



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgou.ac.in

Assignment Questions

M.A. English Language and Literature

Semester II

Discipline Core Course

M21EG05DC

Romantics and Victorians

Instructions for Writing Assignments

Descriptive:

- *Clearly outline the key elements or aspects that need to be described, such as features, characteristics, or events.*
- *Employ descriptive language that can engage the senses and ensure vivid pictures, enhancing the richness of descriptions.*
- *Organise the assignment in a coherent sequence to guarantee clarity and facilitate the smooth conveyance of ideas.*

Analytical:

- *Clearly articulate your main argument in a concise manner at the beginning of your answer. This sets the tone for your analysis and helps the reader understand the central point you are trying to convey.*
- *Support your analysis with specific examples and quotes from the literature. Use direct textual evidence to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
- *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

Topics:

SET I-Descriptive

1. Summarise the key themes explored in William Wordsworth's "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" and discuss how they reflect Romantic ideals.
2. Describe the main features and themes of Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
3. Describe the characteristics and significance of the Oxford Movement. Include information about its key figures, main ideas, and impact on Victorian society and literature.
4. Outline the structure and content of Matthew Arnold's "Sweetness and Light."
5. Summarize the plot and major themes of Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

SET II-Analytical

1. Compare and contrast the treatment of nature and imagination in Coleridge's "Dejection: An Ode" and Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn". How do these poems reflect different aspects of Romantic thought?
2. Critically analyse the use of dramatic monologue in Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess". How does this poetic form contribute to the characterisation and themes of the poem?
3. Evaluate Walter Pater's ideas about art and aestheticism as presented in his "Preface" to *Studies in the History of the Renaissance*. How do these ideas reflect and challenge Victorian attitudes towards art and culture?
4. Compare the exploration of social class and ambition in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* and Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. How do these novels critique Victorian society?
5. Analyse the representation of faith, doubt, and morality across the Victorian poetry discussed in the poems "Dover Beach" and "Pied Beauty". How do these poems reflect the religious and philosophical tensions of the Victorian era?



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Assignment Questions

M.A. English Language and Literature

Semester II

Discipline Core Course

M21EG06DC

English Literature from 1900 to 1945

Instructions for Writing Assignments

Descriptive:

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Analytical:

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- *Support your analysis with specific examples and quotes from the literature. Use direct textual evidence to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
- *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

Topics:

SETI- Descriptive

1. Describe the key features and characteristics of modernist poetry in the early 20th century, with reference to poets like T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound.

2. Explain the significance of the "stream of consciousness" technique in modernist fiction, referring to works like James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.
3. Discuss the major themes explored in W.B. Yeats' poems "The Second Coming" and "Sailing to Byzantium".
4. Analyse the plot structure and character development in E.M. Forster's novel *Howards End*.
5. Describe the key features of G.B. Shaw's play *Pygmalion* and how it critiques social class in early 20th century England.

SET II-Analytical

1. Critically analyse how World War I impacted and transformed early 20th-century literature, referring to works from different genres.
2. Compare and contrast the narrative techniques used by James Joyce in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and Virginia Woolf in *Mrs Dalloway*. How do these techniques reflect modernist literary sensibilities?
3. Evaluate T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* as a seminal modernist poem. How does it reflect the fragmentation and disillusionment of post-World War I society?
4. Analyse the treatment of gender roles and feminism in early 20th-century literature, referring to works like Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and D.H. Lawrence's short stories.
5. Critically examine the evolution of drama in the early 20th century, from Shaw's "problem plays" to more experimental forms. How did playwrights respond to changing social and artistic contexts?



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Assignment Questions

M.A. English Language and Literature

Semester II

Discipline Core Course

M21EGo8DC

English Critical Tradition from Aristotle to F.R. Leavis

Instructions for Writing Assignments

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Analytical:

- *Clearly articulate your main argument in a concise manner at the beginning of your answer. This sets the tone for your analysis and helps the reader understand the central point you are trying to convey.*
- *Support your analysis with specific examples and quotes from the literature. Use direct textual evidence to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
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Topics:SET I-DESCRIPTIVE

1. Explain Plato's theory of mimesis and his critique of poetry as discussed in Book 2 of *The Republic*. How does this differ from Aristotle's view of mimesis in *Poetics*?
2. Describe Longinus' concept of the sublime as presented in "On the Sublime". Discuss the key sources of sublimity, according to Longinus.
3. Outline Sir Philip Sidney's defence of poetry in *An Apology for Poetry*. Explain the main charges against poetry that Sidney was responding to.
4. Explain T.S. Eliot's concept of tradition and impersonality in poetry as discussed in "Tradition and the Individual Talent". How does Eliot view the relationship between past and present in poetry?
5. Describe the theory of rasa as explained by S.N. Dasgupta. What are the different types of rasa, and how are they evoked according to this theory?

