

**Maulana Azad National Urdu University**  
**M.A. ENGLISH 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR – 2011-2012**  
**ASSIGNMENTS AND MODEL QUESTION PAPERS**

Dear Student

Please find enclosed two assignments each for all the papers of the M.A. English (2<sup>nd</sup> year) programme and the model question papers in this booklet. **Submit assignments on the 3 papers that you have opted for. Paper 5 (Literary Criticism and Theory) is a compulsory paper.**

Read the instructions carefully before you begin to answer the assignments.

**IMPORTANT:** Read the following information and instructions

1. The M.A. English programme through distance mode is a two-year programme with continuous assessment and year-end examination.
2. As part of the continuous assessment, every candidate enrolled in the programme must submit two assignments per paper.
3. Each assignment carries 30 marks. The average of the two assignments in each paper forms the final score.
4. Candidates must pass separately in the assignments and year-end examination.
5. The minimum pass percentage is 40 i.e. a candidate must score a minimum of 12 marks in each assignment and a minimum of 28 marks in each paper in the year-end examination.
6. Candidates must write their assignments in their own handwriting on white A4 size paper leaving a margin of 1 ½” on the left side and 1” on all the other sides.
7. Page numbers should be given on the bottom right hand side.
8. Assignments should be written only on one side of the paper. DO NOT write on both the sides.
9. DO NOT write more than 15 lines on each page.
10. The title page of the assignment submitted must mention the enrolment number, the name of the candidate, year and programme of study, complete address of the Study Centre and the assignment number.
11. Candidates must submit their assignments to the Coordinator of the Study Centre. **Assignments should NOT be sent to the University Headquarters.**
12. This booklet contains 9 pages.
13. In case of difficulty contact the Programme Coordinator: **Dr. GULFISHAAN HABEEB, Associate Professor of English @ [dde.ma.english@gmail.com](mailto:dde.ma.english@gmail.com)**

**OR CALL**

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### **PAPER 5 – LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012

Assignment No. 1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Examine the contribution of Arnold and Eliot to criticism.
2. Critically evaluate Aristotle's theory of mimesis. How does it differ from Plato's theory?
3. What is Wordsworth's theory of poetry? How is it different from Coleridge's theory?
4. Discuss the ideas expressed by Cleanth Brooks in his essay "Irony as a Principle of Structure."

### **PAPER 6 – AMERICAN LITERATURE**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012

Assignment No.1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Discuss how the Puritan literary styles and literary genres abide by the tenets of the Puritan literary theory.
2. Examine the characters of Roger Chillingworth and Dimmesdale as presented in **The Scarlet Letter**.
3. Comment on Mark Twain's greatness with reference to **Huckleberry Finn**.
4. What were the essential aspects of the Transcendentalist school of writing? Do Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman necessarily inhabit the same literary tradition?

### **PAPER 7 (INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE)**

To be submitted on or before : 31-05-2012

Assignment No. 1(Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Write a note on Seth's prose style with reference to **from Heaven's Lake**.
2. In ways does Mulk Raj Anand's novel **Untouchable** depict a representative picture of colonial India.
3. Examine the impact of Gandhi's thought and philosophy on the theme of **Kantapura**?
4. Critically comment on the way in which Anita Desai weaves in the political elements in **Clear Light of Day**.

### **PAPER 8 – NEW LITERATURES IN ENGLISH**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012

Assignment No. 1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Briefly discuss the significance of South Asian Literatures in English.
2. What socio-political forces does Karanjia represent in **Grain of Wheat**?
3. Critically examine Soyinka's use of structure and characterization in **Dance of the Forests**.
4. From your reading of Lenny's mother and Godmother in the novel **Ice-Candy Man**, attempt a contrastive study.

**PAPER 9 (AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE)**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012 Assignment No. 1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Discuss the significance of oral tradition in Australian literature?
2. Examine the influence of British Romantic poetry in Harpur's poetic works.
3. Evaluate the prominent themes employed in the short fiction in Australia?
4. Critically evaluate Hope's poem, **Moschus Moschiferus**.

**PAPER 10 (ENGLISH STUDIES IN INDIA)**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012 Assignment No. 1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Explain the process through which English gained support and consolidation in post-independent India.
2. Examine the contribution of Toru Dutt to Indian English writing?
3. Discuss the characterization of Matangini in **Rajmohan's Wife**.
4. Evaluate the influence of bilingualism in India? Illustrate with examples.

