



INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE AND OPEN LEARNING
Gauhati University

H O M E A S S I G N M E N T

M. A. English
(1st Semester)
Session: 2012-2013

Guidelines for Submission:

1. Write an 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 **14th October, 2012**.
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 16 marks do not exceed 600 -650 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.

Paper 1 – Literature & Social History

8 x 2 = 16

1. Explain in an essay of about 500 words the transition in Europe and England during the sixteenth-century Renaissance that has come to exemplify the ‘early modern’.
2. How did the English experiment with political democracy in the seventeenth century affect literary activity in England? Give a general outline in an essay of about 400 words.

Paper 2 – Poetry 1: Chaucer to the Neoclassical Poets

5+5+6 = 16

1. But, to say something of her moral sense,
She was so charitable and piteous
That she would weep if she but saw a mouse
Caught in a trap, though it were dead or bled.
She had some little dogs, too, that she fed
On roasted flesh, or milk and fine white bread.
But sore she'd weep if one of them were dead,
Or if men smote it with a rod to smart:
For pity ruled her, and her tender heart.
Right decorous her pleated wimple was;
Her nose was fine; her eyes were blue as glass;
Her mouth was small and therewith soft and red;
But certainly she had a fair forehead;
It was almost a full span broad, I own,
For, truth to tell, she was not undergrown.

- a) Explain the lines given with reference to context . (5 marks)
- b) Explain how Chaucer uses rhetorical devices to make his point. (5 marks)
- c) What makes Chaucer assume that his reader will respond to his use of irony? (6 marks)

Paper 3 – Fiction 1: The Novel in the 18th and the 19th Centuries **8 x 2 = 16**

1. Attempt to highlight the satirical significance of the title of Jane Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*. (8 marks)
2. Moll Flanders’ guilt is more convincing than her repentance. Do you agree? Give textual reasons for your answer. (8 marks)

Paper 4 – Non-fiction **8 x 2 = 16**

1. Would you agree that Addison successfully uses a fictional figure as a commentator on the non-fictional world as part of a tradition of ‘realism’ which insisted on ‘universals’ and which emerged from the Enlightenment? (8 marks)
2. Show how Virginia Woolf’s major concerns in her essay, ‘How It Strikes a Contemporary’, lie with a cultural crisis,. (8 marks)

Paper 5 –Theory I: Classical & Neoclassical Critical Theories **8 x 2 = 16**

1. In what sense can Longinus be called a ‘romantic’ critic? Give a textual argument. (8 marks)
2. Explain the neoclassical concept of “wit”. (8 marks)

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