

**DR.BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**Shahibaug-Ahmedabad-380003**

**Master's Degree in English-01 (MEG- 05)**

**Literary Criticism and Theory**

**Assignment 1**

**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**February-2005**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 26-08-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Write short notes (approx. 250 words) on:
  1. *Plato*
  2. *Althusser*
  3. *Deconstruction*
  4. *Rasa and Jouissance*
2. What do you understand by the term "structuralism" ?
3. Write a note on the Platonic attitude towards *mimesis*?
4. How does the romantic or the expressive theory of art differ from the mimetic or the imitative rationalist aesthetic? Elucidate.
5. Discuss Eliot's concept of poetry and the importance he lays on tradition, with reference to his essay "*Tradition and Individual Talent*"

**(MEG- 05)**

**Assignment 2**

**(Based on Blocks 5-8)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-09-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Write Short notes on : (approx. 250 words)on  
(10 × 2 = 20)
  - a) *Social Reality*
  - b) *Binary Oppositions*
  - c) *Midnight's Children as a postmodernist text*
  - d) *Freud*
2. Write a note on *Practical Criticism*
3. What function does *Ideology* serve in Literature ?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Beauvoir's thesis in *The Second Sex* ?
5. Write a short essay on Psychoanalysis, mentioning the contributions of Freud and Lacan.

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**Master's Degree in English-01 (MEG-05)**  
**Literary Criticism and Theory**  
**Assignment 3**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

February-2005

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 08-10-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Write Short notes on : (approx. 250 words)on (10 × 2 = 20)
  - a) *Derrida*
  - b) *Sphota*
  - c) *Pathos or suffering*
  - d) *Affective Fallacy*
  
2. "With Aristotle the concept of mimesis undergoes a major transformation." Discuss.
  
3. What is "Fancy"? Does it differ from "Imagination" ? "Analyse Coleridge's Theory of imagination in this regard.
  
4. What do you understand by the term *Marxist Criticism* ?
  
5. Analyse the strengths of Woolf's theory with reference to class and gender.
  
6. Discuss the Contribution of linguistics to Literary Criticism.
  
7. What is the implication of the "*death of the author* ?"
  
8. Discuss the position of the "subject," in the course of the developments in literary theory during the last three to four decades.

**DR.BABASAHEB AMNEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
**Shahibaug - Ahmedabad- 380003**  
**Master's Degree in English- 01 (MEG-06)**  
**American Literature**  
**Assignment 1**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

February-2005

**Maximum marks : 100**

**Last Date of Submission at study center : 24-07-2005**

**Attempt all questions. All question carry equal marks.**

1. Who were the New England puritans? Discuss.
2. Write shorts notes on :
  - a) The Enlightenment in America
  - b) The American Women of the 18th century
3. The 'Scarlet Letter' has been interpreted differently in different times.
4. How does the narrative technique adopted in the novel 'Huckleberry Finn' constitute to the total meaning of the text.
5. The Romantic Movement in America, Witnessed a tremendous efflorescence of creative energies in literature and arts. Discuss.

**(MEG - 6)**  
**Assignment 2**  
**(Based on Blocks 5-9)**

**Maximum marks : 100**

**Last Date of Submission at study center : 26-08-2005**

**Attempt all questions. All question carry equal marks.**

1. Critically analyse the poem 'Passage to India' .
2. Would Rich be called a feminist? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Discuss the theme in Hemingway's short story ' A Clean Well Lighted Place'.
4. The play 'Death of a Salesman' is a tragedy ? Discuss.
5. Discuss the ending in the Novel ' The Bluest Eye'.

