



INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE AND OPEN LEARNING
GAUHATI UNIVERSITY

Home Assignment

M.A. in English, 1st Semester

Session: 2014-2015

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 **an essay** of *not more than 500 words*. There will be negative marking for writing in excess of the prescribed 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** not necessary.
7. **Copying** from others including **Xerox** from others is 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 **October 20, 2014**.

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

PAPER: I

1. Give a general estimate of Medieval English literature against the backdrop of feudalism. How did the feudal social order and ideals affect the literary representations of the times?
2. How did the 'rise of the towns' affect the course of English literature and culture? Elaborate with reference to the Elizabethan period.

PAPER: II

1. Assess Shakespeare's treatment of the idea of permanence and death in his sonnets.
2. Do you think that the narrative of John Milton's *Paradise Lost* betrays a modern, democratic spirit despite its obvious theological theme of 'disobedience to God'?

PAPER: III

1. Comment on the significance of class and its link to marital choice in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.
2. Write a note on the narrative technique of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. How does it affect the reader's knowledge of the human world depicted in the novel?

PAPER: IV

1. How does Keats define a poet in his 'Letters'? Do you think that Keats' ideas about poetic creation/poetic self are distinctively romantic?
2. How does Virginia Woolf understand the 'modern' crisis? What, according to her, are the predicaments and challenges of a modern writer? Give a reasoned answer with reference to the essay "How It Strikes a Contemporary".

PAPER: V

1. Elaborate Aristotle's idea of 'Catharsis'.
2. Write a note on the Neo-Classical doctrines of 'Wit' and 'Decorum'.
