects and perspectives of life during the first half of the twentieth century?
(800-1000 words)
- II. Write short notes on the following: (around 500-700 words each)
- a. Symbolism
 - b. Imagism
 - c. Dadaism
 - d. Surrealism
- III. How did T.S. Eliot represent the human predicament in the modern age through his poetry? Discuss with reference to his poems that you have studied. (800-1000)
- IV. What are the major features of Movement Poetry? What are the aspects the major Movement poets reflected upon in their writings? (1000 words)
- V. What are the implications of multiculturalism for contemporary English poetry?
(800-1000 words)
