

**(DEG21)**

**ASSIGNMENT-1**

**M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025**

**Second Year**

**English**

**LITERARY CRITICISM  
MAXIMUM MARKS :30  
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**

1. Read the following prose passage and answer the questions below:

“I have a Dream” is a public speech delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he calls for an end to racism in the United States and called for civil and economic rights. Delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the speech was a defining moment of the civil rights movement.

Beginning with a reference to the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed millions of slaves in 1863, King observes that: “one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free”. Toward the end of the speech. King departed from his prepared text for a partly improvised peroration on the theme “I have a dream”, prompted by Mahalia Jackson’s cry: “Tell them about the dream, Martin!” In this part of the speech, which most excited the listeners and has now become its most famous, King described his dreams of freedom and equality arising from a land of slavery and hatred. Jon Meacham writes that, “With a single phrase, Martin Luther King Jr. joined Jefferson and Lincoln in the ranks of men who’ve shaped modern America”. The speech was ranked the top American speech of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in a 1999 poll of scholars of public address.

- (a) What issues does Martin Luther King’s speech address?
  - (b) What pushes King to speak: “I have a dream”?
  - (c) From the last paragraph, give one word for “to leave”.
  - (d) What is the name of Martin Luther King’s famed speech?
  - (e) In front of whom does King speak?
2. Explain Aristotle’s concept of mimesis. In what way is poetry imitative?
  3. Johnson’s estimate of Milton is ‘Fair is foul and foul is fair’. Discuss.

4. Why is Coleridge acclaimed a critic? Comment with reference to 'Biographic Literaria'.
5. How does Arnold defend poetry and criticism in the world of science?
6. What is the relationship between "tradition" and "the individual talent," according to T. S. Eliot?
7. How does Eliot advocate objectivity as the essential prerequisite for genuine criticism?
8. Discuss Richard's theory of meaning.

**(DEG21)**

ASSIGNMENT-2

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

LITERARY CRITICISM  
MAXIMUM MARKS :30  
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Modern poetic technique is the rediscovery of metaphor. Discuss.
2. Examine the views of Wimsatt and Beardsley in "The Intentional Fallacy".
3. Critically examine the important aspects of the Seventh Type of Ambiguity.
4. Comment on the validity and value of stylistics as an approach to the study of literature.
5. Describe Gerard Genette's "Structuralism" as explained in "Structuralism and Literary Criticism".
6. Write an essay on Derrida's sign, structure and play in relation to literature.
7. Explain the views of the Stanley Fish on text.
8. Why does Showalter call feminist criticism gynocentric criticism?

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ASSIGNMENT-1

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

AMERICAN LITERATURE  
MAXIMUM MARKS :30  
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Annotate The following :

- (a) And thenceforward all summer in the sound of the sea,  
And at night under the full of the moon in calmer weather,
- (b) O       cruel       hands       that       hold       me       powerless!  
O helpless soul of me!  
O harsh surrounding cloud, that will not free my soul!
- (c) Blind creature: and a while he didn't see.  
But at last he murmured, "Oh" and again, "Oh".
- (d) Until he took the stiffness out of them,  
And not one but hung limp, not one was left
- (e) Man is thus metamorphosed into a thing, into many things. The planter, who  
is man sent out into the field to gather food, is seldom cheered by any idea of  
the true dignity of his ministry.
- (f) In the greatest country in the world a young man with such personal  
attractiveness, gets lost. And such a hard worker.
- (g) And, in fine, the ancient precept, "Know thyself", and the modern precept.  
"Study nature", become at last one maxim.
- (h) You and Hap and I, and I'll show you all the towns. America is full of  
beautiful towns and fine, upstanding people.

- 2. "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking is a 'record of loss and love' – Discuss.
- 3. Comment on Robert Frost's treatment of rural life with special reference to "Birches"  
and "Home Burial".
- 4. According to Emerson what are the important features of an American Scholar?
- 5. Examine Death of a Salesman as a tragedy of common man.
- 6. Trace the growth and development of American drama.