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**Master's Degree in English- 01 (MEG-06)**

**American Literature**

**Assignment 3**

**(Based on Blocks 1-9)**

**February-2005**

**Maximum marks : 100**

**Last Date of Submission at study center : 24-09-2005**

**Attempt all questions. All question carry equal marks.**

1. Comment on the Literary styles and literary genres of the Puritans.
2. Comment on Huck - Jim relationship in the novel 'Huckleberry Finn'
3. Give a critical appreciation of the poem 'Mending Wall'.
4. Compare Hemingway and Faulkner as short story writers.
5. Discuss the themes in 'The Bluest Eye'.

**DR.BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
**Shahibaug-Ahmedabad-380003**  
**Master's Degree in English (MEG-07)**  
**Assignment 1**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 13-02-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions.**

1. Do you agree with the view that Vivekananda, Aurobindo and Coomarswamy had a certain understanding of Indian tradition and believed that these traditions had much to offer to use in our presentation crisis. (10)
2. What light does Hind Swaraj throw on the life of Gandhi ? (10)
3. Point out the distinctive features of Nehru's prose style as exemplified in his Autobiography ? (20)
4. Write Short notes on : (approx. 250 words) on :
  - a) Vikram Seth's prose style in Heaven Lake
  - b) Amitav Ghosh's storytelling strategy in Dancing in Cambodia, At large in Butma (15)
5. Discuss the literary achievement of Mulk Raj Anand in Untouchable. (10)
6. What do you know about the historical and political background of Kanthapura ? (15)
7. Keeping Clear Light of Day in mind bring out the contribution of Anita Dasai to Indian English Fiction. (15)
8. Discuss the contribution of the Trinity - Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R.K.Narayan to the rise of Indian English novel. (10)

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**Master's Degree in English (MEG-07)**  
**Assignment 2**  
**(Based on Blocks 5-8)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 13-02-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. In what ways has Midnight's Children changed the course of Indian English Novel ?  
(10)
  
2. Write Short notes on : (approx. 250 words) on :
  - a) Irony and humour in Engine Trounle
  - b) The role of ashtamp farosh in The only American from our Village
  - c) Self- actualization in A Toast to Herself(15)
  
3. What account of Perumayee's life is given by Githa Hariharan in Gajar Halwa ?  
(10)
  
4. Discuss Ruskin stories prescribed for you as children stories.  
(20)
  
5. Annotate the following : (250 words each)
  - i) Now silent, now singing and swaying  
and singing like blossoms that bend  
to the breezes or showers.
  - ii) ..... Probably  
only the Egyptians had it right  
their kings had sisters for queens  
continue the incests  
of childhood into marriage
  - iii) he popped a stone  
in his mouth  
and spat out gods
  - iv) My tongue in English chains  
I return, after a generation, to you.  
I am at the end  
of my Dravidic tether,  
hunger for you unassuaged
  - v) Depressed and weary we march back to the lines  
A leader says over the evening wireless,  
"We are marching forward "
  
6. Write short notes (250 words each) on the following :
  - i) Kamal Das as a confessional poet.
  - ii) Music in Tara(10)
  
7. Discuss the gender issue in Tara  
(20)

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**Assignment 3**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 13-02-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. Prose has the same literary merit as a poem, a drama or novel. Substantial the statement by referring to the texts you have read. (20)
2. In what ways Untouchable and Kanthapura heralded the social novel in India ? (10)
3. What makes Midnight's Children a very significant novel ? (10)
4. Comment on the narrative teaching of short story writers by given examples from the short stories prescribed for your reading (10)
5. Discuss the first phase of Indian English poetry. How does it relate to the poetry of the 1950s and 1960s ? (10)
6. What theatrical techniques has Dattaini employed in Tara to make it an effective play? (10)
7. Annotate the following : (250 words each approx )
  - i) Which human eye may never more behold  
And let the guerdon of my labors be  
My fallen country ! One kind wish from thee
  - ii) And her withered brave voice croons its paean of praise  
Be the gay world kind or unkind :  
" la ilaha illa - I -Allah  
la ilaha illa -I - Allah  
Muhammad -are - Rasul - Allah
  - iii) You see ? It voices my joys, my longings my  
Hopes, and it is useful to me as cawing  
Is to crows or roaring to the lions
  - iv) Endless crow noises  
A skull on the holy sands  
Tilts its empty country towards hunger
  - v) I grasp your hand  
in a rainbow of touch. Of the dead  
I speak nothing but good (25)
8. Write short notes (250 words each) on the following:
  - i) Contribution of some major women novelists to India English Fiction
  - ii) Indian English Poetry as a hybrid creature
  - iii) Limitations of writing drama in English (15)







