

DR.BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY
Shahibaug-Ahmedabad-380003
MEG-01 : BRITISH POETRY
ASSIGNMENT-1

February-2005

Write an essay on any one of the following in about 3000 words.

1. The Pearl Poet
2. The Early Renaissance English Poets
3. The Cavalier Poets
4. English Neo-classical Poetry
5. The Major Victorian Poets
6. Major Trends in Modernist English Poetry
7. Important Features of Post-modernist Poetry

MEG-01 : BRITISH POETRY
ASSIGNMENT-2

Write an essay in about 3000 words on the life and work or some significant aspect of any one of the following poets.

1. Geoffrey Chaucer
2. Andrew Marvell
3. John Dryden
4. P.B.Shelley
5. T.S.Eliot
6. Sylvia Plath
7. Or on any other British Poet of your choice

MEG-01 : BRITISH POETRY
ASSIGNMENT-3

Attempt a critique in about 3000 words on any one of the following poems.

1. 'The Nonnes Presstes Tale'
2. 'A Noturnall upon S.Lucies Day. Being the shortest Day'
3. An Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot
4. 'Dejection : An Ode'
5. The Triumph of Life
6. 'Goblin Market'
7. 'Easter 1916'
8. 'Pursuit'

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February-2005

MEG-02 : BRITISH DRAMA
ASSIGNMENT-1 TMA
(Based on Blocks 1 to 5)

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-07-2005 Maximum marks:100

1. Answer the following passages with reference to the context in about 150 words each.
(choose 4 out of 5 passages)

4x5=20

- (i) My heart's so harden'd, I cannot repent;
Scarce can I name salvation, faith or heaven
But fearful echoes thunder in mine ear's
Faustus thou art damn'd
- (ii) O, that this too too sullied flesh would melt,
Thaw and resolve itself into a dew,
Or that the Everlasting had not fixed
His canon 'gainst self-slaughter...
- (iii) He bears
The visible mark of the Beast in his forehead,
And for his stone, it is a work of darkness,
And with philosophy blinds the eyes of man.
- (iv) Why should you think that I woo in scorn?
Scorn and derision never came in tears.
- (v) I hit a blow on the ridge of his skull
laid him stretched out, and he split to
the knob of his gullet.

Answer the following questions in approx. 500 words each.

2. Discuss *Doctor Faustus*' appeal to 21st century. 20
3. Examine *Hamlet* as a revenge play. 20
4. Comment on the Mechanicals in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 20
5. Discuss the salient features of Synge's language that make it distinctive. 20

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MEG-02 : BRITISH DRAMA
ASSIGNMENT-2 TMA
(Based on Blocks 6 to 9)

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 26-08-2005 Maximum marks:100

1. Analyse the following passages with reference to the context in about 150 words each. (choose 4 out of 5 passages)

4x5=20

The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it. They spell it so abominably that no man can teach himself what it sounds like. It is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman hate or despise him.

- (ii) It is not in time that my death shall be known. It is out of time that my decision is taken. If you call that a decision. To which my whole being gives entire consent. I give my life. To the law of God above the Law of Man.
- (iii) There are cruel steel traps lying about everywhere, just waiting for rather mad, slightly satanic and very timid little animals. Right?
- (iv) Have you not done tormenting me with your accursed time? One day, is that not enough for you, one day like any other day.....
- d) "The tears of the world are a constant quantity: for each one who begins to weep, somewhere else another stops."

Answer the following questions in approx. 500 words each.

2. Would you call Higgins-Liza relationship platonic? 20
3. Outline the historical background of the play *Murder in the Cathedral*. 20
4. Discuss the concept of the angry young man in the context of *Look Back in Anger*. 20
5. Why does *Waiting for Godot* appeal to us in spite of not following the genre of drama? 20

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February-2005

MEG-02 : BRITISH DRAMA
ASSIGNMENT-3 TMA
(Based on Blocks 1 to 9)

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-09-2005 Maximum marks:100

Note: Attempt the following questions in approx. 250 words each.

