



GAUHATI UNIVERSITY
Institute of Distance and Open Learning
HOME ASSIGNMENT

M.A. in English
2nd Semester
(Session: 2013-2014)

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF HOME ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Write your **NAME, ROLL NUMBER, SESSION, PAPER NUMBER, TOPIC SELECTED** and **EXAMINATION**, clearly on the top of the Front page of each paper.
2. Submit your Assignments **PAPER-WISE Separately**.
3. Each of the two topics given in each paper will be answered as **two essays of *not more than 500 words each***. There will be negative marking for writing in excess of the word-limit.
4. Each answer (essay) carries a weightage of **8 marks**. (8 marks x 2 essays = 16 marks).
5. Keep a margin of about 1 inch on each side of the page.
6. **Stick File** is not necessary.
7. **Copying** from others including **Xerox** from others strictly prohibited.
8. You can submit the essay written in your own hand-writing on **A-4** sized paper on **One Side** of each page **Only**.
9. Submit your Assignments strictly on or before the due date as notified. Assignments received after the due date may not be considered for evaluation.
10. The last date of submission is **30th April, 2014**.

N.B. Students are requested to follow the instructions strictly.

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

Q.1 What are the principal aspects of 'Darwinism'? Consider these with a critical reading of any literary text of the Victorian Age you are familiar with. (4+4= 8)

Or

Give a critical response to the phenomena called "The Rise of English". 8

Q.2 What is the Crisis of Empire? Give a historical account. 8

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

Q. 1 Critically comment on William Wordsworth's choice of poetic diction. 8

Or

What are Wordsworth's main arguments regarding the idea of a poet? Give a well-illustrated answer. 8

Q.2 What is Touchstone Method? How does Matthew Arnold employ it in his reading of the English poets in his essay 'The Study of Poetry'? 8

Paper VIII: Poetry II – Romantic Poetry

Q.1: How does William Blake personify innocence in “Holy Thursday”? Give a well-reasoned answer. 8

Q.2: Keats’ “Ode to a Nightingale” offers multiple perspectives on the idea of death. What are these? Comment in your own words. 8

Paper IX: Fiction II – 19th to the 20th Century

Q. 1: Critically comment on Hardy’s treatment of the female characters in “The Mayor of Casterbridge”. 8

Q.2: Consider Dickens’ ‘Hard Times’ as a novel critiquing the effects of industrialization on the society. Give textual examples to strengthen your argument. 8

Paper X: Drama I – Renaissance Drama

Q.1: How does Christopher Marlowe’s “The Jew of Malta” depict the characters’ desire for power, wealth and glory? Give a well reasoned answer. 8

Q.2: Comment on Shakespeare’s use of delay and deferment as techniques to highlight the enormity of the tragic sense in Hamlet. 8

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