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**Master's Degree in English (MEG-08)**  
**Assignment 1**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-07-2005**

**Maximum marks:10**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions in approximately 450-500 words unless stated otherwise**

1. Explain how the terms "Commonwealth Literatures", New Literatures in English, and "Postcolonial Literature", are similar and yet different from each other. (20)
2. Write a note on the rise of the modern novel in Africa (20)
3. What are some of the issues that Wole Soyinka deals with in his play A Dance of the Forest ? Discuss (20)
4. The narrative voice used by Bapsi Sidhwa in Ice- Candy Man serves many purposes. Discuss. (20)
5. Write short notes (approx. 250 words) on the following : (5×4)
  - a) The Mau-Mau Movement
  - b) Souinka's nativism
  - c) Origin/ Advent of the Parsis in India
  - d) Caribbean literature

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**Master's Degree in English (MEG-08)**  
**Assignment 2**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 26-08-2005**

**Maximum marks:10**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions in approximately 450-500 words unless stated otherwise**

1. A House for Mr. Biswas can be read as a chronicle of the socio-political changes taking place in Trinidad. Comment. (20)
2. Provide a detailed critical analysis of any one poem written by Edward Braithwaite and show how his historical and cultural background influences his poetry . (20)
3. Do you think that Margaret Laurence has success fully portrayed the them of the alienation of the elderly in The Stone Angel ? Discuss. (20)
4. What are some of the themes that you can trace in the Solid Mandela? examples from the text in support of your answer. (20)
5. Write short notes (approx. 250 words) on the following : (5×4)
  - a) Waldo's character in The Solid Mandala
  - b) Use of imagery in The Stone Angel
  - c) Diasporic approach to Caribbean Literature
  - d) Indenture/ Giritmit system

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**Assignment 3**

**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-09-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions in approximately 450-500 words unless stated otherwise**

1. Write short notes (approx. 250 words) on the following : (5×4)
  - a) Theatre in Nigeria
  - b) Canadian poetry
  - c) Indian English novel
  - d) Postcolonial literature
  
2. A Grain of Wheat is a piece of fiction based on the history of the Kenyan National Movement. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer (20)
  
3. Write a note on Soyinka's art of characterization in A Dance of the Forests. (20)
  
4. How dose Bapsi Sidhwa succeed in presenting the Pakistani perspective on the partition through her novel Ice-Candy Man? (20)
  
5. Discuss the use of irony and humors in A House for Mr. Biswas. (20)
  
6. What are some of the major differences that you notice between Derek Walcott's early and (20)
  
7. How has Brathwaite presented the impact of religion on the sensibility of the common people in ' Angle / Engine ' ? Discus. (20)
  
8. Discuss the two center motifs that are present in The Solid Mandala. (20)
  
9. The Stone Angel is Hagar Shipley's journey towards inner self - realization. Comment. (20)



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**Master's Degree in English (MEG-09)**  
**Assignment 1**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 13-02-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions.**

1. Write short notes (approx. 250 words) on :
  - a) Multiculturalism in Australia
  - b) Oral literature
  - c) The Bush tradition
  - d) Henry Lawson
  
2. Trace the history of Australian literature from the early oral tradition to colonial writing, and more recently women's and aboriginal literature.