1. Discuss the modernity of Elizabethan Tragedy with reference to *Dr. Faustus*. 10
2. What is the significance of “dream” in the title of the play *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. 10
3. Comment on Jonsonian Comedy with reference to the *Alchemist*. 10
4. Write short notes on the following:
 - i) Theatre as a theme in *Hamlet*.
 - ii) Romantic comedy formula in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. 20
5. Critically examine the role of the chorus in *Murder In The Cathedral*. 10
6. Analyse the modernist conception of character in the presentation of Jimmy in *Look Back in Anger*. 10
7. Out line the plot of *The Playboy of the Western World*. 10
8. Comment on the mingling of genres in *Pygmalion*. 10
9. How would you reckon *Godot’s* contribution to Theatre and Drama? 10

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**MEG-03 : BRITISH NOVEL
ASSIGNMENT- 1 TMA
(Based on Blocks 1,2,3,4)**

February-2005

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-07-2005 Maximum marks:100

Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks

1. Do the women characters in *Tom Jones* appeal to you? Discuss.
2. How does Austen inter-weave the themes of gender injustice with that of love and marriage?
3. Compare and contrast the characters of the Catherine that loves Heathcliff and the Catherine that marries Edgar.
4. Examine Pip as a self-improving hero.

February-2005

**ASSIGNMENT- 2 TMA
(Based on Blocks 5,6,7,8 and 9)**

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 26-08-2005 Maximum marks:100

Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks

1. Examine the theme of money and pecuniary-interests vis-a-vie that of birth, rank and class. Are these two themes inter-related?
2. Discuss the *Heart of Darkness* as an apocalyptic vision.
3. How does Joyce give textual density to style in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*?
4. Does Forster romanticise the landscape in *A Passage to India*? Discuss.
5. Is Miss Brodie a symbol of non-conformity? Discuss.

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MEG-03 : BRITISH NOVEL
ASSIGNMENT- 3 TMA
(Based on Blocks 1-9)

February-2005

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-09-2005 Maximum marks:100

Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Attempt a feminist reading of *Pride and Prejudice*.
2. Would you consider Heathcliff to be real? Is he presented as a realistic character or is he only symbolic?
3. Discuss the metaphor of the web in the context of events and people relating to Bulstrode.
4. Examine the significance of the Christmas dinner scene in *A Portrait of the Artist as A Young Man*.
5. Why does Forster shift the theme of the novel *A Passage to India* from history to philosophy? Discuss.
6. What perspective if any does *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* offer?

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MEG-04 : ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE
ASSIGNMENT- 1 TMA
(Blocks 1-4)

February-2005

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-07-2005 Maximum marks:100

Answer all questions

1. What are the factors which influenced English spelling through the ages? Give examples to illustrate your answer. 15
2. From your reading of Unit 1, Block 4 (English Morphology), how would you define a 'Word' 15
3. Write short notes on 10
 - a) Reduplication
 - b) Acronyms
4. Distinguish between vowels and consonants. 15
5. Write short notes 15
 - a) Nasal consonants
 - b) Division of words into syllables
 - c) Diphthongs in English
6. What are the characteristics of human language and how are they different from animal communication? Discuss. 20
7. Distinguish between (a) signified and signifier (b) langue and parole. 10

February-2005

ASSIGNMENT- 2 TMA
(Blocks 5-9)

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 26-08-2005 Maximum marks:100

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay of about 250 words, tracing the historical development of language planning from the 1960s to the 1990s. What were the shifts in focus at each stage? 20
2. Write a note on Grice's four maxims. What do you think will happen in a conversation if these maxims are not followed by the interlocutors? 15
3. What did Labov attempt to study in his classic work 'The Social Stratification of English in New York City'? What was his major contribution to sociolinguistics? 15
4. Write short notes on: 15
 - a) Coordinate and Compound bilinguals
 - b) Critique of Language Standardization
5. There are at least five criteria that can test whether a (randomly chosen) sequence of words in a sentence is a syntactic constituent. Discuss these criteria. 20
6. We no longer need to look to British English as a norm; Indian English is a variety in its own right. Elaborate. 15

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MEG-04 : ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE
ASSIGNMENT- 3 TMA
(Blocks 1-9)

February-2005

Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-09-2005 Maximum marks:100

Answer all questions

1. Discuss the role that attitude and motivation play in second language acquisition/learning. You may give your own examples. 20

2. Write notes on
a) The Structure of Conversation
Word Order from Old English to Modern English 20

3. What is foregrounding? Using examples from literature, discuss foregrounding through parallelism and through deviant constructions. 20

4. Describe the difference between code mixing and code switching. Give examples from your own language and English. 10

5. Which are the scope-bearing elements in English? Write on any one of them in detail. 15

6. Discuss the three major approaches that enable compounding in English. Give examples to illustrate your answer. 15