SETII- Analytical

1. Critically examine the concept of paradox in Cleanth Brooks' essay "The Language of Paradox". How does Brooks use this concept to analyse poetry, and what are the strengths and limitations of his approach?
2. Analyse William Wordsworth's concept of poetry as presented in "Preface to Lyrical Ballads". How did Wordsworth's ideas challenge prevailing notions about poetic language and subject matter?
3. Compare and contrast the classical views on literary criticism (as presented in Block 1) with the Romantic perspectives (as discussed in Block 2). How do these different approaches reflect changing cultural and philosophical contexts?
4. Evaluate the theory of dhvani as presented by Kunjunni Raja. How does this theory contribute to our understanding of meaning and suggestion in poetry? How might it be applied to non-Indian literary traditions?
5. Critically assess Matthew Arnold's views on the function of criticism as presented in "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time". How do Arnold's ideas relate to earlier critical traditions, and to what extent are they still relevant in contemporary literary discourse?



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Assignment Questions

Semester II - (Discipline Core)

Course Code: M21UC01AC

Course Title: Foundational Skills for Research and Writing

Set I-Descriptive

1. Analyse measures of quality and ranking such as UGC-CARE and ISSN and ISBN. Do you think that the advent of open-access databases has diminished knowledge barriers? Comment.

Hints: Explain UGC-CARE, ISSN & ISBN and discuss the relevance of open access databases

2. Explain the differences between in-text citation and reference list entries in a style of your choice. Provide examples of each and discuss why proper citation upholds academic integrity.

Hints: Compare in-text citation and reference list with examples.

3. Explain the key steps involved in manuscript submission. What precautions should authors take before submission?

Hints: Examine the process of manuscript submission and discuss the precautions steps.

4. What is a research design? Examine the key elements including research problem, literature review, methods, sampling, analysis, validity/reliability and ethics. Your answer should reflect impact, strengths and limitations of research design in the light of examples.

Hints: Discuss research design with key elements along with examples.

5. Examine the role of plagiarism in destroying the quality of research. Explain various types of plagiarism along with drawing methods of avoidance and detection.

Hints: Discuss plagiarism, and its types and examine ways of detection.

Set II- Analytical

1. Prepare a synopsis in few pages on your interested topic covering all components included in synopsis framing such as the title page, content page, introduction, literature review, research methodology etc.

Hints: Find out a topic and prepare a synopsis covering all components included such as the title page, content page, introduction etc.

2. Conduct a literature review on a topic in your field of study. Summarise five relevant sources identifying a key research gap and explaining its significance.

Hints: Prove your topic is worth of research by examining its literature review and identifying research gap.

3. Create two high-quality abstracts or executive summaries, or one from each category. You need to refer to the manuscript/journal article for abstracts or summarise a business report for executive summaries.

Hints: Prepare an abstract or an executive summary of a business plan

4. Prepare an annotated bibliography after choosing a specific research topic within your field of study. Remember to select a minimum of five relevant sources (books, academic articles, websites etc.) and provide a concise summary.

Hints: Explain annotated bibliography with a minimum five relevant sources and give a summary too.

5. Compare and contrast the citation styles of APA and IEEE. Explain when each style is used and provide an example of citing a journal article using both styles.

Hints: Elaborate the specificities of APA & IEEE citation styles and usages and cite a journal article in both styles.



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Assignment Questions

M.A. English Language and Literature

2023-July Batch

Semester II

Discipline Core Course

M21EG07DC

American Literature

Instructions for Writing Assignments

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Analytical:

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- *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

Topics:

Descriptive

1. Summarise Walt Whitman's "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" and explain its major themes and stylistic features.
2. Describe the key elements of Emily Dickinson's poetic style in "There is Something Quieter than Sleep" and "I am Afraid to Own a Body".
3. Compare and contrast the themes and narrative techniques used in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" and Ernest Hemingway's "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber".
4. Explain the concept of the "American Dream" as depicted in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.
5. Discuss the portrayal of race and identity in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Langston Hughes' poetry, drawing examples.

Analytical:

1. Critically analyse how Walt Whitman's "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" revolutionised American poetry in terms of form, language and themes. Refer to external scholarly sources to support your argument.
2. Evaluate Emily Dickinson's exploration of mortality, spirituality and the human condition in her poetry. How did her unique style contribute to conveying these philosophical ideas? Cite relevant criticism.
3. Compare the narrative techniques and thematic concerns in American short fiction from Edgar Allan Poe to Raymond Carver. How do these reflect the evolution of the genre?
4. Analyse the treatment of gender roles and family dynamics in 20th-century American drama, with reference to works like *The Glass Menagerie* and Long Day's *Journey Into Night*. Support your analysis with scholarly perspectives.
5. Examine how African American writers from the Harlem Renaissance to the Civil Rights era used literature as a form of social and political commentary.