(20)
  
3. Who according to you, are the important poets in nineteenth century Australia ? Discuss the poems of any two of them.

(20)
  
4. Attempt a feminist reading of Barbara Baynton's short story "The Chosen Vessel "

(20)
  
5. From your Lodging of ' Legend ' and 'Bullocky' , attempt an appraisal of Judith Wright as a poet.

(20)

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**Assignment 2**  
**(Based on Blocks 5-8)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 13-02-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. Write Short notes on : (approx. 250 words) on : (5 X 4 = 20)
  - a) The modern Australian novel
  - b) Gig Ryan
  - c) David Malouf
  - d) The title of the play 'The Removalists'
  
2. How would you account for the relationship of Voss and Laura? Does this relationship substantiate the theme of exploration in the context of Australia ? (20)
  
3. Analyse Ee Tiang Hong's 'Coming to' and Kevin Gilbert's 'Mister man' to show how these two poems redefine Australian identity. (20)
  
4. Describe the main themes in Jessica Anderson's Trirrli Lirra by the River. Substantiate your answer with illustrations from the novel. (20)
  
5. How is The Removalists a critique of Australian society ? Discuss. (20)

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**Assignment 3**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-8)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 13-02-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. Write Short notes on : (approx. 250 words) on : (5 × 4 = 20)
  - a) Convict traditions in literature
  - b) The titel Tirra Lirra by the River
  - c) The poem 'The Australian Dream'
  - d) Mudooroo Narogin
  
2. Do you think Charles Harpur should be regarded as the father of Australian poetry? Give reasons in support of your answer. (10)
  
3. Can Arthur Hoey Davis' 'Cranky Jack' be read as an attempt to dismantle patriarchal authority ? Give suitable examples from the story to support your answer. (10)
  
4. What are the shifts in A.D.Hope's perception of Australian in each stanza of the poem 'Terra Australia' ? Discuss. (10)
  
5. Comment on Patrick White's use of time, Dreams and memory in his novel Voss. (10)
  
6. Analyse the cultural context in Les Murray's 'The Quality of Sprawl' and 'Blood' . (10)
  
7. Remembering Babyoln exhibits a tension between remembering and forgetting. Discuss. (10)
  
8. Examine the narrative strategies employed by Jessica Anderson in Tirra Lirra by the River. (10)
  
9. Outline the man themes in the play The Removalists (10)







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**February-2005**

**Master's Degree in English-01 (MEG-11)**  
**Assignment 1**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-07-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. Discuss the characteristics and main themes of the 19th c American Novel.
2. In the Novel 'The Last of the Mohicans' landscape instructs all the aspects of the novel. Discuss.
3. Discuss the major themes in 'Sister Carrie'
4. "The importance of the Fitzgerald lies in the fact that the he captured the mood of the American society at the time when American was being forming itself between the two world wars," Discuss
5. Comment on the development of the Modern American Novel .

**Assignment 2**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-4)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 26-08-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. Write Short notes on :  
(10 × 2 = 20)
  - a) The Dialectic of sex motif in American Literature
  - b) The Prophet of sexual Revolution
2. Critically analyse the plote of 'Catcher in the Rye '
3. The Pose war American novel is a phenomenon by itself. Discuss.
4. The history of Native American Literatures reflect the tribal cultures and the experiece and the imagination of its authors. Discuss.
5. Analyse the chife characteristics of Black Women's fiction.

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**February-2005**

**Master's Degree in English-01 (MEG-11)**

**Assignment 3**

**(Based on Blocks 1-9)**

**Last Date of Submission at study centre: 24-09-2005**

**Maximum marks:100**

**Attempt all questions and answer each questions carries 20 marks. Answer each question in approximately 400 words.**

1. Discuss the development of the Romanticism of the Nineteenth Century America
2. Discuss the theme in the novel "The Last of the Mohicans".
3. Sister Carrie communication the felt quality of a historically located Society Discuss.
4. Discuss the significances of Music in "The Colour Purple".
5. Discuss the themes emerging from Celie's letter.

