



**Institute of Distance and Open Learning**  
**GAUHATI UNIVERSITY**  
**HOME ASSIGNMENT**

**M.A. in English**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**  
**(Session: 2012-2013)**

**Guidelines for Submissions:**

1. Write your essay within the given word-limit i.e 600 words for an answer for 16 marks on clean sheets of foolscap paper, or paper of A-4 size. Write in neat and legible handwriting.
2. Your name, the semester, roll number in full, the name and number of the paper (course), and the topic (or the question) must be mentioned clearly on the cover-page of your assignment.
3. Keep a margin of at least one-and-a-half inches on all four sides of the page.
4. The last date of submission of these assignments is **30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.**
5. Your essay must be written in the original and should not be a copy of anything commercially available.
6. Do not exceed the word-limit stated in the guidelines. In an answer for 8 marks do not exceed 250-300 words. **YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN EXTRA MARKS FOR EXTRA-LONG ANSWERS.** In fact, answers that are too long may earn you negative marking. So, please read the guidelines closely before embarking on your work.

If you submit a typed assignment, make sure that typing errors have been taken care of otherwise they will be regarded as your linguistic failures.

**NOTE:** If you wish to present a seminar paper,

- i. please consult your teachers regarding topic, date of presentation, etc.
- ii. you do not need to submit a written home assignment in the chosen paper. You will be marked on the seminar paper alone.

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**Paper VI: Literature & Social History II – The Romantic Age, the Victorian, the Modern & the Post-Modern**

- Q.1 Explain the move towards anti-positivism in the arts of the modern period. (4 marks)
- Q.2 Give a brief sketch of the 'crisis of empire' in the modern period. (6 marks)
- Q.3 Briefly explain the term, the 'working class', with reference to the Industrial Revolution. (6 marks)

**Paper VII: Theory II – Romantic & Victorian Theory & Criticism**

- Q. 1 How, according to Arnold, do the historic estimate and personal estimate affect our study of poetry? (4 marks)
- Q. 2 What is "touchstone method"? How does Arnold employ it in his reading of the canonical English writers in his essay *The Study of Poetry*? (6 marks)
- Q. 3 Explain Wordsworth's principles of poetic diction, "language of the prose", the idea of the "poet" and "the end of poetry" as expressed in his *Preface to the Second Edition of Lyrical Ballads, 1800.* (6 marks)

**Paper VIII: Poetry II – Romantic Poetry**

Q.1 How does Shelley 'intellectualise' Nature in "Ode to the West Wind", unlike his predecessor, Wordsworth who tends to 'spiritualise' Nature in "Ode to Intimations of Immortality" ? (4 marks)

Q.2 "Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:  
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,  
Hath had elsewhere its setting,  
And cometh from afar:  
Not in entire forgetfulness,  
And not in utter nakedness,  
But trailing clouds of glory do we come  
From God, who is our home:  
Heaven lies about us in our infancy!"

In these lines, Wordsworth refers to a "pre-natal existence":

1) Explain the concept. (2 marks)

2) How does Wordsworth contrast the experience of 'childhood' with the experience of 'adulthood' to intensify his nostalgia for the lost glory of childhood? (4 marks)

Q.3 In "Ode to a Nightingale" Keats gives a brilliant exposition of his theory of 'Negative Capability' by stretching the limits of romantic imagination in his use of the image of the nightingale. Do you agree? Give textual reasons for your answer. (6 marks)

**Paper IX: Fiction II – 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Q. 1 "He was a rich man: banker, merchant, manufacturer, and what not. A big, loud man, with a stare, and a metallic laugh. A man made out of a coarse material, which seemed to have been stretched to make so much of him, a man with a great puffed head and forehead, swelled veins in his temples, and such a strained skin to his face that it seemed to hold his eyes open, and lift his eyebrows up. A man with a pervading appearance on him being inflated like a balloon, and ready to start."

This is a description of Mr. Bounderby.

(a) Show how Dickens uses the method of individual description of people and places to comment on the ideology of industrial capitalism in *Hard Times*. (6 marks)

Q. 2 'For my part I don't see why men who have got wives and don't want 'em, shouldn't get rid of 'em as these gipsy fellows do their old horses', said the man in the tent. 'Why shouldn't they put 'em up and sell 'em by auction to men who are in need of such articles? Hey? Why, begad, I'd sell mine this minute if anybody would buy her!'"

Show with textual references that Hardy is giving us a critique of capitalist ideology in relation to women in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. (6 marks)

Q.3 Comment on Hardy's use of realism in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. (4 marks)

**Paper X: Drama I – Renaissance Drama**

1. Comment on the dramatic effect of the opening scene of *Hamlet*. Do you think the arrival of the Ghost is designed to generate and sustain dramatic interest only? Justify your answer. (4+4= 8 marks)

2. Discuss how Marlowe uses the location of Malta to highlight the major themes of *The Jew of Malta*. (8 marks)