



Date: 16-12-2025

**GAUHATI UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION**  
**HOME ASSIGNMENT**  
**M.A. in English**  
**Semester- I (Session: 2025-2026, July-August)**

**Guidelines for Submission:**

1. Learners who have been admitted in the Academic Session (2025-26, July-August) will write the Home Assignment.
2. Learners should write their **Roll Number, GU Registration Number, Subject, Semester, Paper Title, Paper Code and Name of the Study Center** clearly on the first page of the answer script in the space provided.
3. The formats of the answer scripts are available at, and can be downloaded from, the GUCDOE website ([www.gucdoe.in](http://www.gucdoe.in)).
4. There will be 2 (two) compulsory questions in each paper, and each question will have options (Total Marks: 2 questions  $\times$  10 marks= 20 marks).
5. **Typed/Computerized answers will not be accepted.** Learners will write the answers neatly in their own handwriting.
6. Answer to a 10 mark question should not exceed 400 words.
7. Learners should not submit any plagiarized answers as such a practice is deemed to be unfair.
8. Learners of different Study Centers under GUCDOE will mandatorily submit the answer scripts at their respective Study Centers.
9. Learners of GUCDOE center will submit their answer scripts at GUCDOE Office.
10. **Last Date of Submission : 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2026.**

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**PAPER: ENG 1016 (ENGLISH LITERARY AND CULTURAL HISTORY)**

**Answer the following questions:** **2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** Elaborate the factors that led to the decline of the feudal order in England. **10**

**OR**

Write a note on the rise of English towns and discuss the cultural activities that took shape within these emerging urban spaces. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** How did the Renaissance influence English literature? Elaborate with special reference to Renaissance drama. **10**

**OR**

In what ways can the advent of print be understood as a 'revolution'? Discuss the manifold transformative effects of print culture. **10**

**PAPER: ENG 1026 (British Poetry)**

**Answer the following questions:** **2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** What is metaphysical poetry? Discuss the key features of John Donne's poetry. **10**

**OR**

Give a critical appreciation of Alexander Pope's *An Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** Discuss the political and feminist subtexts of Anna Laetitia Barbauld's poetry, with reference to "The Caterpillar" and "Washing Day." **10**

**OR**

Write an essay on the major concerns of Romanticism with reference to the prescribed

**PAPER: ENG 1036 (British Drama)**

**Answer the following questions:** **2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** Discuss the conditions of the British stage during the Renaissance period. **10**

**OR**

Write a note on the modernity of the 'modern drama' with special reference to the contributions of Bertolt Brecht and Konstantin Stanislavsky. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** With a brief introduction to the notion of the 'absurd', elaborate the theatrical innovations associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. **10**

**OR**

Write a note on the themes of revenge and death in *Hamlet*. **10**

**PAPER: ENG 1046 (British Fiction)**

**Answer the following questions:** **2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** Discuss the major women novelists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with reference to their dominant thematic concerns. **10**

**OR**

How does Charles Dickens represent the harsh and sordid realities of London life in *Oliver Twist*? **10**

**Q. No. 2.** Demonstrate how Thomas Hardy deals with the themes of identity and self-discovery in *The Woodlanders*, using specific examples from the text. **10**

**OR**

Compare and contrast the narrative techniques and the use of symbolism in *Oliver Twist* and *The Woodlanders*. **10**

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