ASSIGNMENT-2

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

AMERICAN LITERATURE

MAXIMUM MARKS :30

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the mystical element in the poetry of Emily Dickinson.
2. Write a critique of Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* and also discuss the symbolism in *Walden*.
3. Consider the novel Old Man and the Sea as a grand saga of suffering.
4. Explain the central idea in Poe's The Raven.
5. Consider the criticism that The Glass Menagerie is a sentimental play.
6.
  - (a) Plastic theatre.
  - (b) Lost Generation.
  - (c) Depiction of slavery in 19<sup>th</sup> century fiction.
  - (d) Nature in American Poetry.
  - (e) Impact of great depression.
  - (f) Symbolism in American poetry.
  - (g) Alienation.
  - (h) Memory play.

**ASSIGNMENT-1**

**M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025**

**Second Year**

**English**

**INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**MAXIMUM MARKS :30**

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**

1. Annotate the following:

- (a) A dense, dense forest, where no sunbeam  
pries,  
And in its centre a cleared spot.--There  
bloom
- (b) By that hoar tree, so beautiful and vast,  
The water-lilies spring, like snow enmassed.
- (c) As some bright archangel in vision flies Plunged in dream-caught spirit  
immensities.
- (d) Live in the mind of our earthhood; O golden  
Mystery, flower,  
  
Sun on the head of the Timeless, guest of the  
marvellous Hour.
- (e) The burdens light. The second stage Explored but did not test the call.
- (f) Shaven water-buffaloes lounging in the sun The poets only sang of the floods.
- (g) Boys, we will have to vie with the wild breeze of the south to-day--and we are  
not going to be beaten.
- (h) For life is a creative idea;  
it can only find itself in changing forms.

- 2. How do childhood reminiscences form the framework of Toru Dutt's poetry?
- 3. Write an essay on symbolism in the poetry of Sri Aurobindo.
- 4. Discuss Ezekiel's search for philosophy in his poem "Enterprise".
- 5. Critically comment on Kamala Das's feminism in the poems prescribed for your study.

ASSIGNMENT-2

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE

MAXIMUM MARKS :30

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Bring out the thematic concerns of Tagore in The King of the Dark Chamber.
2. Comment on the philosophical framework of Tagore's The Man.
3. Write an essay on the plot and structure of Hayavadana.
4. Consider The Ganga Ghat as yet another triumph of Raja Rao's mastery of the craft of fiction.
5. Evaluate A Tiger for Malgudi as a political allegory.
6. Examine the love story in Arun Joshi's "The Last Labyrinth".
7. Summarize the speech of Ambedkar given on the 'The Adoption of the Constitution of India'.
8.
  - (a) Gandhism in Indian English writing.
  - (b) Indian drama in English.
  - (c) Identity crisis.
  - (d) Mystic poem.
  - (e) Indo-Anglian fiction.
  - (f) East-West encounter.
  - (g) The rise of Indian theatre in English.
  - (h) National element in Indian English writing.

**(DEG24)**

ASSIGNMENT-1

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

TWENTIETH CENTURY – POETRY AND DRAMA

MAXIMUM MARKS :30

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Annotate the following.

(a) What instruments we have agree

The day of his death was a dark cold day.

(b) With water praying and cell of seagull and  
rock

And the knock of sailing boats on the webbed  
wall

(c) That sagged ominously upon the earth

Even when the season was the airiest May.

(d) From where i stand the roof looks almost  
new –

Cleaned or restored? someone would know:  
I don't.

(e) Until the next town, new and nondescript,

Approached with acres of dismantled cars.

(f) There is a sort of counter on the right with shelves, holding many bottles and  
jugs. just seen above it. Empty barrels stand near the counter.

(g) He's right too, and have you no shame, Michael James, to be quitting off for  
the whole night, and leaving myself lonesome in the shop?

(h) A sense of falling, like an arrow-shower

Sent out of sight, somewhere becoming rain.



