



**GAUHATI UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION**  
**HOME ASSIGNMENT**  
**M.A. in Mass Communication**  
**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 with options (Total Marks: 2 questions x 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.**

**PAPER: MMC 1015 (Indian Society and Politics)**

Answer **any two** from the following questions:

**$2 \times 10 = 20$**

**Q. No. 1.** Describe the key features of the Indian Social Structure and explain how the country maintains unity despite its vast diversity. Also trace the historical development of the Caste System and discuss its continuing impact on the contemporary Indian Society. Cite relevant examples for your answer. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** Evaluate the major causes of Insurgency in Northeast India and analyze how these factors shape the region's political, social and economic stability. Further discuss the broader implications for national security and regional development in this context. Cite relevant examples for your answer. **10**

**Q. No. 3.** Examine the concept of the 'Basic Structure Doctrine' as articulated by the Supreme Court of India. Discuss the core/key elements that constitute the basic structure/fundamental framework of the Constitution of India. How does this doctrine ensure that the core values/principles of the Constitution of India remain protected from the arbitrary amendments of it done by the Parliament of India from time to time ? Analyze the implications of the 'Basic Structure Doctrine' for constitutional amendments and judicial review. **10**

**Q. No. 4.** Explain the interdependence of the Fundamental Rights and the Fundamental Duties in the Constitution of India and also put forward your opinion upon the relevance of the Fundamental Duties in the current/present day context. Cite relevant examples for your answer. Compare and contrast the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy in terms of their nature, enforceability and scope and also elucidate the 'Harmonious Construction Doctrine', now guiding the relationship between the two. **10**

**PAPER: MMC 1025 (History of Media and Global Media Scenario)**

Answer any two from the following questions:

**2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** Elaborate on the various Traditional and Folk Media Forms of India with special reference to those of North East (NE) India. Cite relevant examples for your answer. Also give an overview of the Growth of Press in Pre-Independent India, specifically elucidating the Role of Press in the Indian Freedom Struggle and its Impact on India's Independence. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** Discuss the Role of Press in India's Nation Building Process in the Post-Independence Period, specifically elucidating the impact and influence of the Liberalization of the Indian Economy and the Technological Advancements upon the Structural Growth and the Transformation of Indian Press in the Post-Independence Period. Cite relevant examples for your answer. Also trace the Growth and Development of Press in Indian Languages and elucidate their role in Indian Journalism over the years, with pertinent examples for your answer. **10**

**Q. No. 3.** Give an idea about the Pioneers of Indian Journalism and their contributions towards Indian Press and also highlight the Role of Indian Press/Press in India in Social Reforms. Cite pertinent examples in this context. Also trace the early History of Press in Assam and highlight its role during the freedom struggle, specifically elucidating the Legacy of *Orunodoi* in this context. **10**

**Q. No. 4.** Give an overview of the Golden Period of Radio around the world and discuss the major factors that contributed to its rise, explaining its impact on society and its role during the World War-I and World War-II. Further, trace the evolution of radio in India and analyse how the Economic Liberalization in the 1990s, reshaped Indian Radio Broadcasting. **10**

**PAPER: MMC 1035 (Perspectives on Communication Theory)**

Answer any two from the following questions:

**2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** Elaborate on the concept and the various types of Communication in your own words and also elaborate on the entire process of Communication in your own words, specifically highlighting the elements of Communication and cite suitable examples for your answer. "Verbal and Non-Verbal Communications are complementary to each other and just like the two sides of the same coin." "Communication is the fourth basic need of human life after food, clothes and shelter." Elucidate the given statements in your own words and cite pertinent examples in these contexts. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** How Cultural Barriers can hinder the process of Communication ? Explain with suitable examples. "Psychological Barriers are considered as the most crucial form barriers in the communication process." Elucidate the given statement with relevant examples. Also discuss in your own words about the Stages of Effective Listening in Communication and explain how each stage contributes to the overall process of listening and how it ensures that the message is fully comprehended. Also evaluate the qualities of a Good Listener and how they contribute to Effective Communication. Cite relevant examples for your answer. **10**

**Q. No. 3.** Outline the historical evolution of major Communication Models, from early Linear Models to the Shannon, Weaver, Circular and Helical Models and explain their key differences in process, feedback and noise, using suitable examples and references. **10**

**Q. No. 4.** Write about the concept of Media Gratification in your own words with suitable examples. Classify audiences according to their media use as suggested by Sandra Ball-Rokeach and Melvin DeFleur. Also analyze the concept of Agenda Setting Theory of Communication and explain its components with suitable examples. Also explain in your own words, Dennis McQuail's contribution to the field of Normative Theories of Media/Communication. Cite suitable examples for your answer. **10**

**PAPER: MMC 1045 (Basics of Journalism - Print Media)**

Answer any two from the following questions:

**2 x 10 = 20**

**Q. No. 1.** How do the core principles of news—such as news values, the Five Ws and One H, responsible sourcing practices and the inverted pyramid structure—shape the selection, verification and writing of credible news in contemporary digital journalism, and why does fact-based, ethically sourced field reporting continue to be central to journalistic credibility despite the rapid growth of online and social media news flows? Discuss with suitable examples, reflecting on issues of accuracy, objectivity and reader engagement. **10**

**Q. No. 2.** In contemporary print and digital journalism, how do decisions made at the foundational level of news construction—such as selecting and arranging facts, choosing the appropriate headline style, ensuring accuracy through dateline/credit-line/by-line conventions, and applying language and rewriting skills—shape the crafting of an effective lead and the choice of lead types ? Further analyze how the inverted pyramid structure interacts with these editorial choices to influence reader engagement, credibility and storytelling depth, using examples from breaking news and feature stories. **10**

**Q. No. 3.** Imagine you are part of a newsroom design team tasked with creating the front page of a daily newspaper. How would you decide the placement and visual treatment of key structural elements—such as the masthead, lead story, columns, gutters, visuals, and typography—while also balancing different types of advertisements (display, jacket, ear panel, island ads) and major content segments? Using examples from real newspapers, explain how these decisions shape readability, audience appeal, and commercial viability. **10**

**Q. No. 4.** Write in your own words about the concept of Objectivity in News Reporting and also highlight its significance in Journalism with suitable examples. Also elaborate in your own words on the various advantages of Interpretative News Reporting with suitable examples for your answer. Between Newspapers and News Magazines, which one is more accustomed to Interpretative Reporting and how ? Cite relevant examples in this context. Give an overview of the concept of Reporting Beats and their significance in the contemporary journalistic scenario with suitable examples for your answer. “Background Research is often called the ‘Backbone’ of Reporting/Journalism.” Elaborate on the given statement in your own words with relevant examples and also elucidate the significance of background research in reporting/journalism with suitable examples. **10**

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**Gauhati University**

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**Centre for Distance and Online Education**

**ANSWERSCRIPT FOR HOME ASSIGNMENT**

**Roll Number (8 digit):** .....

*(GUCDOE Enrollment No)*

**G.U. Registration No.:** .....

**Programme Name:** .....

**Semester:** .....

**Paper Title:** .....

**Paper Code:** .....

**Name of the Study Centre:**.....

**N.B.:** Please note that the Name of the Candidate should not be mentioned anywhere. If found, the answer script will not be evaluated.)



























