

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

M.A. ENGLISH 2nd YEAR – 2016-2017

ASSIGNMENTS AND MODEL QUESTION PAPERS

Dear Student

Please find enclosed two assignments each for all the papers of the M.A. English (2nd 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 paper.
10. The title page of the assignment submitted must mention the admission 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 10 pages.
13. In case of difficulty contact the Course Coordinator at the following address superscribing M.A. English (Distance Mode) on the envelope:

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ASSIGNMENTS
2016-2017
PAPER 5 – LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before: **20-06-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. What do you understand by the function of criticism? Explain with reference to the views expressed by Arnold and Eliot.
2. Critically evaluate Aristotle's theory of mimesis. How does it differ from Plato's theory?
3. In what respects was British Romanticism of the nineteenth century different from the neo-classicism of the previous age?
4. Examine Eliot's essay **The Metaphysical Poets** and apply it to your study of the metaphysical poets.

PAPER 6 – AMERICAN LITERATURE

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before **20-06-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Outline some of the outstanding tenets of the literary theory of the Puritans.
2. Comment on the characters of Hester and Dimmesdale.
3. Discuss the character of Jim from your reading of **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)

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before **20-06-2017**
Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Examine Seth's prose style with reference to **from Heaven's Lake**.
2. Examine the characterization in Mulk Raj Anand's **Untouchable**.
3. Discuss the use of myth and symbolism in **Kantapura?**
4. Critically comment on the structure of the novel, **Clear Light of Day**.

PAPER 8 – NEW LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before **20-06-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Attempt a survey of South Asian Literatures in English.
2. Examine the theme in **A Grain of Wheat**.
3. Is **Dance of the Forests** an example of post colonial theatre? Substantiate.
4. In what ways do Lenny's mother and grandmother differ from one another in the novel **Ice-Candy Man**.

PAPER 9 (AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE)

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before **20-06-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Critically discuss the aspects of Australian multiculturalism.
2. Examine the influence of British romantic poetry on Harpur's poetic works.
3. Attempt an analysis of Clarke's **The Seizure of the Cyprus**.
4. Discuss Hope's poem, **Moschus Moschiferus** as a poem of protest.

PAPER 10 (ENGLISH STUDIES IN INDIA)

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before **20-06-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. What are the arguments put forth by Macaulay in his **Minute on Education**? Do you agree with him?
2. Discuss the significance of the Dutt Family Album within the canon of early Indian writings.
3. Examine the characterization in **Rajmohan's Wife**.
4. How does bilingualism influence the use of English in India? Illustrate with examples.

PAPER 11 – AMERICAN NOVEL

Assignment No. 1
(Blocks 1 to 4)

To be submitted on or before **20-06-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Discuss the plot of **The Last of the Mohicans**.
2. What do you understand by the term “American Renaissance?” Outline its major achievements.
3. Comment on the use of narrative technique in **The Great Gatsby**.
4. Write a note on the character of Joe Christmas from your reading of the novel, **Light in August**.

ASSIGNMENTS
2016-2017
PAPER 5 – LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Explain the nature of base-superstructure relationship with reference to Marxism.
2. Analyze the strengths and limitations of Beauvoir's **The Second Sex**.
3. In what ways has linguistics affected literary criticism? Examine with illustrations.
4. What are the three "psychic zones" in Freud's theory?

PAPER 6 – AMERICAN LITERATURE

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Comment on the theme and imagery in Dickinson's poetry.
2. How does **Sunday Morning** present the conflicting claims of Christianity and paganism?
3. Discuss the major concerns of Hemingway in his short stories and the formal strategies he often adopts in highlighting them.
4. Critically comment on O'Neill's use of expressionism in **The Hairy Ape**.

PAPER 7 (INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE)

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Discuss Ruskin Bond's contribution to children's literature.
2. **The Miracle** by Shashi Deshpande highlights man's cruelty to animals. Discuss this theme.
3. Examine the major issues in the poetry of Sri Aurobindo.
4. Point out the importance of the family in Dattani's plays with special reference to **Tara**.

PAPER 8 – NEW LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. What aspects of the diaspora novel do you find in **A House for Mr. Biswas**. Examine with illustrations.
2. Write a critical account of the relationship between history and language in Walcott's poetry.
3. What are the main thematic concerns in **The Stone Angel**?
4. What is your assessment of Patrick White's characterization with reference to **The Solid Mandala**?

PAPER 9 (AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE)

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Discuss the aspects of romanticism in **Voss**.
2. Examine the challenges that face contemporary Australian poetry.
3. Discuss the narrative technique in David Malouf's **Remembering Babylon**.
4. Comment on the recurrent themes in Williamson's plays.

PAPER 10 (ENGLISH STUDIES IN INDIA)

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Discuss the objectives of English Studies in India before and after Independence.
2. What is the difference in position taken by Leavis and Lewis with respect to English literature? Discuss.
3. Examine the contribution of Namita Gokhale and Shashi Deshpande to women's literature in India.
4. How is the literary theory of decolonizing the mind put into practice? Mention the arguments used in this theory.

PAPER 11 – AMERICAN NOVEL

Assignment No. 2
(Block 5 onwards)

To be submitted on or before **15-07-2017**

Max. Marks: 30

Min. Marks: 12

Note: Answer any two questions

1. Discuss the transcendentalist movement in detail.
2. Write a note on the use of language in **The Catcher in the Rye**.
3. Discuss how **The Floating Opera** is an episodic and reflective novel.
4. Examine the theme of **House Made of Dawn**.