**PAPER 11 – AMERICAN NOVEL**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012 Assignment No. 1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Write an essay on Romanticism in America.
2. Discuss the portrayal of the central character in **Sister Carrie**.
3. Critically examine the role of the narrator in **The Great Gatsby**.
4. Trace the circumstances leading to the death of Joanne Burden in **Light in August**.

**PAPER 12**  
**(A SURVEY COURSE IN 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CANADIAN LITERATURE)**

To be submitted on or before 31-05-2012 Assignment No. 1 (Blocks 1 to 4)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. How does geography shape the Canadian imagination? Examine with reference to Canadian literature.
2. While examining the chief characteristics of 20<sup>th</sup> century Canadian poetry, discuss Canadian nature poetry in detail.
3. Evaluate the contribution of Margaret Lawrence and Margaret Atwood to Canadian fiction.
4. Discuss the characterization in **Tin Flute**.

### **PAPER 5 – LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY**

To be submitted on or before: 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Examine the chief tenets of Marxist criticism?
2. Analyse the components of Beauvoir's thesis with reference to **The Second Sex** to indicate its strengths and limitations.
3. What do you understand by deconstruction? What are its limitations as a method of critical enquiry?
4. Examine the contribution of Freud to psychoanalysis.

### **PAPER 6 – AMERICAN LITERATURE**

To be submitted on or before; 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Discuss the significance of the title, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed."
2. Analyse all the ways in which life and death are juxtaposed in "The Emperor of Ice-Cream." What is the significance of this juxtaposition?
3. Discuss the recurrent issues in Hemingway's short stories and discuss the strategies he adopts in highlighting them.
4. Discuss the Death of a Salesman as a tragedy.

### **PAPER 7 (INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE)**

To be submitted on or before: 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. What is the poet trying to convey through **Self Portrait** and **River**.
2. Evaluate the theme of cruelty to animals in **The Miracle** by Shashi Deshpande .
3. Describe the poetic structure of Aurobindo's sonnet **The Golden Light** and write about his contribution to Indian English literature.
4. How important is the institution of family in Dattani's plays? Answer with special reference to **Tara**?

### **PAPER 8 – NEW LITERATURES IN ENGLISH**

To be submitted on or before: 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. How does Caribbean poetry reflect the region's experience of colonization? Support your answer with examples.
2. Discuss the characterization in Patrick White's **The Solid Mandala**.
3. Critically examine the thematic concerns in **The Stone Angel**.
4. Evaluate Naipaul's **House for Mr. Biswas**.

**PAPER 9 (AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE)**

To be submitted on or before: 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Discuss the relationship of Voss and Laura in White's novel **Voss**? Does this relationship substantiate the theme of exploration in the context of Australia?
2. Examine the presence of contemporary life explored by Bruce Dawe in the poem, **At Shagger's Funeral** and suggest the consequences.
3. Evaluate the contribution of David Malouf to Australian literature with reference to **Remembering Babylon**.
4. Examine the recurrent themes in Williamson's plays.

**PAPER 10 (ENGLISH STUDIES IN INDIA)**

To be submitted on or before 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Discuss the role and function of the English teacher in India in the present context.
2. What is the difference in position taken by Leavis and Lewis with respect to English literature?
3. What are the issues and problems in the construction of feminist canon of Indian English Writing?
4. How is the literary theory of decolonizing the mind put into practice? Mention the arguments used in this theory.

**PAPER 11 – AMERICAN NOVEL**

To be submitted on or before 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Write an essay on the transcendentalist movement in America.
2. Critically examine the major themes in **The Catcher in the Rye**.
3. Bring out the episodic structure of **The Floating Opera**. How does it help in the plot?
4. Comment on the significance of the cyclical structure of Momaday's **House Made of Dawn**.

**PAPER 12**  
**(A SURVEY COURSE IN 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CANADIAN LITERATURE)**

To be submitted on or before 30-06-2012

Assignment No. 2 (Block 5 onwards)

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

**Note: Answer any two questions**

1. Discuss the main characters in **The English Patient** and their life together in the Italian Villa.
2. What is **The Green Rain** mainly about?
3. Characterization in the **Ecstasy of Rita Joe** follows allegorical writing in its accent on white and black shades of characters. Comment.
4. What is poetic about the style and language of **Surfacing**?