2. Analyse the structure of “In Memory of W.B. Yeats”, highlighting the elegiac note.
3. Comment on the use of personal reminiscences by Dylan Thomas in his poetry.
4. Write a note on the craftsmanship of Robert Graves as a poet.
5. Comment briefly on the poetic concerns of Ted Hughes.
6. Discuss Larkin’s satirical remarks on English society as you can read them from his poems.
7. The Playboy of the Western World shows that “heroes are not born but made”. Discuss.

**(DEG24)**

ASSIGNMENT-2

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

TWENTIETH CENTURY – POETRY AND DRAMA

MAXIMUM MARKS :30

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Write an essay on the New Drama in the Twentieth century.
2. How does the poet Thomas Gunn portray the legends as the epitomes of determination?
3. Evaluate Spender as a poet of social justice.
4. Discuss Fry's philosophy of life from the play A Phoenix too Frequent.
5. Consider the appropriateness of the title Happy Days.
6. Discuss Pinter's The Birthday Party as a comedy of menace.
7.
  - (a) Black comedy.
  - (b) Poetic drama.
  - (c) Movement poetry.
  - (d) Moral probity in modern poetry.
  - (e) Theatre of Absurd.
  - (f) Existentialist concerns in modern drama.

(g) Irish Drama.

(h) Realism.

(DEG25)

ASSIGNMENT-1

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

TWENTIETH CENTURY — PROSE AND FICTION

MAXIMUM MARKS :30

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Annotate the following.

- (a) The question is not whether Mr. Symon's impressions are "true" or "false. So far as you call isolate the "impression", the pure feeling, it is, of course, neither true or false.
- (b) As for Keats and Shelley, they were too young to be judged, and they were trying one form after another.
- (c) The kind of criticism that Goethe and Coleridge produced, in writing of Hamlet, is the most misleading kind possible.
- (d) But when I began to consider the subject in this last day way, which seemed the most interesting, I soon saw that it had one fatal drawback.
- (e) The book has not, perhaps, a permanent value for the one reader, but it has led to results of permanent importance for him.
- (f) And it is perhaps the craving for some such *donnée* which draws us on toward the present mirage of poetic drama.
- (g) Nor did I at first understand that the gesticulations of a curious-looking object, in a cut-away coat and evening shirt, were aimed at me. His face expressed horror and indignation.
- (h) It is she--shady and amorous as she was--who makes it not quite Fantastic for me to say to you to-night: Earn five hundred a year by your wits.

2. How does T.S. Eliot prove 'that the critic and the creative artist should frequently be the same person' in his essay "The Perfect Critic"?
3. Consider A Room of One's Own as a plea for women's writing.
4. Comment on Eliot's assessment of Hamlet as a work of art.
5. Discuss Virginia Woolf's techniques as a novelist.
6. Bring out the salient features of Eliot as a literary critic from your study or his essays in 'Sacred Wood'.
7. Critically comment on the prose style of Lytton Starchey in "Eminent Victorians".

**(DEG25)**

ASSIGNMENT-2

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE -2025

Second Year

English

TWENTIETH CENTURY — PROSE AND FICTION

MAXIMUM MARKS :30

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Comment on Joseph Conrad's narrative technique in Lord Jim.
2. Critically examine Joyce's use of religious imagery and language in A Portrait of the artist as a Young Man.
3. Consider The Moon and the Six Pence as a symbolical novel.
4. Critically examine the art of characterization in Snow's The Masters.
5. Discuss Iris Murdoch's art of characterization in The Sand Castle.
6. Do you agree that The Lord of the Flies is an anti-utopian novel? Elucidate.
7. Discuss the importance of dreams in the novel The Power and the Glory.
8.
  - (a) Interior monologue.
  - (b) Feminism in modern novel.
  - (c) Buildingsroman.
  - (d) Allegorical Novel.
  - (e) Wit and humour.
  - (f) Impressionistic criticism.
  - (g) Poetic Drama.
  - (h) Gothic Novel.