

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



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

**COURSE V: INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH
ASSIGNMENTS (2017 – 2018)**

(This set of assignments has 3 printed pages.)

Instructions

- Answers should be suitably 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. You may refer to these sources, but you must acknowledge them in your assignments.
- Proof-read your answers for spelling and grammatical errors before submitting them.
- For any queries, please write to the Course Instructor: lavanya@efluniversity.ac.in [lavanya at efluniversity dot ac dot in]

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

1. How would you evaluate the “Indian-ness” of Indian Writing in English? Is it the product of a particular historical situation or does it deal with universal truths? Explain. (1000 words)
2. Write short notes on the following (300-400 words each)
 - a. The introduction of English in India
 - b. Diasporic writing by Indians
 - c. Social and political concerns in Indian writing in English
3. Who were the major pre-Independence prose writers in Indian Writing in English? What were the themes they engaged with in their writing? (500-750 words)

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

- I. Read Henry Derozio’s poem “The Harp of India” provided in Unit 1 of this Block, and answer the following questions:
 - a. What does the harp in the poem symbolize?
 - b. What is the main theme of the poem?
 - c. Early Indian poetry in English is generally considered as based on the borrowed idiom of English Romanticism. Do you think that this poem by Derozio also shows “the unmistakable influence of English Romantic poetry” (page 5, Unit 1, Block II)? Explain with adequate references to the poem.
 - d. What is the image of India that this poem depicts?

- II. Why is Ezekiel called a poet of the city? Explain with reference to his poems that illustrate this aspect. (750-1000 words)
- III. In an interview, A. K. Ramanujan said of his poetry "... when I write in English I hope my Tamil and my Kannada, like my linguistics and anthropology, what I know of America and India, are at the back of it. (See page 48, in Unit 3 of this Block.) Comment on this, using *any two* of his poems that you have studied in this Block. (750-1000 words)
- IV. Do you think Kamala Das's poetry is "restricted because it is personal"? Give reasons for your answer and support your views with references to *any two* of her poems that you have studied. (750 -1000 words)

Assignment III
(Based on Block III)

- I. In the introduction to Indian Writing in English in Block I of this course, you learned that the re-telling/reinterpretation of myths is a common theme in this body of writing. (See Section 1.5.3, Unit 1, Block I). Based on this, answer the following questions:
- a. Why do you think Indian writers use myths in their works? How are myths relevant to modern, contemporary life? (500 words)
 - b. What purpose(s) does the use of myths in fiction serve? Illustrate these purpose(s) using R.K. Narayan's *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*. (750 words)
- II. How are history and fiction intertwined in Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*? Which aspects of the novel are historical, and which fictional? Does the fictional representation give you a different perspective of the history the novel represents? Explain. (1000-1500 words)
- III. Write short notes on the following: (300 – 400 words each)
- a. Moorthy in *Kanthapura*
 - b. Malgudi
 - c. Story-telling in *When Dreams Travel*
- IV. Write a critical description of the characterization of Dunyazad in *When Dreams Travel*. (1000 words)
(Hint: This involves answering questions such as - Who is she? What is her role in the plot and the narrative? What qualities are depicted in her? What if anything does she represent or symbolize? What is your impression of or response to her?) You must cite instance, episodes in the novel, as well as actions and speech by Dunyazad in support of your answer.
- V. Explain how time and space are depicted in storytelling in the novel *The Hungry Tide*. (1000 words)

Assignment IV
(Based on Block IV)

- I. Read the following extract and then answer the questions that follow.

AMRITLAL: Do you know where a man's happiness lies?

RATNA: No.

AMRITLAL: In being a man

RATNA: That sounds profound. What does it mean?

AMRITLAL: Does Jairaj know where his happiness lies?

RATNA: He does. But I don't think it fits in with your idea of where it should be.

AMRITLAL: Yes I am aware of that and I am disappointed with that.

- a. Identify the extract (text and author).
 - b. Who are the characters in this extract? What are they talking about?
 - c. How is their conversation related to the dianoia of the play?
- II. How has Poile Sengupta combined the two traditions of Indian and Greek drama in *Samara's Song*? Explain. (500-750 words)
- III. Why does Dr. B. R. Ambedkar think that the caste system is detrimental to the public spirit and democratic values in India? Substantiate your answer with suitable references from Ambedkar's *Annihilation of Caste*. (1000 words)
- IV. What are Rammohan Roy's arguments against Sanskrit education for the natives of India? Explain. (750-1000 words)

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