**MODEL QUESTION PAPER**  
**PAPER 5 (LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY)**

Time: 3 hours

Max. marks: 70

Min. marks: 28

**Note: Answer any five of the following questions.**

**All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Examine the basic concepts of Indian Aesthetics.
2. Critically examine Aristotle's theory of mimesis. How does it differ from Plato's theory?
3. How does Shelley put forward imagination as a positive factor against the onslaught of rationality?
4. Give an estimate of the achievement of New Criticism.
5. What do 'class society' and 'class ideas' signify in Marxist criticism?
6. Analyze the components of Beauvoir's thesis with reference to **The Second Sex** to indicate its strengths and limitations.
7. Attempt a deconstructive analysis of **Waiting for Godot**.
8. Write an essay on postcolonial theory with reference to Said and Spivak.

**MODEL QUESTION PAPER**  
**PAPER 6 (AMERICAN LITERATURE)**

Time: 3 hours

Max. marks: 70

Min. marks: 28

**Note: Answer any five of the following questions.**

**All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Why did Puritanism emerge as the hegemonic American ideology in the course of less than a century?
2. Examine the narrative technique and structure of **The Scarlet Letter**.
3. Discuss the twin themes of freedom and slavery in **Huckleberry Finn**.
4. What were the essential aspects of the transcendentalist school of writing? Do Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman necessarily inhabit the same literary tradition?
5. Comment on the significance of the title **When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed**.
6. Attempt a critical appreciation of Adrienne Rich's **Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law**.
7. How does Faulkner integrate the theme of Ike's 'invitation' with that of 'colour line' in **The Bear**?
8. Discuss how **Death of a Salesman** attempts to go beyond the boundaries of social drama to emerge as a tragedy.

**MODEL QUESTION PAPER**  
**PAPER 7 (INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE)**

Time: 3 hours

Max. marks: 70

Min. marks: 28

**Note: Answer any five of the following questions.**

**All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Compare and contrast Vikram Seth and Amitav Ghosh as writers of travelogues.
2. Write a detailed note on the picture of colonial India that emerges from the novel **Untouchable**.
3. How does Raja Rao convey the spirit of Indian life through a foreign medium in **Kanthapura**?
4. Critically comment on the structure of the novel **Clear Light of Day** written by Anita Desai.
5. Write an essay on the characterization and the element of suspense in R.K. Narayan's **An Astrologer's Day**.
6. What is Ramanujan trying to convey through the poems **Self Portrait** and **River**?
7. What according to Dattani are the challenges that language poses to the Indian English dramatist.
8. Discuss the major themes of **Tara**.



MODEL QUESTION PAPER  
**PAPER 11 (AMERICAN NOVEL)**

Time: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 70

Min. Marks: 28

**Note: Answer any five of the following questions.**

**All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Critically examine the plot in Cooper's **The Last of the Mohicans**.
2. Discuss **Sister Carrie** as a Novel of Ideas.
3. Examine the relationship of the plot and the crucial scenes in the structure of **The Great Gatsby**.
4. Give an estimate of Faulkner as a novelist.
5. "Stylistically **Black Spring** is a dazzling book, the work of a rampant imagination intoxicated with words." Discuss.
6. Critically examine the main themes in **The Catcher in the Rye**.
7. Discuss how the narrator, Todd Andrews, lends design and structure to **The Floating Opera**.
8. Comment on the cyclic structure of Momaday's **House Made of Dawn**.

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MODEL QUESTION PAPER  
**PAPER 12**  
**(A SURVEY COURSE IN 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CANADIAN LITERATURE)**

Time: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 70

Min. Marks: 28

**Note: Answer any five of the following questions.**

**All questions carry equal marks.**

1. How does Canadian drama in the post 1967 period compare with British drama since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
2. Write the characteristic features of **Helen Farnham**? With whom do you sympathize more - the mother or the daughter? Why?
3. What do you understand by the term "Diaspora"? How does the Diasporic consciousness get reflected in Canadian writing in general?
4. What is meant by Naturalism? Explain in relation to Realism.
5. Discuss the main contribution of Margaret Lawrence and Margaret Atwood to Canadian fiction.
6. What is **The Green Rain** mainly about?
7. What are the different stages of Canadian history from the first settlers to the present stage?
8. What is poetic about the style and language of **Surfacing**?



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**M.A. (English) 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR**